



13TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VULCANOSPELEOLOGY – Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. 1–10 September 2008

– Andy Spate

This conference, conducted under the auspices of the Vulcanospeleology Commission of the UIS, was distinguished by the large number of ACKMA members in attendance. Major organisers were our own Kyung Sik Woo and Kim Lyoun (Ryeon). As well as these two ACKMA luminaries there was one New Zealand member, five from the larger island and four from Tasmania. I don't have the numbers of Koreans attending but there were 52 from outside the Republic.

Opening dinner for the conference – Oz ACKMA members occupy the third table from the left – together with David Summers, President of the International Show Caves Association. Julia James and Paul Williams are absent – at the VIP table!



Professor Julia James chairing the first session



Lyoun and his team of assistants did an amazing job in ensuring the conference ran smoothly at the time and in the weeks beforehand. Registration, buses, food etc all arrived and worked to time in spite of the best efforts of the international visitors.

Most of the ACKMA members perform at the karaoke night!



As well as the formal presentations there were a large number of fieldtrips to the three lava show cave operations on Jeju Island as well as to a large number of the 'wild' caves and other volcanic features on this amazing island.

The outstanding trip for most would have been the visit to the amazing and unique (and I mean that word) Yongcheongul – the lava tube abundantly decorated with calcite speleothems that I have described before in this august Journal. The conference was held in a seaside hotel in a distinctly more upmarket standard than most ACKMA members are used to.

Thirty-six papers were presented including:

- Kyung Sik Woo – Jeju volcanic landforms and lava tubes: A road to World Heritage Inscription;
- Greg Middleton – The unexpected discovery of a Dodo, *Raphus cucullatus*, Linn. (Aves, Columbiformes) in a highland Mauritian lava cave;
- Paul Williams – Management requirements that apply to World Heritage karst and volcano-karst properties; and
- Andy Spate (with Peter Bell, Ian Household and Rauleigh Webb) – Lava caves with calcite speleothems: some international comparisons and a plea for more information.



Two ACKMA members honoured for their role in the Jeju Island Volcanic World Heritage Inscription by having their image affixed to a restaurant. Accompanied by the World Heritage field evaluator, Paul Dingwell and his wife Tonia, the restaurant owner and a Jeju Island government official.

David Butler, Kim Lyoun and Cathie Plowman heading off caving

The standard of most papers was exceptional with a few which might well have been avoided. They ranged across all continents except Antarctica and covered geological, biological and cultural aspects of Vulcanospeleology as well as matters such as World Heritage and Geoparks.



In addition to this, ACKMA members chaired four of the nine sessions! As the 14th Vulcanospeleology Symposium will be held at Undara in 2010 this can all be regarded as practice for that event. Greg Middleton will be the chief organiser that meeting.

ACKMA members and others immersed in words of wisdom from Kyung Sik Woo.

