

First Bulgarian-Greek Symposium on the geology and physical geography of the Rhodope Massif

The First Bulgarian-Greek geological and geographic symposium took place in Smoljan, from 16th to 19th of September, 1987. The Symposium was organized by the University of Sofia "Kliment Ohridski" (President of the Bulgarian Organizing Committee Assoc. Prof. B. Kolkovski) and by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (President of the Greek Organizing Committee Prof. A. Psilovicos) with the help of the City Council and Mayor of Smoljan. About 120 scientific contributions have been reported and discussed in the 6 sections of the Symposium. Some of them reported important new facts until others emitted interesting new hypotheses in the fields of stratigraphy, paleogeography, tectonics and geodynamics, petrology, ore deposits and their genesis, geomorphology and neotectonics, climatology and hydrology.

Several topics have been dominant in the Symposium. Most important amongst them are:

- problems of the metamorphic basement of the Rhodope Massif: lithostratigraphic composition, igneous activity, polymetamorphism, superimposed younger events, metallogeny;
- problems of the Mesozoic rocks in the Eastern Rhodopes;
- Paleogene sedimentary and volcanic complexes and related ore deposits;
- Neogene and Quaternary development, neotectonics;
- tectonic development, main structural features, and the place of the Rhodope Massif in the tectonic structure of the Balkan Peninsula.

The contributions will be published by Sofia University in a special volume.

It should be emphasized that the Symposium was attended by a large number of geologists working on the problems of the Rhodope Massif not only at the organizing universities but virtually with all geological institutions in Athens, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Xanthi, Madan, Asenovgrad, etc. Thus the Symposium will have a large impact on geological research and exploration both on Bulgarian and Greek territory as well as on the geological education in both countries. The friendly professional relations between the geologists of Bulgaria and Greece are another success obtained.

A two-day geological excursion gave to the guests a general idea about the geology of the high-grade metamorphic complexes, the Paleogene volcano-sedimentary complexes and the related ore deposits in Central and Eastern Rhodopes.

The First Bulgarian-Greek Symposium accomplished its aims and has been an important contribution to the geological collaboration between the two countries.

Ivan Zagorčev
Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
1113 Sofia