

First announcement

International workshop

**NATURAL HAZARDS IN MOUNTAINS:
LESSONS TO BE LEARNED**

dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Kolka/Karmadon glacial disaster



Vladikavkaz, Russia, 18-20 September 2012

As proposed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of GAPHAZ working group in November 2009 in Vienna, a workshop dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Kolka Glacier event is being organised in Vladikavkaz, Russia, on September 18-20, 2012, including a visit to the disaster site in Karmadon. This workshop will be part of an International Scientific Forum on “Kolka Glacier: observations, research, forecast”, which is run under the patronage of the Head of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania.

The Kolka-Karmadon rock-ice slide occurred on the northern slope of the Kazbek massif in North Ossetia, Russia on the 20th of September 2002 following a partial collapse of the Kolka Glacier. It started on the north-northeast wall of Dzhimarai-Khokh, 4,780 m (15,680 ft) above sea level, and seriously affected the valley of Genaldon and Karmadon depression. The resulting avalanche and mudflow killed 135 people (including a film crew and Russian actor Sergei Bodrov Jr.). A mass of over 100 million m³ of ice, water and debris from the Kolka Glacier travelled 20 km (12.4 mi) down the Genaldon valley in under 6 minutes, with velocities reaching 250 km/h (155 mph) in some parts of the valley. This was followed by a glacial debris flow for another 17 km (10.6 mi). The slide wiped out the village of Nizhny Karmadon, and killed numerous parties picnicking along the river on Friday evening. Another village in the Karmadon depression was under surveillance as flood waters backed up along the choked rivers, creating lakes. 10 years later, one quarter of the ice and debris mass still remains in the Karmadon depression, blocking connections between villages, and Kolka glacier is growing again upstream. Similar slides occurred at Kolka glacier in 1835 and 1902. It also experienced a surge in 1969. As glacier regenerates, the importance of evaluating vulnerabilities and risks, and mitigating the hazard of future slide cannot be overestimated.

Organizers



Government of the
Republic of North Ossetia-Alania



Vladikavkaz Scientific Center of the Russian
Academy of Sciences and of the Government
of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania
(VSC RAS and RNO-A)



Glacier and Permafrost Hazards in Mountains
(GAPHAZ)
A Scientific Working Group of the International
Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and
the International Permafrost Association (IPA)



North Caucasian Mining and Metallurgical
Institute (State Technological University)



Center of Geophysical Investigations,
VSC RAS and RNO-A



M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University
Faculty of Geography

Programme

- plenary meeting
- oral presentations
- poster session
- discussion and lessons learnt
- visit to the disaster site in Karmadon

Committees

Local organising committee

Anatoliy Kusraev, Vladislav Zaalishvili (Vladikavkaz Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences and of the Government of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania), Nikolay Shubin, Aleksandr Polkvoj, Yuriy Karaev, Oleg Gabaraev (North Caucasian Mining and Metallurgical Institute (State Technological University)).

International organising committee

Jean Schneider, chairman of the IOC (BOKU – University of Vienna, Austria); Jeffrey Kargel (University of Arizona, USA); Christian Huggel, Wilfried Haeberli (University of Zurich, Switzerland); Sergey Chernomorets, Olga Tutubalina, Dmitry Petrakov (Moscow State University, Russia); Stephen Evans (University of Waterloo, Canada); Lasafam Iturrizaga (University of Göttingen, Germany); Paola Reichenbach (Istituto de Ricerca per la Protezione Idrogeologica, Perugia, Italy); Andreas v. Poschinger (Bavarian Geological Survey, Germany); Gareth Hearn (former Scott Wilson, UK); Mustafa Karim (Focus Humanitarian Assistance, USA)

Topics

- Present status of the Kolka glacier/Genaldon valley and forecast for the future
- Glacier hazard assessment and mitigation, in the local region and worldwide
- Techniques for monitoring unstable glaciers and other glacier hazards
- Socioeconomic aspects of glacial hazards and high mountain risks
- Other relevant topics are also welcome

Working languages are English and Russian. It is planned to provide simultaneous translation.

Preliminary schedule

- 17 September - arrival of participants to Vladikavkaz
- 18 September - opening plenary session and thematic sessions
- 19 September - thematic sessions and closing plenary session
- 20 September - Karmadon. Field observation of ice deposits and visit to the Monument of victims of Kolka-Karmadon disaster
- 21 September - departure from Vladikavkaz

Important dates

To get visa invitations and security permits for overseas visitors to Karmadon, scanned copies of passports (photo page and the opposite page) and visa questionnaires should be sent to Sergey Chernomorets (devdorak@gmail.com) **before 20 June 2012**.

Abstracts (no more than 300 words) should be sent to both Prof. Jean Schneider (jean.schneider@boku.ac.at) and Dr. Sergey Chernomorets (devdorak@gmail.com) **by 15 July 2012**.

Requests for booking accommodation at Vladikavkaz hotel should be sent to Sergey Chernomorets (devdorak@gmail.com) **by 30 August 2012**.

Fees and logistics

Meeting will take place in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia, Russia at the North Caucasian Mining and Metallurgical Institute (State Technological University), and at the Center of Geophysical Investigations. The workshop fee for all regular participants will be **100 Euro** and this will cover conference attendance, translation during sessions, lunches and coffee breaks and most likely the conference banquet. Participants will need to pay for their travel and accommodation expenses themselves. The hotel accommodation will be booked centrally by the organising committee, at Vladikavkaz Hotel. This is the main city hotel, located centrally on the shore of the Terek River across a walking bridge from the main city park and the historic centre, with single rooms costing about 70 Euro per night. Flights from Moscow to Vladikavkaz run daily by 2-3 companies and return airfares start at 280 Euro. We recommend to book cheap airfare flights (e.g. Air Berlin from Europe) to Moscow, and flying with S7 Airlines to Vladikavkaz. You probably have to stay overnight at a hotel in/near Moscow Domodedovo Airport (e.g. Airhotel Domodedovo, http://www.airhotel.ru/index_en.asp, costing 160 Euro per single room or 175 Euro per twin room).

Contacts

Prof. Jean Schneider jean.schneider@boku.ac.at , Dr. Sergey Chernomorets devdorak@gmail.com

Visa questionnaire

Data required to issue a single-entry visa invitation for a foreign citizen to enter Russia:

Parameter	To fill in:	Notes
Duration of the visit		These dates can be approximate, but should include all the period when you are likely to be in Russia (including transfer via Moscow etc)
Date of entry to Russia		
Date of leaving Russia		
Cities of visit in Russia	Moscow, Vladikavkaz	Please let us know if you are planning to visit other cities
Surname		
Name		
Date of birth		
Gender		
Citizenship		
Country of birth		
Place of birth		
Country of permanent residence		
Country region/state/county of permanent residence		
Where you are going to receive your visa (country, city)		
Full name of the organisation		
Full work address		
Position		
Passport number		
Date of passport issue		
Date when passport validity ends		
Contact phone		

Please be sure to attach scanned copy of your passport (photo page and the opposite page). Passport pages and visa questionnaires should be sent to Sergey Chernomorets (devdorak@gmail.com) before **20 June 2012**.