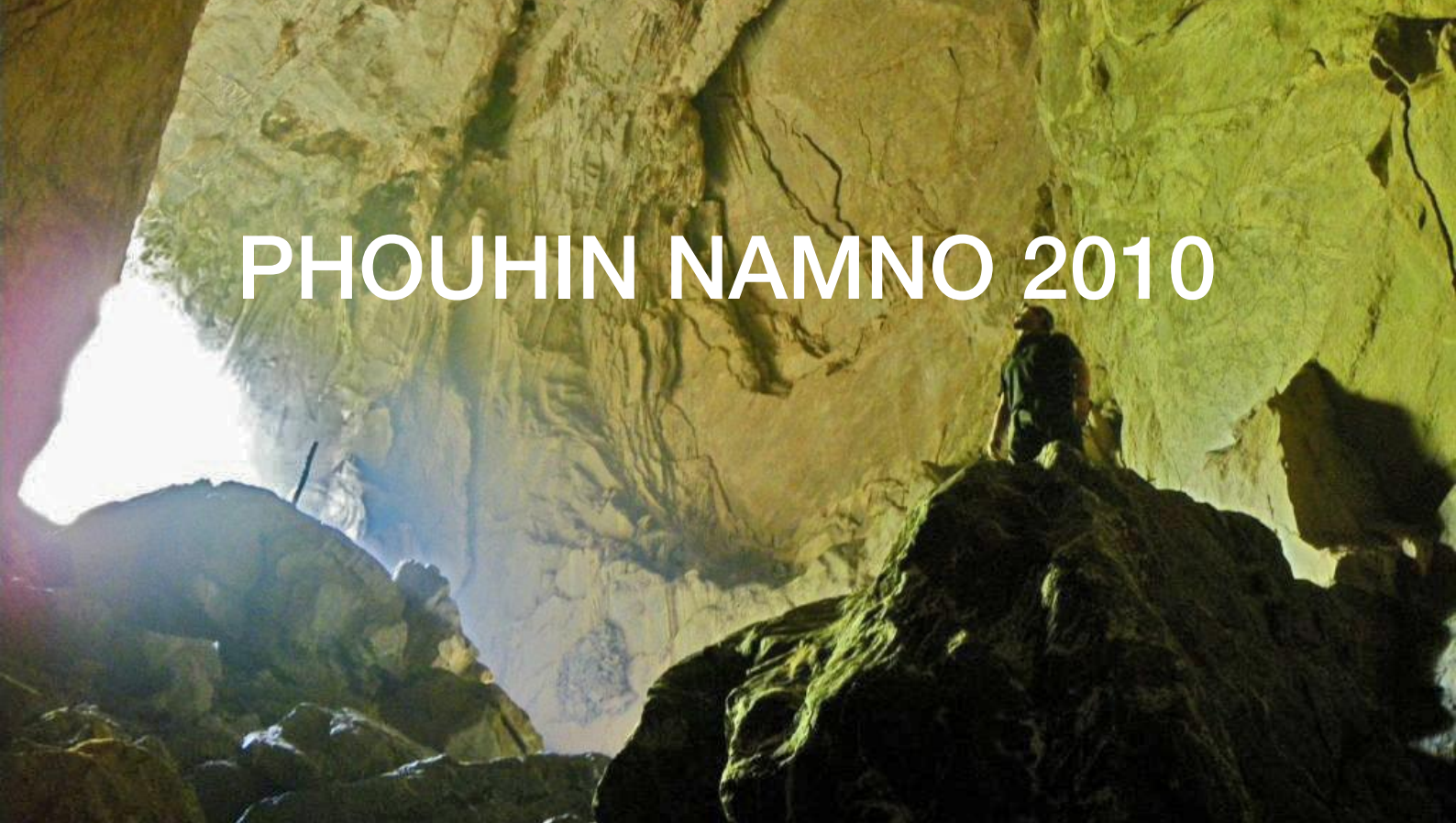




PHOUHIN NAMNO 2010

Summary

Region: Northern Laos, Kasi District

Club: EEGC (g2)

Group leader: Gaël Brewal DIRAISON

Team: Julie BEAUFORT, François CARTAUD, Frédéric GLINEC, Catherine GOUDOUNEIX, Régis MERCIER,

Dates: 05 February - 05 March 2010

The intention of our 2010 expedition was go north of our Vang Vieng historical playground and to venture in the unexplored zones around Kasi. Some interesting features and areas were identified of the maps of Kasi area. Our objectives were to:

- Continue exploring between Vang Vieng and Kasi around Ban Phatang (20 km N of Vang Vieng)
- Prospect east of Kasi, in the area of Ban Bouak (20 km to the E Kasi), a militarized zone, prohibited till recently and unexplored to date.
- Explore the northwest of Kasi made accessible by the a brandnew road
- Look for the entrance of the Phanong tunnel.

Fourteen cavities were explored and documented including two remarkable thru-caves. Total lenght surveyed: 3190 m of topography of previously unexplored passages.

Samoy Nam Tunnel

Near the Hmong village of Ban Bouak this underground river has been explored and mapped from its loss to its spring along 1410 m of passages. The river disappears from

the surface in a rocky chaos. A down climb among meanders and boulders over a 60 m distance leads to a 12 m deep well followed by a high step of 8 m are necessary to reach to the stream. The river then follows a relatively flat growth through massive rooms (over 20m in height). A tributary remains to be explored (still siphon).

The warm welcome we have received from the villagers of Ban Bouak was the both a rewarding and valuable assistance.

NamSana's network

Nam Sana lies 5 km south of Ban Bouak. It is a river flowing at 700 L/s during our visit. It disappears into a limestone block on a distance of 350 m as the crow flies. In this network, we surveyed two sections of fossil passages (720m) and more is to be mapped. We only scouted the ponor and the spring. The active network, is very entrenched, aquatic and technical: to be explored with flood risk in mind. Around the village of Ban Bouak, we explored other smaller cavities, reported by villagers. More caves are near and yet to visit.

Phanong entrance

In the Phanong polje (20 km NE of Kasi), the maps indicate a river disappearance into a limestone cliff. The monumental entrance of the river has been explored over 400 m (altitude difference is 52 m), but the progression was stopped by a plug of flood debris. Three attempts were made to find the resurgence unsuccessfully.

Near Kasi

Huay Tham Phouk, cave in the valley of Kasi, was surveyed on about 177 m. We tried to access the polje near the river Nam Kay (20 km NW of Kasi), located on a map. Unfortunately, the road construction is not completed, we were stopped by a military checkpoint 10 km from it. On the way back we surveyed the 160 m Tham Tai, in the aptly named village of Ban Tham Tai.

Pha Nampin

Pha Nampin massif, (2 miles W of Ban Phatang) had already revealed several cavities explored during previous expeditions. Our research of new caves were unsuccessful. Additions to previous topographies have been made, however (Tham Huay Leng).

Pha Koy - Pha Lay - Nam Fuang

Surveys conducted around Pha Lay and Pha Koy (10-20 km SSW of Kasi) have not yielded the expected results. However, the discovery of a new forest road starting from Ban Chiang (village near Pha Koy) to the SW is very promising to acces the remoted area of the Nam Fuang (40 km SW Kasi).

We explored karstic ranges with great potential: the 2010 results are enough to stimulate the imagination until the next caving expedition planned for 2014.

All our expedition reports can be downloaded from our website: <https://eegc.org>