

Under the patronage of



H.E.Ms Metka IPAVIC,
Ambassador Permanent Delegate of
Slovenia to UNESCO



Dr. George Veni
President
International Union of Speleology

Have the honor to request your presence at a celebration of the:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST 2021
"Explore, Understand and Protect"

Monday, 13 September 2021
from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
UNESCO House, Room XI: 7 place de Fontenoy, Paris 7

Limited seats - RSVP before 7 September: dl.slovenia@delegations-unesco.org

Please present this invitation at the entrance and comply with applicable health and safety measures

or on **ZOOM**

<https://tinyurl.com/YearOfCavesAndKarst>

code secret : 723512

Live streaming on **YouTube**

<https://tinyurl.com/YearofCavesAndKarstLive>



IYCK 2021 is a global initiative to educate people all over the world about karst and caves, why they are valuable, and how to protect them. Although awareness of the sensitivity of karst is increasing, it continues to be threatened by human activities in many parts of our planet. In fact, many of the world's unique hydrological, ecological, and culturally important cave and karst landscapes are being damaged or threatened daily. Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the IYCK initiative has been extended into 2022. The slogan of IYCK 2021 is *Explore, Understand, and Protect*.

The program, September 13, Celebration of the UIS International Year of Caves and Karst 2021: UNESCO Protected Areas and UN Agenda 2030

09:00-10:00. Coffee for participants.

10:00-10:15. IYCK 2021 video.

10:15-10:45. Welcome address

- M Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director-General for Culture
- H.E.Ms Metka Ipavic, Ambassador Permanent-Delegate of Slovenia
- Dr. George Veni, President of UIS

10:45-11:15. Keynote presentation by Prof. Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna:

A World of Karst, Caves and People

11:15-11:30: Break

11:30-13:00. Discussion panel, presentations by:

- Prof. Dr. Fadi H. Nader: Safe and sustainable use of karst resources
- Emeritus Prof. Dr. John Gunn: Caves and karst in UNESCO protected areas
- Clayton F. Lino: Conserving caves and karst in biosphere reserves: The Cave MAB network
- Dr. Paul A. Griffiths: Karst and UN Agenda 2030

Discussion and questions from the audience.

The ceremony will be moderated by M. Alik Ismail-Zadeh PhD, ISC Secretary and Governing Board member

International Union of Speleology Representative, Keynote speaker and Panelists:

Dr. George Veni, USA, Executive Director of National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), and President of UIS

Keynote

Prof. Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna, Slovenia, ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute, and UNESCO Chair on Karst Education, and UIS Treasurer

Panelists

Prof. Dr. Fadi H. Nader, France and Lebanon, Earth Sciences & Environment Technologies, IFP Energies nouvelles, and Department of Earth Sciences at Utrecht University, and UIS General Secretary

Emeritus Prof. Dr. John Gunn, UK, School of Geography, and Earth & Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham, and IUCN/WCPA Caves and Karst Working Group

Clayton F. Lino, Brazil, President of Mata Atlantic Biosphere Reserve-Brazil/MAB UNESCO

Dr. Paul A. Griffiths, Canada, Honorary Research Associate, Vancouver Island University, and Member of the Standards Council of Canada Mirror Committee for ISO/TC 319 Karst

