

GEOHERITAGE: FROM GEOARCHAEOLOGY TO GEOTOURISM. EDITORIAL

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The presented volume, apart from regular scientific articles, comprises a set of six papers under joint title *Geoheritage: from geoarchaeology to geotourism*. Geoheritage seems to be the most spacious concept – not only does it fulfill geological and geomorphological, but also natural environment protection and cultural landscape modern scientific standards. Each paper, based on geographical environment study, indicates specific connections with human-affected history and indicates the need to protect investigated objects or areas. Pre-Quaternary geological and morphological structures of British Isles are described by Piotr Migoń and Andrew Goudie, who conclude that despite deposits of consecutive glaciations, existing landforms evidenced even earlier natural history of this area. Geoarchaeological scientific trend is represented in Eric Fouache *et al.*'s paper, in which the authors reconstruct morphological changes in Shrine Letoon (Turkey) area. An interesting example of single landform (sinkhole) description and valorization is depicted in paper of Paola Coratza *et al.*, who indicate on possibilities of sinkhole's touristic usage (Malta). Extremely interesting scientific approach to geodiversity

employed within a multi-disciplinary framework is presented by Michael Thomas, who brings up issues of geomorphic complexity, landscape sensitivity and connectivity between different landscape elements. Geodiversity, geoarchaeology and geoheritage information usage in geotourism is presented in the two last papers by Asfawossen Asrat *et al.* and Zbigniew Zwoliński and Jakub Stachowiak. The former authors describe geotouristic values of fascinating Simien Mts. in the paper, which is a natural continuation of their book *Geotourism in Ethiopia*. The latter authors consider connections between geodiversity merits and touristic routes in the Tatra National Park (Poland).

We have decided to publish these collected papers to commemorate our reliable friend, outstanding Quaternary expert Dr Mohammed Umer Mohemmed (1959–2011), who unexpectedly, far too early left his beloved Ethiopian land during fieldwork in the Afar on 27 November 2011. Mohammed Umer was an Associate Professor at the Department of Earth Sciences, Addis Ababa University, for 19 years. Mohammed was born on 22 June 1959 in Arsi Robe, a small town on the southeastern Ethiopian Highlands. He



graduated from Addis Ababa University with a BSc degree in Geology in 1981, and taught at Asmara University, Eritrea, for five years, before beginning research at the University of Aix-Marseille III. His PhD, on the vegeta-

tion history of the eastern Ethiopian highlands, was completed in 1992. His subsequent research which focused largely on the environmental history of Ethiopia made significant contributions to the understanding of the environmental history of the country. In addition to his teaching and research duties at Addis Ababa University, Mohammed has also served in various academic administration positions including as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science during 2005–2007 and was recently elected member of the University Council.

Mohammed was the founder in 2009, and leader of the *Paleo-environment and Paleoanthropology Program Unit* at Addis Ababa University. Mohammed served as a member of the PAGES Scientific Steering Committee, as leader of the

PAGES Africa 2k Working Group, and of PAGES Science Focus 4 (Past Human-Climate-Ecosystem Interactions). He was a founding member of the East African Quaternary Research Association, and was elected its President in February 2011. He was a member of the executive committee of the International Association of Geomorphologists, and of the steering committee of the Hominid Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project, supported by the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program. He was a key partner in the current Ethiopian Lakes Palaeoenvironmental Reconstruction Project, led from Cologne University. Mohammed, as a member of the Organizing Committee and co-host of the 2011 Regional Conference of the International Association of Geomorphologists held in Addis Ababa on February 18–22 2011, played a key role for the successful completion of the Conference. The untimely death of Dr Mohammed Umer is a grievous loss to his numerous colleagues and friends in the international community of palaeoenvironmental research. He was a dedicated and internationally recognized researcher and an ambassador for African science and for PAGES, and a much-valued friend to his many students and colleagues. This volume is dedicated to him.

Asfawossen Asrat and Zbigniew Zwoliński