

## UIS Report to the AGM 2018

The major International Union of Speleology happening over the last year was the international congress in Sydney, Australia during July 2017.

This, as ever, was a fantastic do attended by well over a thousand delegates from all over the world. It was immensely enjoyable, and a lot of good caving work was done. It was obvious that there is an enormous amount of wonderful original exploration going on all around the world coupled with a lot of original science. Our caves contain a fantastic history of the planet going back many millions of years. There is an enormous amount more to be unravelled.

The new bureau of the UIS was put in place in Sydney. The President is George Veni from the USA, the Vice Presidents are Efrain Mercado from Puerto Rico and Zdenek Motycka from the Czech Republic, Fadi Nader of the Lebanon is General Secretary and there are adjunct Secretaries from ten different countries.

The bureau is very strong and is doing a lot of constructive work. Notably, they are hoping to persuade UNESCO to introduce A Year of Caves and Karst in 2021 to coincide with the International Congress of Speleology happening in Lyon in France, so please diary in July/August 2021 International Congress in France.

If the UIS don't succeed with "A Year of Caves and Karst" they will almost certainly get a day which will be a step in the right direction. The UIS commissions are also operating very well with active exploration and science meetings going on in various regions of the world. It can all be reviewed on the website: [uis-speleo.org](http://uis-speleo.org)

The regions of the UIS continue to strengthen with the introduction of the Asian region with Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and other countries of the West Pacific having a regular conference, much the same way as the European Federation and the Federation of Latin American countries in Central America are doing.

I am sure the UIS will continue to go from strength to strength.

I continue as one of their honorary presidents.

**Andy Eavis**  
**1 June 2018**