China is one of the most relevant concentrations of karst features all over the world. Probably the word concentration is not quite correct because by taking into account the area of country the abundance of karst features per square kilometre is not different from other countries. But here such a display of any form of karst features from the tropical cone karst to the high plateau karst through the stone forests has developed within a single country. Therefore such a situation means a unique attraction for any scientist interested to such things.

The Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU, Postojna, the Yunnan Institute of Geography and Institute of Geology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences started already in the 90s a very fruitful cooperation in the Southern China. In this first volume the results of the researches carried out near Liupanshui, the western part of Guizhou, in karst between the mountains in Guizhou and Yunnan Plateau in the area of Lunnan stone forests and in cone-karst at Xichou, Yunnan, are reported.

The first part, Karst studies of Yunnan, consists in twelve papers and the second part, Karst studies in W. Guizhou, consists in eleven papers. Any aspect related to karst phenomena is considered (geology, hydrology, etc.) and human impact is exhaustively described.

Arrigo A. Cigna

Another extremely interesting book has been published on the South China Karst as a further contribution to these studies. Such a book consists of 21 contributions due to both Chinese and Slovenian teams of scientists. Also in this volume, any aspect of karst was taken into account from hydrogeology to speleogenesis to biology. As reported in the Foreword, the exceptional features of the diverse Yunnan karst, from tropical cone karst to the south and the stone forests in the centre to the mountain karst and high plateau karst of Tibet in the north, are a magnet that has always drawn karstologists. Surely these features are a very special basis to develop top level researches. The lucky opportunity to gather some of the best scientists from both countries resulted in the preparation of another document which is fundamental for the knowledge of south China karst.

Arrigo A. Cigna