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31 January 2014

Kyung Sik WOO
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To whom it may concern

The Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS) has learned that a series of events, "The Torgashinskaya Races," which were officially organized by the Krasnoyarsk Regional Speleological Club, have taken place in Russian caves. Caves are essential elements in natural environments. In these completely dark underground environments, unique ecosystems have evolved and developed for millions of years. They have been the source of many scientific discoveries to understand past climates and modern environmental changes. Caves supply significant water resources and also contain priceless cultural heritages such as paintings and petroglyphs by ancient man. Thus, there is no doubt that caves are special and invaluable heritages which need to be conserved.

Therefore, I am writing because the UIS and its 60 member countries, including Russia, find competitive activities in caves, like the Torgashinskaya Races damage caves and their natural and cultural resources. These Races are strongly against the "Code of Ethics" established by the international community of the UIS. We ask you to take action to stop future activities of this kind to conserve caves for non-destructive use, enjoyment, and scientific study by future generations. We specifically ask you to take urgent action to stop the next Races in the Torgashinskaya Cave scheduled for March 23, 2014.

Please inform me of your plans in this matter and if you need any information or assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Kyung Sik Woo

Kyung Sik Woo
President,
Union Internationale de Spéléologie