

Tadej SLABE (3. 4. 1959)

Karstologist

- Ph.D. – Geography, Research Advisor at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (RC SASA); B.A. in Sociology;
- Professor of Karstology; - Since 1986, employed at the Karst Research Institute RC SASA;
- Since 1995, Head of the Karst Research Institute;
- University professor at the Karstology Graduate study program of the University of Nova Gorica and at Faculty of Humanities Koper of the University of Primorska and at the Faculty of Sustainable Tourism;
- Since 1999-2022, leader of the central karstological program Karst Research;
- Initiator and co-founder of the first and only karstology course at the international level: the Karstology Graduate program, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Nova Gorica, which is also Unesco Chair on Karst Education (vice director);
- Actively involved in development of content and organization of domestic and international karstology;
- trying to develop a comprehensive karstology that includes all of the most important fields of research into the three-dimensional karst landscape, which is also a distinctive approach at the world level; the latest findings form a basis for planning life on karst and its protection as well as for education about karst;
- Summarized the knowledge of the origin and development of cave rock forms and the importance of cave rock relief as a trace of cave development in the book *Cave Rocky Relief* (1995) and later expanded the research to include rock forms on the karst surface;
- Co-founder, co-editor, and co-author of the books *Karst features discovered during motorway construction on Slovene karst* (2007), *Karst rock features, Karren sculpturing* (2009), *South China Karst 1* (1998), *South China Karst 2* (2011), new edition *Karstology and Development Challenges on Karst* (2012, 2013), *The Beka-Ocizla Cave System* (2015), *Cave Exploration in Slovenia* (2016) and *Karstology in the Classical Karst* (2020); co-authored the following books: *Classical Karst* (1997), *Evolution of Karst* (2002) in *Sinkholes and subsidence: karst and cavernous rocks in engineering and construction* (2005), *Treatise on geomorphology* (2013), *Hydrogeological and environmental investigations in Karst systems* (2015) and others;

- Have conducted research on karst areas in China, Australia, Italy, Japan, Vietnam, Croatia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Altay republic (Russian federation), Brazil, France, Iran and the United Arab Emirates and Egypt;
- Co-initiator, co-founder, and co-head of the Center for Karst Research and Karst Environmental Laboratory in Kunming (Yunnan, China);
- Member of Academic Committee of International Research Center on Karst under the Auspices of Unesco, Guilin, China;
- Guest lecturer at foreign universities (Tokyo, Chongqing, Kunming);
- Participate in planning of encroachments on the karst landscape and its protection; head of karstological supervision of motorway construction in Slovenia;
- Member of the editorial board of the Slovene science journal *Acta Carsologica*, the Hungarian karstological journal *Karst Development*, and the Brazilian journal *Tourism and Karst Areas*;
- Co-organizer of the International Karstological School, the largest annual international meeting of karstologists;
- Work with karstologists from around the world (Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, Australia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, Russia, India, Egypt, Morocco, Ukraine, China, United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Costa Rica, United States of America, Norway, Brazil, and others);
- As head of the Karst Research Institute organizer and signatory to contracts on international cooperation with research and study organizations from Europe, China, Middle east, Brazil, Rusia, United States of Amerika, Africa;
- Participation in international scientific meetings with invited introductory lectures and by leading sections (IGU Tokyo 2013), in scientific committees of international meetings (International Symposium on Karst, Malaga 2010, 2014; Inside and Outside the Island's Mountains, Sicily, 2015, 2016, 2018; International Symposium of Living with Environmental Challenges, Egypt 2021, 2022, 2023; International Karstological School) and projects (DIKTAS)
- Evaluated the South China Karst application for UNESCO World Heritage Site status;
- Received Friendship with Yunnan Award for my research work and links with karstologists in China and the American Karst Waters Institute Award for my contribution to international karstology;
- Participation in successful international projects including SMART KARST – International Karstological School for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources on Karst (2005–

2009, 6th EU Framework Program); AQUADAPT – Strategic tools to support adaptive, integrated water resource management under changing utilisation conditions at catchment scale(2002–2004, 5th EU Framework Program); STALAGMITE Sustainable Management of Groundwater in Karstic Environments (1998–2002, 4th EU Framework Program); 3KCL – Karst Cultural Landscapes (2004–2005, Kultura 2000); FABRICA Center of Excellence (2006–2008); GEP – joint Geographic Information System for Emergency Protection for the protection of water in emergency situations (2011–2014;Slovenia-Italy cross-border cooperation program); IGCP UNESCO Project No. 598 – Environmental Change and Sustainability in Karst Systems; research work on Minamidaito Island, Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Japan (Project number 23501250), 2012–2014; Karst and Water Supply, Slovene-Swiss program of cooperation to reduce social differences in the expanded EU, eLTER and others;

- Work to promote karstology to the wider public (COBISS).