

**UIS Report to the BCA AGM
Sunday 9th June 2019**

Over the last year, the main things the UIS have been working on have been setting up more and strengthening more regional organisations like Europe, Central America and Asia Pacific.

In addition, the National Year of Caves and Karst is progressing. It's now likely that a UIS International Year of Caves and Karst will be arranged for 2021 to coincide with the International Congress being held in Lyon France. This will not necessarily be recognised by UNESCO but following on from this a full UNESCO recognised and supported Year of Caves and Karst would be planned for 2025.

The next annual bureau meeting of UIS will coincide with the Asian meeting in the Philippines and will be particularly involved with the International Congress 2021.

International cave conservation matters are now a very high priority in the UIS, and these will be discussed at some length. Working with the International Show Caves Association will continue to try and develop tourist caves in the most acceptable manner possible.

Limestone quarrying is a major problem worldwide and accelerated by world demand for cement and concrete. The UIS will be continuing and increasing its work to try and get countries to consider caves and karst landscapes in this connection.

Good international cave publicity is very helpful, particularly things like the Thai Cave Rescue where caves and caving are shown to be important. Hopefully only good publicity will come from the current rescue in the Yorkshire Dales. Certainly, I will do my best in this connection.

For a full international calendar of cave and speleological meetings, please look on the website <http://www.UIS-speleo.org/> and there is also a connection on the BCA website to the UIS calendar.

All being well, I plan to visit the Philippines in September and represent the British Caving Association.

**Andy Eavis
2 June 2019**