

The **second campaign of the Northern Lebanon Project**, a joint project of the University of Udine and the Lebanese University - Third Branch Tripoli with the scientific participation of the IFPO Beirut, directed respectively by M. Iamoni and M. Haider, finished on the 15th November. Thanks to funding from the University of Udine, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the NGO COSV, the joint mission conducted three weeks of fieldwork, concentrating in particular its efforts on the Koura Plain and the modern cities of Amioun and Kousba. Via an extensive and intensive survey, the Italo-Lebanese team was able to identify a number of previously unknown archaeological sites, some of which date to the most ancient periods thus far attested in the area of Northern Lebanon. In particular, the region under investigation shows substantial signs of occupation from at least 3000 BC onwards. Considerable evidence of Hellenistic/Roman and Byzantine presence in the area has been found in a number of modern villages in the area of Jebel Qalaht, demonstrating the intense and continuous occupation of the area investigated by the joint Italo-Lebanese mission. The results achieved are revealing an extremely rich and thus far poorly known archaeological landscape, whose study promises to provide a completely new picture of local ancient settlement – and more generally of the Central Levant. With the permission of the General Directorate of Antiquities of Lebanon, the joint mission will continue the archaeological investigation during 2019 with a third survey campaign.

The **first campaign of the Asingrian Excavation Project**, a joint project of the University of Udine and the Douhk Directorate of Antiquities, directed respectively by M. Iamoni and H. A. Qasim and financed by the University of Udine and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, concluded its work in October 2018. The target of the project is the investigation of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic site of Asingrian, one of the oldest settlements identified by the Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project directed by D. Morandi Bonacossi, which is located a few kilometres west of the modern town of Rovia in the region of Iraqi Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). Thanks to a long and uninterrupted sequence spanning the 7th-3rd mill. BC Asingrian is a crucial site for understanding the dynamics that led to the emergence of the socio-economic complexity characterising modern societies. The 2019 campaign focussed on the creation of a Digital Terrain Model obtained from 5cm resolution orthophotos taken with a drone. Exploratory trenches were dug along an exposed section on the site: these revealed the presence of fluvial deposits that attest to the existence of radically different climatic conditions in the past. At the same time the trenches demonstrated that a large part of the archaeological landscape in the plain surrounding the site is completely hidden by later accumulations and is thus completely unknown. The next AEP season will focus on the excavation of a long trench on the top of the main hill, together with starting the geophysical exploration of the archaeological area in search of building remains preserved at Asingrian.