



# Newsletter

August 2006

N° 205

<http://www.iasnet.org>

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## Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> International Sedimentological Congress, welcome to Fukuoka

The 17<sup>th</sup> International Sedimentological Congress in Fukuoka (ISC2006Fukuoka) is approaching. General theme of the congress, «From the highest to the deepest», comes from the fact that the eastern Asia is the geologically most active region on this planet, extending from the highest mountain ranges to the deepest ocean trenches. The theme also expresses our challenge to contribute more for the survival of mankind and sustainability of Planet Earth.

ISC2006 is the first International Sedimentological Congress in the eastern Asia. Fukuoka is far from Europe and North and South American continents, however ISC2006 is going to be a big international scientific meeting of sedimentologists. We have so far received 750 abstracts and 730 registrants, including 480 delegates and 250 students from 59 countries and districts. ISC2006 will be held in the Fukuoka International Congress Center (FICC) on the water front of Hakata Bay. Registration desk will open in the morning of Sunday, August 27. We have organized a symposium entitled «The Sumatra earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean and tsunami-related sedimentology», which is open for town-people and school students as an outreach program of the Congress. Japanese efforts to investigate the Sumatra earthquake and tsunami as well as the prediction of local earthquakes will be presented.

Official opening ceremony will be started by a traditional dance «golden lion and drums» at 9:00 a.m. of Monday, Aug.28. Following the ceremony, Prof. S. K. Chough of Seoul University will give a special lecture on «Sedimentology of Paleozoic succession in Northern Asia» and Dr. A. Taira of JAMSTEC, on «Sedimentology as earth system science». We provide two types of sessions, special symposia and technical sessions that will be run 9 conference rooms, except for keynote addresses of Ss. Two keynotes will be given at the beginning of the morning session and afternoon sessions (four keynotes a day).

Oral and poster sessions are not scheduled on Wednesday, Aug.30, when mid-day field trips, short course, and workshops are programmed. General assembly of the International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) is scheduled on Thursday, Aug. 31. Following business reports from general secretary, treasures, and editors, President of IAS, Prof. Judith McKenzie, will give a Presidential address «Windows into the Carbonate World». Prof. Charlotte Schreiber of the University of Washington will be awarded the 2006 Sorby Medal. She will give a talk entitled «Understanding Evaporites.» In the evening, we take a 30 minutes boat cruise to go to a peninsula hotel for an optional gala dinner and attractions.

Special symposia are grouped into 5 themes. SS1: Tectonics, climate, and sedimentation, SS2: Environmental sedimentology and human society, SS3: New targets and innovation in resource sedimentology, SS4: Evolution of the biosphere and geosphere, SS5: Frontiers in sedimentology. Each theme includes 2 or 3 topics, which are featured by 7 to 9 invited speakers. Among these, Prof. C. Busby will talk on «Volcano-sedimentary processes in a rifting island arc.» Dr. David Piper will discuss on the deep-water clastic sedimentation, and Prof. Peter Clift will talk on an «erosional response of Himalaya to Holocene climate changes. Methane hydrate sessions have more than 35 abstracts. Dr. Charles Paull discusses the regimes of methane release from gas hydrate deposits. On the other hand, Prof. Paul Wignall is a keynote of the boundary event session, talking about mass extinctions, volcanism and anoxia: comparison of the end-Permian and early Jurassic events.

Another highlights of the congress should be IODP and Chikyu. Chikyu (means the Earth) is a newly built, deep earth exploration vessel for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), conducting shakedown drilling in the Pacific off Japan islands this summer. Prof. Gregory Moore will talk on «Nankai trough convergent margin: ODP results and proposed IODP drilling».

We proposed 36 field trips in the web and second circular, and finally scheduled 24 including three trips outside Japan islands. Altogether, 480 delegates and students are to participate in field trips.

Timetable of the congress, access map and guidelines for presentation have been uploaded on our web site, <http://www.isc2006.com>.

I look forward to seeing you soon in Fukuoka.

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## REPORT ON

# IAS Sponsored Activities at the EGU Meeting 2006 in Vienna and Future Collaboration between IAS and EGU

The IAS Bureau undertook a new initiative in 2006 by sponsoring sessions at the annual meeting of the European Geosciences Union (EGU), held at the beginning of April in Vienna. As the largest Geosciences meeting in Europe, the EGU General Assembly provided an excellent opportunity for the IAS to raise the profile of Sedimentology and the Association within the broader Geosciences community.

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) was founded in 2002 as a merger of the European Geophysical Society (EGS) and the European Union of Geosciences (EUG), and is organized into 21 'divisions'. The first EGU meetings were characterized by a low number of sessions devoted to sedimentological topics. However, the Sedimentology, Stratigraphy and Palaeontology (SSP) Division of EGU has gained prominence over the last two years, and is increasingly linking its activities with IAS and other related organizations in order to improve the visibility of sedimentology and neighbouring disciplines in an international context.

At the 2006 general assembly of EGU, the number of abstracts submitted to SSP sessions was approaching 500 (a 10-fold increase compared to 2004), and a large number of well-attended sessions were organized. Clearly, sedimentologists, and particularly IAS members, have returned to EGU, and are taking advantage of the uniquely diverse interdisciplinary nature of the meeting to broaden their interests and network with colleagues in other geosciences disciplines. A significant part of this success was due to the IAS-sponsored sessions at EGU. The Association organised and promoted these sessions and provided travel grants to IAS student members presenting papers at the meeting. An IAS-sponsored prize for the Young Scientists' Outstanding Paper, was awarded to

Stéphane Bodin, University of Neuchâtel, for a paper entitled *«Phosphogenesis and silicification associated to condensation events: an example from the Hauterivian – Barremian transition along the northern Tethyan margin (Helvetic realm, Switzerland)»*.

The Association was also very pleased to learn that the EGU 2006 Sedimentology, Stratigraphy and Palaeontology Lamarck Medal (named after Jean Baptiste Lamarck) was to be awarded to IAS President Dr. Judith McKenzie, ETH-Zürich, in recognition for her *«outstanding contributions in the fields of chemical sedimentology, isotope geochemistry, and geomicrobiology, and for her dedicated services to the Earth Science community»*.

Following the success of the IAS sessions at EGU in 2006, the Bureau is keen to further promote the Association in the wider European community. Clearly, EGU is not a replacement for IAS regional meetings or IAS conferences; these will always be the main focus of the Associations activities. However, at EGU meetings IAS members have an opportunity to interact with researchers from neighbouring disciplines including, for example, the biogeosciences, climate sciences, cryospheric sciences, ocean sciences, soil system sciences, and tectonics and structural geology. Such interaction is becoming increasingly important with the rising prominence of Earth System Science, reflecting the high degree of interdisciplinary scientific networks that characterize much of our research. Furthermore, the increased exposure of IAS and its publications at the EGU meetings is contributing to the visibility of IAS in the European geosciences community, and is an important initiative to attract new IAS members.

For EGU 2007, a new round of attractive sessions is planned, including ones on microbial carbonates, turbidites, sediment records of palaeoceanographic change, lake systems, modelling of sedimentary systems, cyclicity in sediments, palaeo-environmental analysis, diagenesis, and much more. IAS members are warmly invited to submit abstracts to existing sessions, but also to suggest and convene additional sessions. We aim to provide travel grants to IAS students presenting papers at the meeting again next year, and session conveners might wish to make use of the opportunities offered by IAS to publish topical sets of papers in Special Publications of the Association. Please contact Adrian Immenhauser ([adrian.immenhauser@rub.de](mailto:adrian.immenhauser@rub.de)) if you are considering convening a session at EGU 2007 (which will take place in Vienna between 15 – 20 April), or if you have any further questions regarding IAS activities at the meeting. See you all there!

*Adrian Immenhauser & Ian Jarvis*

## NEWS FROM

### The Hellenic Sedimentological Association

In the frame of the Hellenic Sedimentological Association activities and the bilateral collaboration between Athens University and the University of Napoli «Federico II», the eminent Professors of Sedimentology, Gabriele Carannante and Lucia Simone were invited to the Department of Historical Geology and Paleontology, Faculty of Geology and Geoenvironment of the University of Athens, for one week of discussion and collaboration, from 19 to 25 February 2006. With the occasion of the visit, Professor Simone gave a lecture on the subject «Carbonate facies as paleolatitudinal indicators: problems and limitations», on 22 February at the Amphitheatre «Ioannis Dracopoulos» (Department of Geology and Geoenvironment, NKUA). The lecture was attended by many members of the Hellenic Sedimentological Association and colleagues from the University of Athens, the National Centre of Marine Research, the Institute of Geological and Mining Exploration (IGME), the Hellenic Petroleum Corporation, and by postgraduate students of Oceanography as well.

Professors Carannante and Simone focused their research in the comprehension of the relations existing between organogenic, autochthonous and allochthonous components in carbonate platforms. As it is known from the sixties and hence, modern tropical platforms, which are characterised by the existence of a reefal type margin, constituted the main sedimentary model for the interpretation of ancient carbonate sequences. In many cases however, and particularly in non-rimmed platform, such a correlation with modern tropical platforms has been unfeasible. For this reason, another model has been recently proposed. The model corresponds to an open, homocline platform (ramp) in which calcified photophile organisms prevailing in tropical platforms occur subordinately. It is explicit that the organic differentiation relates to varied physicochemical and paleoclimatic conditions, but it should also be stated that the hydrodynamics of both systems differs substantially.

Our invited Professors are advocates of this new type of platform as a more realistic paleoenvironment type for both Upper Cretaceous and Miocene periods, reliant in the results of their researches.

Professor Lucia Simone stressed upon the main features of the homocline platforms as these are recorded in the above mentioned geological periods. Although the audience to their lectures was not exclusively formed of experts in carbonate sedimentation, she gave a wider dimension and prospect engaging the public in a lively discussion that continued informally in the courtyard space of the Museum of Paleontology with coffee and snacks.

We thank Professors Carannante and Simone for their visit and we like to express our wish for further collaboration in these interesting subjects.

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## A brief review on some developments of sedimentology in China

For most sedimentologists in China, the Chinese Council of Sedimentology (CSMPG) is an important academic organisation which came into existence in 1979 and was firstly set up in the Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) (the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS, renamed in 1999).

There are many academic meetings held by CSMPG in which special topics are developed. The National Congress of Sedimentology, once very four years, is the most important and integrated academic exchange activity for most sedimentologists in China. Commonly, at least 110-130 papers are published in the *Acta Sedimentologica Sinica*, a core journal of geosciences sponsored by CSMPG. Sedimentology is not only an important research branch of Geosciences but also a key basis for exploration and development of oil-gas, mineral and water resources, and for management of environment in China. Nowadays, there are six divisions in the Chinese Council of Sedimentology which include Sedimentary Systems and Sequence Stratigraphy, Basin geodynamics, Modern Sedimentation and Environment, Sedimentary and Organic Geochemistry, Sedimentology on Fossil Energy, and Precambrian Sedimentology.

From the achievements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Congress of Sedimentology, held in 23-25 October 2005, and from other meetings of Sedimentology in China, a brief review on some developments of Sedimentology in the country can be given as follows:

In the field of Sedimentary Systems and Sequence Stratigraphy, Chinese geologists made a lot of progress and acquired plentiful improvements in the last twenty years. Some relevant papers in international journals have been published in the following specific topics: terrestrial sedimentary systems and sequence stratigraphy, including alluvial and desert aeolian systems, sedimentary controls on mineral distribution, sequence stratigraphy in oil-gas and coal exploration, high resolution sequence stratigraphy, dynamic sequence stratigraphy in basin formation and mountain building, diagenesis and sequence stratigraphy, sequence lithofacies palaeogeography, etc.

In the field of Basin Geodynamics, studies on the origin of sedimentary basins in China followed approach of basin-orogen (range) coupling, embracing structural, sedimentary and deep structure features. The structural coupling can be revealed by deformation in the place where basin and orogen (range) are jointed. The

sedimentary coupling implies tectonic-sedimentary responses that could reconstruct the orogenic process. The coupling in deep structures focuses on lithosphere dynamics revealed by deep structures. Researches following this pattern, such as those developed in basins adjacent to Dabieshan, Tian Shan, Longmenshan, Yanshan and Tibet, have aroused international interest.

In the field of Modern Sedimentation and Environment, a lot of data and plentiful achievements have been derived from studies in the Yangtze delta, the Pearl river delta, the continental shelf of China and the Neogene basins around Tibet. These researches mainly paid attention to climatic and environmental evolution and , therefore, have attracted wide international collaboration in the recent ten years.

For Sedimentology on Fossil Energy and organic material, petroleum sedimentology has developed into the integrated research of sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy, seismic, well-logging, laboratory and computer technology. The good research results generated by the application of sequence stratigraphy, well-logging sedimentology and geophysics in petroleum sedimentological studies have been stressed, which bring efficient sedimentological analyses at both macro- and micro-scale, more comprehensive and precise methods and 3-D visualization. In addition, coal resources are of key position in primary energy but it is also a main pollution source. Therefore it will be a research hot point to Chinese coal sedimentology to keep a coordinate development for coal requirement and environmental protection. Some frontier fields of applied research on coal sedimentology in China have been concerned, including coupling researches on the variety of coal-bearing environments together with the complexity of coal properties, environmental sedimentology with cleaning properties for coal, coal reservoirs and pool-forming theory according to geological settings of China, and palaeogeographic reconstruction of coal accumulation areas by multi-information and digitisation.

In the field of Precambrian Sedimentology, it should be shown that the IGCP 447 (Proterozoic Molar-tooth Carbonates and the Evolution of the Earth), led by Chinese sedimentologists, was approved in 2001, which marked a new progress on this topic in China. IGCP 447, a successor of IGCP 319, aims to investigate the origin and structures of Middle and late Precambrian microsparites and to assess their global correlation by stressing depositional, palaeoenvironmental, biogeochemical, geotectonic and stratigraphic significance. This project will undertake a thorough survey of the Proterozoic carbonates in China, Arctic Europe, Russia, North America, West Africa and so on. Molar-tooth carbonates will probably provide more evidences connecting the inorganic world with the organic one and is closely related to the evolution of paleoseas, the atmosphere and the biosphere.

Just to finish this article, I would like to thank Professors Huanjie Liu and Xianghua Meng for their contributions on the research material written in this article.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 4<sup>th</sup> International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC 2007) Barcelona, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2007

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC-2007) will be held in Barcelona, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2007. This event is the continuation of a succession of congresses dealing with the multidisciplinary study of ancient and recent lacustrine ecosystems. These congresses have been promoted by the International Association of Limnogeology (IAL) from 1995 to date.

The previous congresses were held in Denmark (1995), France (1998) and United States (2003) with a large scientific success. Limnogeology is an emergent discipline with a significant development in Spain. Its interests focus on academic aspects (evolution of complex systems, sedimentary records recording the interaction between Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere and Biosphere, ancient paleoclimatic records) as well as on immediate social-economic interests (records of recent climate changes, prospect and development of oil fields, gas, coal, mineral resources and deposits; water supply; landscape and geologic heritage). The Organizing Committee of the congress includes Spanish researchers from different Earth Sciences disciplines from several universities and research centres. The Steering and the Scientific Committees are composed of relevant researchers from 16 countries. The budget of the Congress seeks to receive the fees for 300 participants from more than 30 countries, from all over the world.

The International Association of Limnogeology (IAL) is a scientific organization created in 1995 in order to maintain active the relationships between the researchers studying the lacustrine records from different points of view. This association appeared as a result of the contacts and cooperation efforts carried out between 1984 and 1995 by the 219 and 324 Projects of the International Geological Correlation Programme (UNESCO-IUGS). This

organization was officially constituted during the first scientific meeting held in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1995.

The IAL promotes the multidisciplinary study of recent and ancient lacustrine basin systems and their related ecosystems through time and space in order to improve the understanding of their physical, chemical, hydrological, sedimentological and biological evolution. Furthermore, this organization contemplates the analysis of the different morphological and tectonic situations, with special regard to the evolution of ancient and recent climate. The results improve our understanding about the effects of these tectonic and climatic changes on the emerged continental surfaces, and enhance our capacity to search economic resources.

This organization also promotes the research of ancient and recent lacustrine records through congresses, symposia and field trips. Among other previous activities it is interesting to highlight the organization of international congresses every four years (Copenhagen-Denmark-1995, Brest-France-1998, Tucson-USA-2003). These congresses were characterized by the high quality of the submitted contributions and by the high number of attendants (between 250 and 350) from more than 34 countries.

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Limnogeology Congress will be held in Barcelona, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2007. The organization of this congress is done by researchers from the University of Barcelona, the Complutense University of Madrid and the University of Zaragoza, as well as from the Spanish National Research Council (ICTJA of Barcelona; IPE of Zaragoza) and the Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME, the Spanish Geological and Mining Institute and Survey). The steering and scientific committees are constituted by a large representation of researchers from 16 countries around the world.

The ILICs congresses seek to provide a periodic updated overview of the state of knowledge on lacustrine records and of different methodological approaches such as Stratigraphy, Sedimentology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Paleogeography, Paleoclimatology, etc, all of them related with the Paleolimnology, but trying to approach the lacustrine systems in an integrative, holistic approach.

The planned activities of the 4th International Limnogeology Congress comprise guest plenary lectures by some researchers, workshops, and oral and poster contributions from the rest of the attendees. In this new edition of ILIC, topics of oral and poster sessions will be a part of the main organization frame, organized in symposia coordinated by specialists. Furthermore, field trips (pre and post-congress) showing the results of the study of ancient and recent lacustrine records in different geological provinces of the NE and S of Spain and/or the development of new techniques will be carried out.

We look forward having the opportunity to meet you in the congress, in Barcelona, just at the edge of the Mediterranean, a small sea that some times became nearly a lake. The «*Mare Nostrum*» that we would like to share with all of you, friends coming along with us from North, South, East and West.

## Scientific programme

The topics proposed for the present edition are:

Lacustrine basins in their tectonic environments

- ♦ *Tectonic controls on lacustrine basin evolution and records*
- ♦ *Geodynamic cyclicity recorded in lacustrine sequences*
- ♦ *Lacustrine record of Global Tectonics: From super-continent break-up to orogenic assembly*

Lacustrine environments and basin fill: Depositional systems, Facies Assemblages and Sequence Stratigraphy

- ♦ *Lacustrine terrigenous clastic sequences*
- ♦ *Carbonate lacustrine sequences*
- ♦ *Saline lakes and evaporite sequences*
- ♦ *Wetlands through time and space*
- ♦ *From springs and rivers to lakes: Tufa and travertine deposits*
- ♦ *Karstic lakes*
- ♦ *Volcanic and hydrothermal-related lakes*
- ♦ *Glacial and subglacial lakes. The Antarctic «new world»*
- ♦ *Sequence Stratigraphy in lacustrine systems. Unravelling tectonic and climatic forcing*
- ♦ *Pedogenesis related to wetland and lacustrine environments. From subaqueous soil records to calcretes*
- ♦ *3D reconstruction and numerical modelling of lacustrine depositional systems and related deposits*

Integrated views of catchment-lacustrine basin systems

- ♦ *Lacustrine records of landscape evolution: Tectonic, Morphologic and Climatic interplay*
- ♦ *Landscape and downstream lacustrine systems: From weathering-erosion and sediment routing to basin fill deposition*
- ♦ *Numerical modelling of crustal evolution and related lacustrine basins*

Economic resources in lacustrine sequences

- ♦ *Lacustrine coals*
- ♦ *The petroleum play in lacustrine basins*
- ♦ *Metallic ores in lacustrine basins*
- ♦ *Salt deposits and brines in lacustrine basins*
- ♦ *Raw materials in lacustrine basins*

Lacustrine paleobiotas. Exceptional fossil assemblage records in lacustrine sequences

- ♦ *Evolving lacustrine paleobiotas*
- ♦ *Endemisms in large, long-lived lacustrine basins*
- ♦ *Exceptionally preserved continental paleobiotic records in lacustrine sequences*

Geomicrobiology studies applied to lacustrine systems

- ♦ *The role of bacteria in the endogenic lacustrine carbonate formation*
- ♦ *Early diagenetic processes in lacustrine ecosystems related to bacteria communities*
- ♦ *Geological impact of microbial transformations in lacustrine ecosystems over geologic time*

Lacustrine record dating. New proxies and advanced techniques

- ♦ *Advances in scientific drilling and seismic exploration in lacustrine sequences*

- ♦ *Geochronology of lacustrine records. New dating techniques and approaches*
  - ♦ *Paleomagnetic studies in lacustrine records*
  - ♦ *Advances in Biochemistry applied to lacustrine records*
  - ♦ *Multi-indicator records of lacustrine environmental changes*
- Isotope Geochemistry in lacustrine records
- ♦ *Isotopic records of paleoclimate, paleoweathering, paleodrainage and paleohydrology*
- Precambrian to Neogene lacustrine records. Tectonic, climatic and hydrologic significance
- ♦ *Pre-Quaternary lacustrine records all over the world*
  - ♦ *Lakes and Early Earth History: Archean lacustrine records*
  - ♦ *Pre-Quaternary lacustrine records in the peri-Mediterranean regions. From Iberia to the Middle East*
  - ♦ *From Lake to Sea and from Sea to Lake: Pannonian and Lago-Mare-like systems. Paleohydrological and paleoenvironmental frontiers*
  - ♦ *Studies on cyclicity and periodicity. Searching for tectonic and/or climatic forcing*
  - ♦ *Linkages between continental and marine records. An integrated paleoclimatic history*
  - ♦ *Ancient lacustrine records and paleoclimatic modelling*
- Pleistocene-Holocene lacustrine records of regional and global environmental changes (climatic, tectonic, hydrologic)
- ♦ *Paleohydrological evolution: linkage to climatic and morphologic changes*
  - ♦ *Reconstructing climate seasonality in recent lacustrine records*
  - ♦ *Annual and subannual lacustrine records. Paleoenvironmental significance*
  - ♦ *Impact of climate change on recent lakes: latitudinal inter-comparison*
  - ♦ *Lacustrine records of Quaternary climatic and cultural changes*
  - ♦ *Inter-hemispheric teleconnections of lacustrine records. Linkage between lacustrine, ice and oceanic records. Records of ENSO and NAO*
  - ♦ *Climate Change during the Glacial-Interglacial Transitions. Lacustrine record and effects*
  - ♦ *Quaternary lacustrine records and paleoclimatic modelling*
- Monitoring lacustrine systems as natural laboratories
- ♦ *Quantitative calibration of lake proxies: monitoring and experiments*
- Natural hazard record in lacustrine sequences
- ♦ *Record of catastrophic events (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and other natural hazards)*
  - ♦ *Catastrophic lacustrine floods*
  - ♦ *Killing lacustrine gas emissions*
- Limnogeology in artificial lakes: From ancient dams to the Three Gorges water reservoir
- Limnogeology and management of natural heritage (wetlands, lakes and «points of geological interest»)
- Extraterrestrial lakes: From Europe to Mars

*On behalf of the organizing Committee*  
*Lluís Cabrera*  
*www.ilic2007.com*

## Alluvial Fans 2007 - Announcement

The early days of alluvial fan sedimentology concentrated on description of the processes and products on the spectacular fans of the Basin and Range area of the southwestern United States, so it was entirely fitting that the first international conference on alluvial fans should have been held in Death Valley, California, in 1995. The hosts for this meeting were Terry Blair and John McPherson whose extensive knowledge of the sedimentology of the fans of the area and their recent review of the subject (Blair and McPherson 1994) provided the basis for a stimulating field meeting. The contention that alluvial fans are distinct from rivers in both form and process was not embraced by all who attended the meeting, and the debate continues in the literature. Whatever the merits of the arguments, being able to discuss the issues in the field as well as in the conference room, restaurants, and bars for the duration of the meeting was certainly fruitful as well as enjoyable. It was also a reminder of the tremendous benefits of holding a conference that is focussed on a single overall topic and can bring together people with different relevant interests and expertise. There was a general view that such were the positive aspects of this meeting that a repeat event, held at a different field location, would be highly desirable.

The badlands area of Almeria province in southern Spain is sufficiently similar to southwestern USA for many directors to have used it as a film set for «cowboy» movies. Mock-ups of «wild west» towns are tourist attractions, but for the geological tourist there are numerous Quaternary alluvial fans which made the village of Sorbas a great venue for the second fans meeting in 2003. Convened by Adrian Harvey of Liverpool with Anne Mather and Martin Stokes from Plymouth, UK, the Sorbas Alluvial Fans meeting had a charm to which any conference could aspire. The talks were held in the village cinema and community hall, the posters were arranged in the village square outside, and refreshments were provided in local cafes and restaurants. For many of the delegates, accommodation was at a Field Studies Centre nearby. It was all a far cry from a traditional conference centre venue, and an excellent informal meeting bringing together people with common interests. The format was similar to

that of the Death Valley predecessor, including two days in the field as well as days of talks plus plenty of time to look at posters and discussions. It was also a relatively small meeting, with about 100 people.

The Death Valley and Sorbas meetings are a tough act to follow, but we are going to try to live up to them in June 2007 in Banff, Alberta. We are adopting the mixture field workshop and conference by taking the opportunity to look at some of the alluvial fans in the Rocky Mountains that surround the conference venue. These fans have formed in quite different climatic and tectonic settings to those visited during the previous meetings, and issues such as land use and forestry on alluvial fan surfaces have greater prominence. A number of themes have been suggested for the meeting, covering aspects of both modern and ancient fan sedimentology and geomorphology. The «ancient» fan themes include the tectonic, climatic, and source bedrock controls on fan successions, reservoir potential, and the criteria for the recognition of alluvial fans in the stratigraphic record. The reconstruction of past climate through alluvial fan sediment records will link fan sedimentology to palaeoclimatology. For «modern» fans the suggested themes are concerned with paraglacial settings, land uses and hazards, groundwater resources, hydrology of alluvial fan deposits, stream networks and geomorphological characteristics of alluvial fan surfaces, including controls on alluvial fan morphology and depositional processes.

We are hoping to attract a broad spectrum of people beyond the field sedimentologists and geomorphologists who usually contribute to these meetings: those working on the numerical and analogue modelling of alluvial fan processes and products would be particularly welcome. It would also be good to have contributions from people working on closely allied sedimentary processes such as scree slopes, colluvial fans, fan-deltas (in both lacustrine and marine settings) and large river systems that develop fan-shaped patterns of deposits. Having suggested some themes, we would like to emphasize that contributions on any aspects of alluvial fans will be considered for inclusion as either an oral presentation or as a poster. If we can recreate some of the spirit of open discussion and exchange of ideas across disciplines that characterized previous alluvial fan meetings then this should be a productive meeting.

Hopefully the meeting itself will be sufficient incentive to attract delegates, but there is also the added bonus of field trips to be held before, during, and after the conference. Prior to the conference, a four-day trip is planned from Vancouver to Banff including a variety of fan settings and climatic environments in southern British Columbia, and a three-day trip is planned in the Rocky Mountains, beginning at Calgary, Alberta, and ending at Banff. The latter trip will follow a loop to visit fans in the Kananaskis region and the Rocky Mountain Trench in southeastern British Columbia.

During the conference, two one-day field trips are being organized. The first will examine fans close to Banff while the second will venture further into the Continental Divide area and Yoho National Park. Stops on these trips have been selected to illustrate the variety of fan types and depositional processes that exist in the Rocky Mountains, as well as to show examples of forested fans and issues relating to land use and hazard engineering. Delegates will be traveling in spectacular mountain landscapes on these field days.

One field trip, nine days in duration, is also being planned to follow the conference. The destination is southwest Yukon and Kluane National Park. Kluane contains numerous examples of very active fans, many of which are fed by glaciers, as well as fans that are now inactive. The distance from Banff to Kluane and corresponding travel time are significant, so the option of flying vs. driving to Yukon is currently being investigated. Although the drive is very scenic, flying would reduce the trip length by two full days, to seven days in length.

Finally, we want to encourage postgraduate students and younger postdoctoral researchers from around the world to attend the meeting and present their work, so there will be a number of grants available (in the form of reductions in the registration fees). Details of these and all other aspects of the meeting are available on the conference website <http://husky1.stmarys.ca/~pgiles/AF2007/AlluvialFans2007.htm>. The contact e-mail address is [alluvialfans2007@smu.ca](mailto:alluvialfans2007@smu.ca). The key dates to remember are: November 1, 2006 for preliminary presentation title, expressions of interest in the southern B.C. (Trip A) and Rocky Mountain (Trip B) pre-conference field trips, and deposit for the Yukon (Trip C) post-conference field trip; January 15, 2007 for field trip A and B deposits; March 1, 2007, the registration deadline; and, of course, June 18-22, 2007, the week of the conference itself.

*Gary Nichols & Philip Giles*

## REPORT ON

# Gondwana 12

The Conference Gondwana 12 held in Mendoza, Argentina, November 6-11, 2005, was organized by the Academia Nacional de Ciencias from Argentina and sponsored by the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), the Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica (ANPCyT), the Asociación Argentina de Sedimentología, the Asociación Geológica Argentina, the Asociación Paleontológica Argentina and Petrobrás Energía Sociedad Anónima. The conference was a joint enterprise with researchers from Argentina, Chile and Brazil, countries which have an important geoscientific community involved in different research aspects of the Gondwana supercontinent. The topic «Geological and biological heritage of Gondwana» aimed to underline this feature as well as to interest people in the history of Gondwana, the geological particularities of its territories and paleoenvironment, and to understanding the challenges that mankind must face in the 21st century.

The object of the meeting was to debate different aspects of the history of Gondwana, such as the assembly of the included continental masses (South America, Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand), along with its later break-up and dispersion. The conference purpose was to contribute to the latest news on the paleogeographic and paleobiogeographic reconstructions, to study the dynamics of Gondwana margins, its paleoclimatology, the mass extinctions and the biodiversity of the organisms.

The congress organized ten symposia in English language, with both oral and posters presentations, as well as four keynote talks. The contribution of the international scientific community was highly significant as 344 original works were presented. 400 researchers from 20 countries participated in the event. The abstracts have been edited in a special volume of the Academia Nacional de Ciencias. Selected papers will be published in international journals, edited by the conveners of the symposia.

Main results of the meeting can be summarized as follows: 1) New results have been shown about paleogeographic and paleoclimatic reconstructions of the Gondwana supercontinent. 2) The tectonic environment of the Gondwana margin has been particularly analyzed for the assembly and break-up episodes of the supercontinent. 3) The processes that lead to the Gondwana break-up were interpreted on the basis of new magmatic and geodynamic evidence. 4) Contributions were presented about the understanding of Gondwana sedimentary basins and its geological resources. 5) The latest advances in the facts of continental and marine ecosystems from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic were introduced, including paleobiogeographic aspects, evolution, extinction, animal and plant diversity.

More than 200 members of the Conference participated in 7 field trips in which delegates could observe different aspects of the excellent geology and paleontology of southern South America (Argentina, Chile and Brazil), particularly the Andes and the preandine region. The following field trips were carried:

- Neoproterozoic terranes of southern Brazil – Major tectonic domains of the Dom Feliciano Belt (PR-SC).
- The Grenvillian basement of the Precordillera/Cuyania Terrane and the Famatinian mobile belt.
- Upper Palaeozoic Basins and Fossil Record, Northwest Argentina.
- Geology of the Andes: Precordillera, Frontal Cordillera and Main Cordillera (32° SL)
- The Paleofloristic Triassic record in the Precordillera terrain of Mendoza.
- The Paleozoic and Mesozoic from the Coast range in Chile.
- Triassic continental basins. Ischigualasto – Talampaya

Contributions presented and discussed during the Gondwana 12 Conference have served undoubtedly to increase our understanding of Earth as a dynamic system, to get greater respect for our planet and to improve knowledge of its history and evolution. New ideas issued from the Gondwana 12 Conference might serve to predict future environmental changes, to improve use of essential resources supporting our needs, with the firm hope to guarantee life on Earth and respect for the future of mankind.

*Dr. Carlos W. Rapela & Dr. Luis A. Spalletti  
Gondwana 12 Conference Coordinators*

## IAS Postgraduate Grant Scheme

**IAS** has established a grant scheme designed to help PhD students with their studies. We are offering to support postgraduates in their fieldwork, data acquisition and analysis, visits to other institutes to use specialised facilities, or participation in field excursions.

About 10 grants, each of up a maximum of 1000 Euros, are awarded twice a year.

These grants are available for IAS members only, and only for postgraduates. Students enrolled in MSc programs are not eligible for grants. The application must include a short CV and a budget. A letter from the supervisor supporting the application must be sent directly to the Treasurer of the IAS.

An application form is on our website (<http://www.iasnet.org>). Moreover, the application form can be requested from the Treasurer's Office (IAS, Office of the Treasurer, Ghent University, Department of Geology and Soil Science, Krijgslaan 281/S8, B-9000 Gent, Belgium; E-mail: [Patric.Jacobs@UGent.be](mailto:Patric.Jacobs@UGent.be))

**Application deadlines:** 1<sup>st</sup> session: March 31  
2<sup>nd</sup> session: **September 30**

**Recipient notification:** 1<sup>st</sup> session: before June 30  
2<sup>nd</sup> session: **before December 31**

### LIST OF STUDENT MEMBERS WHO GOT GRANTS IN THE PAST SESSION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Financial support</u>
KRAUSE, Javier M.	Univ. de La Patagonia San JBosco, Argentina	1000Euros
EZPELETA, Miguel	Lab. Analisis de Cuencas, Córdoba, Argentina	1000Euros
BEDATOU, Emilio	ULPAM, Santa Rosa, Argentina	1000Euros
BEATLY, Tyler	University of Calgary, Canada	1000Euros
DI LUCIA, Matteo	Universita di Napoli, Italy	1000Euros
WARCHOL, Michal	Inst. Geological Sci. P.A.S., Krakow, Poland	1000Euros
VAN STADEN, Anelda	Anglo American Res. Lab., Johannesburg, S.A.	600 Euros
NEHZA, Odette	Kangwon Nat. Univ., Chuncheon, South Korea	1000Euros
FRISK, Asa	Uppsala University, Sweden	1000Euros
PALMER, Suzanne	Manchester Metrop. University, U.K.	1000Euros
BERKELEY, Andrew	Manchester Metrop. University, U.K.	1000Euros
XIANGYANG, Xie	University of Wyoming, U.S.A.	1000Euros

# CALENDAR



## 17<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS\*

August 27 –  
September 1, 2006  
Fukuoka  
Japan

Ryo Matsumoto  
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences  
University of Tokyo  
Hongo, Tokyo 113, Japan  
E-mail: [ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp)  
Web-page: <http://sediment.jp/>

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## CARBONIFEROUS CONFERENCE COLOGNE 2006

FROM PLATFORM TO BASIN. A RESEARCH FIELD CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY  
SEPM-CES

September 4-10, 2006  
Cologne,  
Germany

Contact: Dr. Markus Aretz  
Institut für Geologie und Mineralogie  
Universitaet Koeln  
Zuelpicher Str., 49a 50674 Koeln, Germany  
Phone: +49 221 470 3532 Fax: +49 221 470 5080  
E-mail: [markus.aretz@uni-koeln.de](mailto:markus.aretz@uni-koeln.de)  
Web site: <http://www.ccc2006.uni-koeln.de>

**SEA LEVEL CHANGES: RECORDS AND MODELING \*  
(SEALAIX'06)**

Convenors : G.Camoin (CNRS, Aix-en-Provence, France), A. Droxler (Rice University, Houston, USA), C. Fulthorpe (Univ. of Texas, USA), K. Miller (Rutgers University, USA)

September 25-29, 2006  
Aix-en-Provence  
and Giens,  
France

Gilbert Camoin  
CEREGE CNRS UMR 6635  
Europôle Méditerranéen de l'Arbois B.P. 80  
F-13545 Aix-en-Provence cedex 4  
E-mail : gcamoin@cerège.fr

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**2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL EVAPORITE CONFERENCE  
(IN ASSOCIATION WITH 12<sup>TH</sup> ADIPEC)**

7-8 November 2006  
Abu Dhabi,  
U.A.E.

*Prof. Abdulrahman S. Alsharhan*  
*Conference Chairman. sharhana@emirates.net.ae*  
*[http://www.adipec.com/  
index.cfm?fuseaction=Conference.Evaporate](http://www.adipec.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Conference.Evaporate)*

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**4<sup>TH</sup> LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY and  
XI ARGENTINIAN MEETING  
OF SEDIMENTOLOGY**

20-24 November, 2006  
Bariloche  
Argentina

Dr. Daniel G. Poiré  
Centro de Investigaciones Geológicas  
CONICET-UNLP  
La Plata, Argentina  
E-mail: ivcls@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar  
Web-page: <http://www.sedimentologia.org.ar/ivcls>

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**ALLUVIAL FANS 2007 \***

18-22 June, 2007  
Banff, Alberta,  
Canada

Dr. Philip Giles  
Department of Geography  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
E-mail: [alluvialfans2007@smu.ca](mailto:alluvialfans2007@smu.ca)  
Web-page: [http://husky1.smu.ca/~pgiles/AF2007/  
AlluvialFans2007.htm](http://husky1.smu.ca/~pgiles/AF2007/AlluvialFans2007.htm)

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**AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DELTAS (BANGLADESH VENUE): DELTAIC  
GATEWAYS - LINKING SOURCE TO SINK**

6-13 January, 2007  
Geological Survey of  
Bangladesh  
Bangladesh

Dr. Yoshiki Saito  
E-mail: [yoshiki.saito@aist.go.jp](mailto:yoshiki.saito@aist.go.jp)  
Web-page: <http://unit.aist.go.jp/igg/rg/coast-rg/ADP.html>

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**4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL LIMNOGEOLOGY CONGRESS \***

July 11-14, 2007  
Barcelona  
Spain

Contact: Dr. Lluís Cabrera  
Dpto. de Estratigrafia, Paleontologia y G.M.  
Facultad de Geologia  
Universidad de Barcelona  
E-08028 Barcelona  
E-mail: [lluis.cabrera@ub.edu](mailto:lluis.cabrera@ub.edu)  
Web-page: [www.ilic2007.com](http://www.ilic2007.com)



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**25<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY  
(SEDIMENTOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT)\***

September 4-7, 2007  
Patras,  
Greece

Avraam Zelilidis  
Department of Geology University of Patras  
26500 Patras, Greece  
Phone/Fax: +26 10996272  
Mobil Phone: 697 203 4153  
E-mail: [ias7inform@upatras.gr](mailto:ias7inform@upatras.gr)  
Web-page: <http://ias2007.geology.upatras.gr/>

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<http://www.iasnet.org>