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International Association
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Link to IAS National Correspondents:

<http://www.sedimentologists.org/network/correspondents>

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EDITORIAL

Newsletter 254 opens with the Richard Fass prize call for nominations. In the second part of this newsletter, conferences, meetings and the Summer School sponsored by IAS during 2014 are reported.

Student Grant applications guidelines close the Newsletter.

IAS has restyled the webpage (www.sedimentologists.org): please have a look at it, log in and fill the spaces under your profile, and renew your membership for 2015. Remember that being an IAS member gives you the following benefits:

- ◆ access to the online versions of *Sedimentology and Basin Research*, including all issues ever published;
- ◆ access to the printed versions of *Sedimentology and Basin Research* at very favourable rates;
- ◆ access to the IAS Member Directory;
- ◆ the Friendship Scheme which gives free membership to people in less-developed countries;
- ◆ the electronic newsletter;
- ◆ a network of National Correspondents, which report on the activities in their countries;
- ◆ International Sedimentological Congress every four years at reduced fees;
- ◆ annual Regional Meeting and meetings sponsored by the IAS at reduced fees;
- ◆ special lecturer tours allowing sedimentology groups to invite a well-known teacher to give talks and short courses in their country;
- ◆ travel grants for PhD student members to attend IAS sponsored meetings;
- ◆ research grants for PhD student members (maximum 1.000 Euros);
- ◆ institutional grants for capacity building in 'Least Developed Countries' (LDC), (maximum 10.000 Euros)
- ◆ biannual Summer Schools focused on cutting edge topics for PhD student members.

I would like to remind all IAS members that:

- ◆ the IAS Newsletter 254 is

published on-line and is available at: <http://www.sedimentologists.org/publications/newsletter>

- ♦ the next IAS Meeting will be held from 22-25 June 2015 in Krakow (Poland). For details, please check: <http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/isc>

The Electronic Newsletter (ENIAS), started in November 2011, continues to bring information to members. For information on ENIAS contact ias-office@ugent.be

Check the new Announcements and Calendar. Meetings and events shown in CAPITAL LETTERS and/or with * are fully or partially sponsored by IAS. For all of these meetings, IAS Student Member travel grants are available. Students can apply through the IAS web site. To receive the travel grant, potential candidates must present the abstract of the sedimentological research they will present at the conference. More info @ www.sedimentologists.org

*Vincenzo Pascucci
(IAS General Secretary)*



31st IAS Meeting of Sedimentology

www.sedimentologists.org/ims2015

22nd–25th June 2015 Kraków, Poland

Call for abstracts



Photo: Paweł Krasa

RESEARCH PRIZE

Richard W. Faas Research Prize

The *Richard W. Faas Research Prize* honours outstanding scientific work in the field of marine sedimentology, particularly research dealing with fine-grained marine and estuarine sediments. The prize was established in 2014 through a collaboration between the Faas family and IAS. PhD and post-doctoral students can be nominated. Candidates should have obtained their PhD not more than 5 years before the date of the award ceremony, i.e. the annual meeting of the IAS. The award will be given every year.

The IAS Bureau invites nominations from members. National correspondents are encouraged to press for nominations. Nominations require at least one letter (1-2 pages) from a senior proposer to be sent to the Secretary General – outlining the reasons for nomination and one support letter (1 page) from another academic to second the proposal. The nominations will be judged on the following criteria: letters of support, journal publications, 'significant' contributions to the field, diversity of research beyond the PhD, and CV – notable other achievements.

The Dr. Richard Faas Research Prize committee will assess the nominations and make a recommendation to the IAS Bureau, which will make the final decision.

Richard W. Faas

Richard («Dick») William Faas was born in Appleton, Wisconsin, on November 8, 1931. He earned his undergraduate degree in geology from Lawrence College in 1953, and then served in the United States Coast Guard from 1953 to 1957, followed by a stint as a cartographic aide for the Topographic Division of the United States Geological Survey. He earned his Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University in 1962 and 1964, respectively. In 1964, Dick joined the Lafayette College faculty as an Assistant Professor. For his doctoral research Dick focused on estuarine sediments deposited along the coast near Barrow, Alaska. This was the start of a life-long interest in sediment deposition and especially in the properties and behaviour of fine-grained sediments, a subject on which he would publish numerous scholarly articles, mostly involving the mass properties,

rheological properties and acoustic properties of silts and muds. In January 1970, Dick was appointed Head of the Department of Geology and appointed Full Professor in 1975. Despite his participation in deep-sea projects, much of Dick's research focused on the shallow marine environment, the interface between saltwater and freshwater environments and the

sedimentological consequences of such interaction. During the fall of 1996, following his retirement from Lafayette, Dick moved to Diamondhead, Mississippi and joined the University of Southern Mississippi's Institute of Marine Sciences as a Senior Research Scientist. Richard Faas passed away in Towson, Maryland, on September 19, 2014, at the age of 82.



Richard («Dick») William Faas

REPORTS

The 87th Congress of the Italian Geological Society

10TH-12TH SEPTEMBER 2014 MILANO

The 87th Congress of the Italian Geological Society (SGI) and the 90th Congress of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) took place as a joint conference on the 10th-12th of September 2014 in Milan, Italy. The venue of the SGI-SIMP conference «The future of Italian Geosciences» (<http://www.geoscienze2014.it/>), organized by the Department of Earth Sciences of Milan University and a

scientific committee of various Italian academics, was the XV century main building of the University of Milan. The conference was attended by more than 800 participants from various Earth Science disciplines. The scientific sessions focusing on themes related to sedimentary geology were highly attended by senior and junior scientists and included: understanding carbonate sedimentary systems and diagenesis: new



Historical site of the University of Milano where the conference was organized



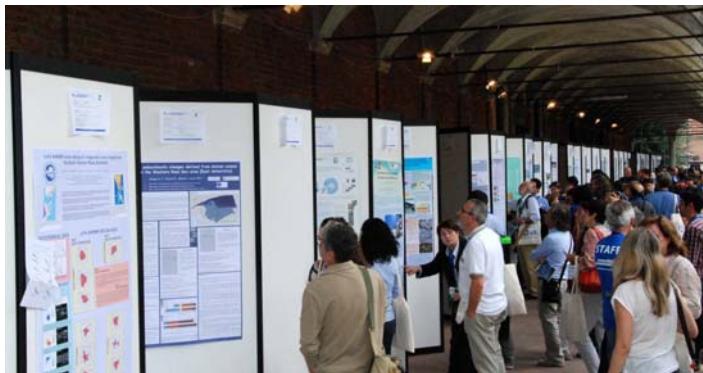
People attending the conference

concepts and innovative approaches; evaporite basins: facies, diagenesis and sequences; stratigraphic architecture and sedimentary basin evolution: controlling factors and implications for geo-resources exploration and exploitation; coastal environments: stratigraphy, resources and human impact; field mapping, remote sensing and geomatics;

modern tools for the construction and quantitative analysis of geological model in Italy and the Mediterranean region; geological timescales; geological causes and consequences of life evolution on Earth; and climate change and the Earth system: understanding the past, analyzing the present and predicting future scenarios.



Poster session



Poster session

Six post-graduate researchers benefitted from the IAS travel grants, attended the conference and presented the results of their research. Their contributions included carbonate sedimentology, coastal sedimentary systems, basin analysis, magnetostratigraphy and salt diapirism.

Presentations by those who received a travel grant:

Angelo Cipriani

Mesozoic architecture and tectono-sedimentary evolution of the Mt. Cosce sector (Narni Ridge, Central Apennines, Italy) Cipriani A. & Santantonio M.

Matteo Maron

Magnetostratigraphic investigation of the Pignola-Abriola section (Southern Apennines, Italy): new constraints for the Rhaetian chronology Maron M.*¹, Muttoni G., Rigo M., Bertinelli A., Godfrey L., Katz M.E. & Zaffani M.

Magnetostratigraphy from the Pignola 2 section (Southern Apennines, Italy) and the Dibona section (Dolomites, Italy): chronology of the main Carnian events. Maron M.*¹, Muttoni G., Rigo M., Roghi G. & Solazzi L.

Demetrio Meloni

Isolated shallow-marine base-of-

slope carbonate aprons in the Salento peninsula (Plio-Pleistocene, Apulia, Southern Italy) Meloni D.*¹, Moretti M., Tropeano M., Gallicchio S., Sabato L. & Spalluto L.

Slope instabilities on a steep carbonate apron system: the Plio-Pleistocene Calcarenite di Gravina Formation along the southern Salento peninsula (Southern Italy). Moretti M.*¹, Meloni D., Tropeano M., Gallicchio S., Sabato L. & Spalluto L.

Daniele Sechi

Quaternary coastal deposits of NW Sardinia (Italy): the anomalous position of MIS 7 Sechi D.*¹, Andreucci S. & Pascucci V.

Gianvito Teofilo

Geometries and modes of emplacement of the Tremiti diapir (Apulia offshore, southeastern Italy) Teofilo G.*¹, Festa V., Tropeano M., Sabato L. & Spalluto L.

Laura Tomasetti

The Lithothamnion Limestone of Bolognano Formation (Majella, Central Apennines): not only red algae Tomasetti L.*¹, Brandano M.1-2 & Petracchini L.2

Giovanna Della Porta

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REPORT

International workshop on Lakes and Human Interactions

*15TH-19TH SEPTEMBER, 2014, ANKARA AND KONYA, TURKEY:
QUÝCKLAKEH2014*

The QuicklakeH 2014 was an international multidisciplinary workshop and fieldtrip for discussion of the interactions between lakes and humans during the Quaternary period. The workshop consisted of two days of lectures in Ankara (*MTA Natural History Museum*, 15-16 Sep, 2014) and a three day fieldtrip (17-19 Sep, 2014) to the largest saline and freshwater lakes of Europe (Lake Tuz and Beyşehir) and Çatalhöyük and Meke Maar Lake in the Konya Basin. This workshop was organized by Geological Engineering Department of Ankara University and Quaternary Research Group.

The workshop was organized on behalf of Quaternary Research Group

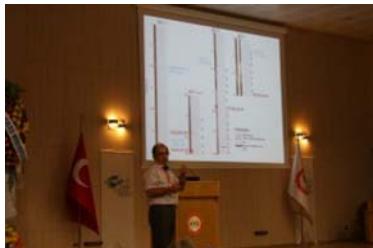
and Ankara University, Geological Engineering Department. The organizing committee of the workshop consisted of Nizamettin KAZANCI (Ankara University), Suzanne A.G. Leroy (Brunel University), Hükmü Orhan (Selçuk University), Alper GÜRBÜZ (Niðde University), Zeynep Ataselim (Ankara University), Esra Gürbüz (Aksaray University), Koray Koç (Akdeniz University), Özgür Yedek (Ankara University) and Tahsin Onur Yücel (Ankara University). The scientific committee of the workshop consisted of Meryem BEKLIOGLU (Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey), Namýk ÇADATAY (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey), Catherine



People attending the meeting



Lecture

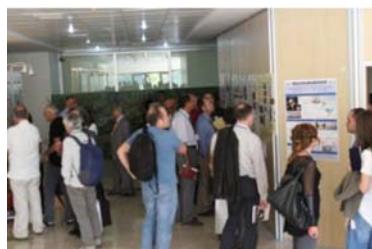


Lecture

KUZUCUOGLU (University Paris 1, CNRS, France), Hamid LAHIJANI (National Institut for Oceanography, Tehran, Iran), Michel MAGNY (Université Franche-Comté, CNRS, France), Faruk OCAKODLU (Eskişehir Osman Gazi University, Turkey) and Neil ROBERTS (Plymouth University, England).

The focus of the course was lake deposits. A broad range of topics were included in the workshop including Quaternary geology, oceanography, palaeolimnology, archaeology, anthropology, climatology, meteorology, natural hazards, dating techniques, history, palaeoecology, coastal geomorphology, and geochemistry. Among the attendees were experts on Quaternary lake deposits and archeology who have well-established names and extensive publication records.

Lakes are excellent archives of palaeoenvironmental change, as they often have continuous sedimentation. Sedimentation rates are often high and in some cases, annual resolution is possible, e.g. when the sediment is laminated or when the age control is robust. Therefore, it is possible to relate



People attending the meeting

the scale of changes to a societal time scale. Humans often settle near lakes as they are a good source of freshwater and food. When a geohazard or a hydrometeorological hazard occurs, the lacustrine sediment is a very good archive of these changes (tephras, high-energy layers, mixed layers). Multiproxy analysis can be applied to the sediment to understand the changes. In many regions, local populations depending on these water sources for drinking or for



The Lake Tuz



The discussion about Lake Beyşehir with local authorities

economic activities have been deeply affected.

Global warming, rapid past climatic changes and natural hazards have affected in various ways the extent and properties of large water bodies in SW Asia and central Asia, often very dramatically, because lakes and inland seas act as amplifiers of the effects of lake level changes. The QuicklakeH 2014 international workshop played an important role in increasing the understanding of lake sediments and their record of hazards.

The QuicklakeH2014 was organized into two days of lectures and a three day fieldtrip to the largest saline and freshwater lakes of Turkey. The first day was organized into two sessions (morning and afternoon). The opening speech was «Holocene climate and its significance for Mediterranean civilisation» given by Prof. Dr. Neil



Field photo from Meke Maar

Roberts, Plymouth University, England. Each presentation took 20 minutes and after four talks in the morning, there was a 20-minute coffee break.

The second day was organized into three sessions (two sessions in the morning and one session in the afternoon). During the two days, 22 posters were presented and exhibited by participants. After the general evaluation talk by Nizamettin Kazancý and closing of presentations, participants visited the Anatolian Civilisations Museum in Ankara.



The Çatalhöyük Excavation Site

The last three days of the workshop were dedicated to a field trip excursion to ancient and recent Turkish lakes in Konya, central Turkey. The first day of the field trip was to Lakes Tuz and Bolluk.

On the second day of the field trip, all attendees visited Lake Beyşehir. The visit to Lake Beyşehir included a boat tour and visits to Eþrefoðlu Mosque and Eflantumpýnarý Monument. In addition, participants had a short meeting with local authorities and NGOs about Lake Beyşehir.

The last day of the workshop and the field trip was dedicated to Çatalhöyük and Meke Maar. All participants visited the well known Çatalhöyük museum and excavations in the morning. Çatalhöyük («Forked Tumulus») holds the remains of a Neolithic (New Stone

Age) settlement believed to be among the world's oldest human communities. After lunch break the the organizers planned a visit to Meke Maar - a caldera and crater lake in a volcanic mass with typically acidic water that permits no aquatic life in or near it.

The organisation thanks all people. We hope that a new this event will have a next edition. Furthermore, it was a great pleasure to have all

participants in the International QuicklakeH2014 workshop... Hope to see you soon!!!

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REPORT

The 5th International Maar Conference

17TH-22ND NOVEMBER, 2014, QUERÉTARO (MÉXICO)

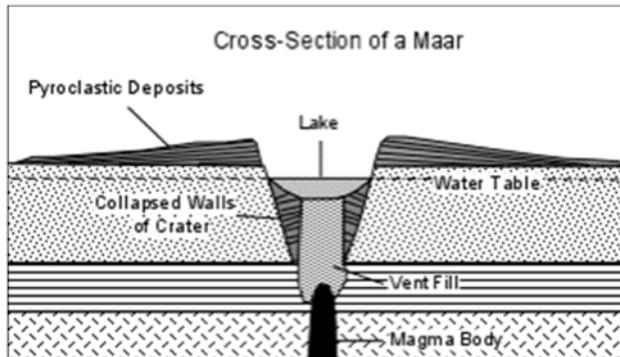
It was a great experience to host the fifth Edition of the International Maar Conference (5IMC) in Querétaro (México) from the 17th to the 22nd of November 2014. The Centro de Geociencias of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) was the Conference's venue. Following the trend established at the 4th International Maar

Conference held in Auckland (New Zealand), where the conference's scope was expanded to cover all aspects of monogenetic volcanism, the 5IMC included these topics as well as those related to volcanic lakes.

The meeting was organized into six sessions: (1) Geology, petrology, and geophysics of maar-diatreme volcanoes (architecture and evolution). Conveners: Greg Valentine, Pierre-Simon Ross, James White, and Gerardo Carrasco-Núñez; (2) Environmental studies of Maar lakes and other volcanic lakes: Biology, Ecology, Limnology, Paleoclimate and Lake Sedimentation. Conveners: Boris Chako Tchamabé, Georg Büchel, Joerg Negendank, Javier Alcocer, Beatriz Ortega, Károly Németh, and Takeshi Ohba; (3) Monogenetic volcanic fields: Structural and Tectonic Settings, causes of magmatic and phreato-magmatic activity. Conveners: Károly Németh, Ian Smith, and Claus



Location of Querétaro City



Cross-section of a Maar. A maar is a broad, low-relief (shallow), volcanic crater. The name derives from the Latin «mare» (sea).

Siebe; (4) Volcanic and hydrogeological hazards related to maar-diatreme volcanoes and distributed volcanic fields. Conveners: Jorge Aranda, Shane Cronin, and Volker Lorenz; (5) Monogenetic volcanism and mineral resources, quarries, land management, and geotourism. Conveners: Michael Ort, Bruce Kjarsgaard, and Peter Bitschene; and (6) Experiments and Modeling of explosion and eruption physics relevant to maar-diatreme volcanoes. Conveners: Bernd Zimanowski, Greg Valentine, and Piero Dellino.

The conference was enhanced by the contributions of five invited Keynote Speakers: Greg Valentine, Ian Smith, Volker Lorenz, Peter Bitschene, and Bernd Zimanowski. In addition to the regular program, we scheduled two round table sessions with several topics where we tried to follow-up the Hopi Buttes Workshop discussions concerning the state of the art research on maar-diatreme volcanoes.

We received nearly 120 papers that were presented as 50 oral and 70 poster presentations. Attendance included 70 researchers and 50 students from 21 different countries from all of the continents. We offered four field trips: two pre-conference, one to Michoacán-

Guanajuato and another one to San Luis Potosí, one intra-conference to Valle de Santiago and the last, post-conference to the Serdán-Oriental Basin. During the gala dinner, the Jim Luhr Award was granted to Greg Valentine for his contributions to the understanding of monogenetic volcanism and experimental work related to the evolution of maar-diatreme volcanoes.

The conference was sponsored by: (1) Mexico's Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, (2) the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior through the Commissions on Volcanogenic Sediments, on Monogenetic Volcanism and Volcanic Lakes, (3) UNAM's Coordinación de la Investigación Científica, (4) the International Association of Sedimentology (IAS), and (5) the Tourism Department of the State of Querétaro. Thanks to this generous support, a total of 52 students and 18 researchers received grants that covered their registration fee or their living expenses during the meeting.

The intra-conference field trip was attended by 80 researchers and students. Grant Heiken described this field trip as follows: «The trip began



Laguna (Maar) de Aljojuca

with a 2-hour bus ride across the El Bajío Plain. It was interesting to me in that I had never been in this part of Mexico before. The mixture of agriculture and industry was a surprise. Obviously, this part of Mexico is on the rise.»

We were able to follow the background of these maars via a well-written field guide. The first stop was at La Alberca crater, where a road into the crater has opened up some remarkable exposures of surge deposits and a variety of bedding-plane sags. After the introduction, field trip attendees engaged in lively discussions about eruption processes and the source of water for magma–water interactions.

Most of our time was spent in the Rincón de Parangueo maar. Our trip into the maar began with a dramatic walk through a 400-m-long tunnel that was

excavated nearly 100 years ago by the villagers for easy access to the crater. The maar and its deposits are interesting but the remnants of the crater lake were even more illuminating. Platforms at the former shoreline are lined with modern stromatolites! Until this trip, I had never seen stromatolites except in late pre Cambrian rocks. The lake floor has been sinking, causing interesting concentric detachments and deformation of lake sediments. This a wonderful site that should be visited by the IAVCEI Commission on Crater Lakes.

In addition to the spectacular geology, a well-prepared lunch was available and beer was available at the end of the tour!

*Gerardo Carrasco & Jorge Aranda
Co-chairs of the 5th International
Maar Conference*

REPORT

IAS-Sponsored Workshop on West African Sedimentology and Sedimentary Basins: Relevance of Sedimentology to the Society

27TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST, 2014 IBADAN - NIGERIA

The first international IAS sponsored workshop took place in Ibadan, Nigeria from July 27 to August 2, 2014. The workshop was organized by the members of the Workshop Organizing Committee drawn from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Abubakar Tafawa

Balewa University, Bauchi, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria and was co-sponsored by National Petroleum Investment and Management Services (NAPIMS - NNPC), Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), Shell Nigeria



Group photograph of participants at the IAS - sponsored International Inaugural Workshop on West African Sedimentology and Sedimentary Basins held in Ibadan - Nigeria July 27 - August 2, 2014.



Workshop participants in a group photograph during the field school at a stop on the east bank of the River Niger in Onitsha. Here participants studied the exposure of pebble conglomerate and liesegang structures in Nsugbe sandstone.

Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCo) Ltd, National Centre of Petroleum Research and Development ATBU Bauchi. These co-sponsors are acknowledged with deep gratitude. The workshop participants were ceremoniously welcomed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan who was ably represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Science Prof. Idowu P. Farai after which the workshop was officially declared open. Dr. Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi, workshop convener, read a goodwill message from Prof. Dr. Poppe de Boer, the president of the IAS. In his message, Prof. Dr. Poppe de Boer stated that he was pleased that the committee had taken the initiative to organize the workshop and encouraged participants to contribute to its success. He reiterated that this workshop is in line with the goals of the IAS, which is

to promote the study of sedimentology in our region. There was also a series of goodwill messages from representatives of the co-sponsors present.

This inaugural international workshop was aimed at bringing together international and local experts working on sedimentology and sedimentary processes across the West African sedimentary basins, and to generate interest among younger scientists in research areas that focus on sedimentology and sedimentary basins of West Africa. The workshop sought, among other things, to promote regional collaborative research and to intensify exchange of scientific information on sedimentology. Technical sessions were held under the theme «Relevance of Sedimentology and Sedimentary Basins to the Society» with the aim of properly understanding how

information stored in sedimentary records could be useful in reconstructing past depositional environments and unlocking hidden natural resources hosted in sedimentary rocks across the basins of West Africa. The workshop provided a platform for career researchers from the industry, various Geological Survey Agencies and academia working in various sub disciplines of basin analysis, sedimentary processes, and stratigraphy in various West African sedimentary Basins to showcase the findings for critical and constructive comments.

The workshop created an enabling environment for young and senior mentoring research scientists from across the West African sub-region to dialog over issues covering geological boundary adjustments - especially between in sedimentary basins that cut across various countries. The workshop was primarily aimed at building bridges across academic disciplines, encouraging research partnerships and promoting capacity building and training in Sedimentology and Stratigraphy.

Highlight of the first international Workshop on West African sedimentology and sedimentary basins

From July 27 – August 2, 2014 well over 50 participants from seven different countries in West Africa and Europe convened in Ibadan for the first international workshop on West African sedimentology and sedimentary basins. The organizing committee had prepared quite an interesting and exciting program with a wide array of oral presentations on topical issues in sedimentology, field trips, short courses, and social activities. On the first day, the workshop started with an elaborate opening ceremony with various remarks and group photographs, keynote presentations and a plenary session. Two keynote presentations were made;

the first presentation described the Nigerian government's commitment to hydrocarbon exploration in the Chad Basin, and the second keynote dealt with the petroleum assessment of the western Sedimentary Basin of Niger Republic. The keynote address pointed out that in contrast to adjacent basins, the possible source rocks within the Western basins of Niger Republic are Cretaceous-Paleogene, Silurian, Devonian and Carboniferous shale. Also, based on available data, the petroleum systems include Cambro-Ordovician systems, Devonian systems and Carboniferous systems.

Other papers presented outlined the tectonic placement of the Fika Shale in the Gongola Sub-Basin of the Upper Benue Trough and the geology of the Tabenken Coal Seam and its depositional implications around western Cameroon. Also, the stratigraphy and geologic history of the Guinean coastal basin around Togo was presented. This was compared with results derived from assessment of the Tidal Channel sedimentation in the coastal setting of Southeastern Nigeria. One of the papers covered the significance of brine fields in the Obi area of the Cretaceous Central Benue Trough while another group from Ghana attempted the reconstruction of the past depositional environment of the Ajua Shale, Sekondian Group in Ghana. The first day of the workshop session ended with a total of 11 oral presentations.

In summary:

From 28 – 30 July, 2014, a total of 32 oral presentations and 2 lectures were divided into four different sessions covering diverse aspects of sedimentology within the Central African sedimentary basins. Each presentation was followed by questions and suggestions from participants, and



Participants in a group photograph to mark the departure to Ibadan after the field school.

by brainstorming on peculiar issues related to different schools of thought.

Owing to his good communication skills in both English and French, Dr. John Takem Eyong from the Institute for Geological and Mining Research (IRGM) in Cameroon served as translator during oral presentations from Francophone participants.

The first lecture was presented by Prof. C.S. Nwajide on 'Sedimentology Project Design and Field Campaign'. The lecture centred on field preparation, field tools and a working template necessary in the proper acquisition and analysis of field data.

In the second lecture, Dr. Anthony U. Okoro, briefed participants on the geology of the Anambra Basin. He projected outcrop photos, graphic logs and the sedimentary environment of stops to be visited during the fieldtrip programmed from 1-2 August, 2014.

Resolutions/Way forward

The following resolutions were unanimously approved:

- a. Participants agreed to host biannual WASA workshops or meetings. Meeting rotation will be based on the balance of Anglophone and Francophone countries within the West and Central African regions. The next workshop will be held in 2016 and will be hosted in Cameroon.
- b. Due to his multilingual skills, Dr. John Takem Eyong was nominated preterm secretary, prior to the formal creation of WASA.
- c. Dr. Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi will work with Dr. Eyong as he prepares to host the next workshop. Dr. Eyong will report all preparations to Dr. Akaegbobi. Further information

and new developments will be sent to participants by E-mail.
d. Prof. Daniel Asiedu, Dr.

Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi and Dr. John Takem Eyong were the 3 guest editors nominated to work on reports from participants for publication in a IAS Special Publication.

The departure for fieldwork in the Tertiary Niger Delta/Anambra Basin was on Thursday 31 July, 2014 at 7:00 am from in front of the Pastoral Hotel in Ibadan. Thursday was designated for

travel from Ibadan to Awka while Friday, 1 August, 2014 was designated for field school. Field school was led by Dr. Anthony Okoro and Professor C.S. Nwajide and consisted of three stops within the Tertiary Niger Delta and parts of Anambra Basin.

Izuchukwu Mike AKAEGBOBI

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REPORT

5th IAS International Summer School of Sedimentology

22ND - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

«LACUSTRINE SEDIMENTS THROUGH TIME: AN ARCHIVE FOR PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF LUANPING BASIN IN CHINA»

A diverse group of 24 PhD students from 10 different countries assembled in Beijing, China for the 5th IAS International Summer School of Sedimentology. The majority of the

students were from Chinese universities based in Beijing and Wuhan, with the rest coming from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, India, Switzerland and the United



Field guide Prof. Luo Ping (RIPED) demonstrating transition from delta front to lacustrine deposit in a river cliff near Cen'gouqiao Bridge.



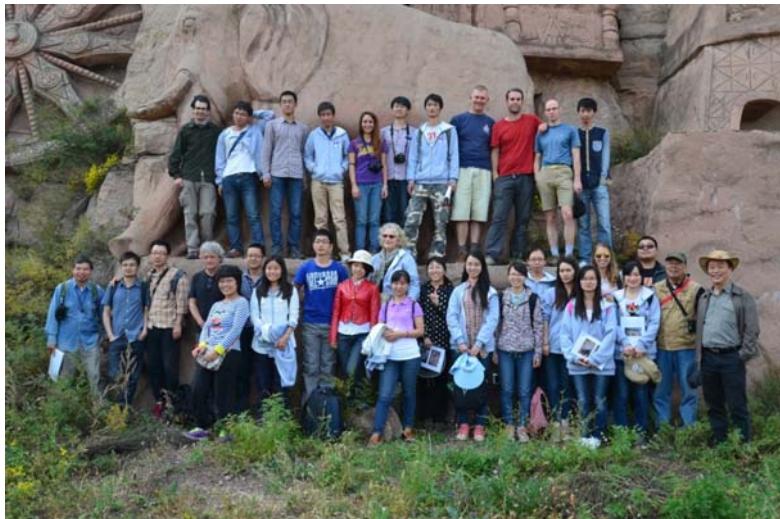
*Baby Dinosaur's
foot print at Pin-
gfang*

Kingdom (all with varying degrees of jetlag).

The Summer School was inaugurated by introductory lectures delivered by professors Caineng Zou and Chengshan Wang, followed by a special lecture given by Judith McKenzie on deep ocean drilling and the «DREAM» project to explore the secrets of the Messinian salt giant beneath the Mediterranean Sea. For the next two days, we were immersed by a diverse spectrum of sedimentological subjects via lectures delivered by five eminent professors: Zhenkui Jin presented depositional characteristics of lake deltas; Judith McKenzie focused her lectures on microbial carbonates and dolomite formation; Helmut Weissert delivered a talk about the carbon cycle, and the influence on the climate in the Early Cretaceous; Longyi Shao discussed three lectures on coal accumulation and associated health implications in China; and Daizhao Chen demonstrated the co-evolution of geosphere and biosphere during the critical transitions of the

Paleozoic era. The final class lecture was delivered by Zhonghe Zhou who delivered a fascinating presentation on feathered dinosaurs and the Jehol Biota of north-eastern China.

After several days of lectures, we were excited and ready to grab our hammers and lenses and follow Professor Luo Ping into the Luanping Basin, located approximately 160 km northeast of Beijing, proximal to Chengde City. The Luanping Basin developed in response to a Cretaceous rifting event and comprises well preserved alluvial fan, braided fluvial, delta fan and lacustrine sediments. Well preserved outcrops facilitated our understanding of the transitional character of the terrestrial through lacustrine deposits. Boulder conglomerates with clasts over 1 m in size and slumping structures that can be traced for many kilometres across the basin provided an insight into the dynamic environments that operated in the basin. And as if the sedimentology was not inspiring enough, there were even footprints of dinosaurs having



Group photograph of Summer School participants, excluding S. Taral, the photographer, gathered at Sengguanfeng in Chengde city.

their refreshing afternoon stroll down to the lake, tens of millions of years ago.

Besides the lectures and fieldwork, a large portion of the Summer School consisted of student presentations. In just 15 minutes (not more, otherwise Helmut would let you know in his own 'subtle' way) students had to present their doctoral research topics to participants and professors, followed by discussion with the audience. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn more about the diverse interests and varied approaches with which work was being done in sedimentology, geochemistry, palaeobotany, stratigraphy and petroleum geology across the globe and spanning the entire geological time scale.

During the last field days, we investigated the braided and meandering river outcrops of the Chengde Basin in an exposure close to Chengde City. These excellent outcrops had an added photogenic attraction of

numerous Buddha statues, many several metres high. We were also very fortunate to visit the famous Summer Palace of the Qing Dynasty.

With the end of the Summer School approaching, we were lucky and overjoyed that there was some spare time left to pay a visit to one of the world's largest wonders, the Great Wall of China. This was a perfect end to an intensive and interesting week of sedimentology.

The IAS Summer School is so much more than just a scientific meeting. The lessons, fieldtrip and presentations act as gunpowder that triggers an explosion of scientific discussions. Unlike many conferences, the informal atmosphere of the Summer School makes it easier to raise questions, both to the lecturers as to our fellow students, and this is when the real magic sets in.

The Summer School was also a wonderful cultural experiment. For some of us it was the first time in China. So



The Great Wall of China in all of its glory.

in the beginning the Europeans were surprised to find out that the breakfast consisted no longer of bread and muesli and some of us really struggled with the art of eating with chopsticks. However, we adjusted very fast and discovered what a beautiful and diverse culture China has to offer.

We also learned some important facts about other cultures from around the world: Argentines are the best sommeliers; the second language in Spain is Cantonese; Italians have crazy dance moves; Slovaks are the fastest people in the world and also have the shortest shorts, whether or not related; Australians have the tendency to hold up the group in tourist attractions and need to be encouraged to hurry up several times; and an ultimate chocolate tasting contest should be organized in order to finally solve the enigma of which chocolate is the best, the Swiss or the Belgian one...

This wonderful Summer School would not have been possible without the

considerable effort and money from the organizers: IAS (Judith A. McKenzie, Helmut Weisert and Marc De Batist), China University of Geosciences, RIPED, PetroChina and the Chinese Association of Sedimentologists. We would particularly like to thank Xuelian You for organizing the logistics for the Summer School, and for her never-ending patience with the non-Chinese students!

The presence and enthusiasm of the lecturers during this week was the key ingredient for the success of the Summer School. They were always ready to provide us with constructive feedback on our research and were open for fruitful discussions in the field. Many thanks to Professors Ping Luo, Daizhao Chen, Longyi Shao, Zhenkui Jin, Helmut Weisert and Judith A. McKenzie for spicing up this delicious scientific stew.

Suchana Taral (Indian Statistical Institute, India) and Nore Praet (Ghent University, Belgium)

Special IAS Grants or 'Institutional IAS Grants'

Special IAS Grants or Institutional IAS Grants are meant for capacity building in 3rd world countries. There exists a list of 'Least Developed Countries' (LDC) by the UN. This list categorizes countries according to income per capita and is yearly updated.

Grants are allocated to allow Geology Departments in LDC to acquire durable sedimentological equipment for teaching and research (like sieves, calcimeters, auger drilling tools, etc.) or tools that can be used by all geology students (like general geology/sedimentology textbooks, IAS Special Publications (SP), memory sticks with back issues of Sedimentology or SP, etc). Therefore the grant application should clearly demonstrate to increase the recipient's capacity to teach sedimentology at the undergraduate level (Bachelor) in a durable way. It should also indicate in what way it would enable to support sedimentological research at the graduate level (Master).

Applicants should have a permanent position at their University and should be IAS members. Applications should provide the following information (not exhaustive list):

- ♦ the mission statement of the University/Geology Department
- ♦ the approval of the University Authorities to accept the grant
- ♦ a list of permanent teaching and technical staff members of the

Geology Department (with indication of their area of research)

- ♦ the structure of the geology undergraduate and graduate courses (Bachelor/Master programme with indication of courses and theoretical and practical lecture hours)
- ♦ the number of geology students
- ♦ the actual facilities for geology/ sedimentology students
- ♦ a motivation of application
- ♦ a budget with justification
- ♦ the CV of the applicant, including a sedimentology research plan

The institutional grant scheme consists each year of 2 sessions of 1 grant of 10.000 Euro. Applications run in parallel with the PhD research grant scheme (same deadline for application and recipient notification). The IAS Grant Committee will seek recommendations from relevant National Correspondents and Council Members (eventually including visitation) before advising the IAS Bureau for final decision. Additional funds made available by the recipient's University are considered as a plus.

Items listed in the application will be bought through the Office of the IAS Treasurer and shipped to the successful applicant. By no means will money be transferred to the grant recipient.

IAS STUDENT GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Application

The application should be concise and informative, and contains the following information (limit your application to 1250 words max.):

- ♦ Research proposal (including Introduction, Proposal, Motivation and Methods, Facilities) – max. 750 words
- ♦ Bibliography – max. 125 words
- ♦ Budget – max. 125 words
- ♦ Curriculum Vitae – max. 250 words

Your research proposal must be submitted via the Postgraduate Grant Scheme application form on the IAS website before the application deadline. The form contains additional assistance details for completing the request. Please read carefully all instructions before completing and submitting your application. Prepare your application in 'Word' and use 'Word count' before pasting your application in the appropriate fields.

Recommendation letter (by e-mail) from the PhD supervisor supporting the applicant is mandatory, as well as recommendation letter (by e-mail also) from the Head of Department/ Laboratory of guest institution in case of laboratory visit.

Please make sure to adequately answer all questions.

Deadlines and notifications

Application deadline 1st session: 31 March.

Application deadline 2nd session: 30 September.

Recipient notification 1st session: before 30 June.

Recipient notification 2nd session: before 31 December.

NOTE: Students who got a grant in a past session need to wait 2 sessions (1 year) before submitting a Postgraduate Grant Scheme grant application again. Students whose application was rejected in one session can apply again after the notification deadline of the rejected grant application

Guidelines for recommendation letter from supervisor:

The recommendation letter from the supervisor should provide an evaluation of the capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed research, the significance and necessity of the research, and reasonableness of the budget request.

The recommendation letter must be sent directly to the Treasurer of the IAS by e-mail, and before the application deadline.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that his/her supervisor submits the recommendation letter in

time. No reminders will be sent by IAS, neither to the applicant, nor to the supervisor. Applications without letter of support will be rejected.

Application Form

Research Proposal (max. 750 words)

Title:

Introduction (max. 250 words):

Introduce briefly the subject of your PhD and provide relevant background information; summarise previous work by you or others (provide max. 5 relevant references, to be detailed in the 'Bibliography' field). Provide the context for your PhD study in terms of geography, geology, and/or scientific discipline.

Proposal (max. 250 words): ...

Describe clearly your research proposal and indicate in what way your proposal will contribute to the successful achievement of your PhD. Your application should have a clearly written hypothesis or a well-explained research problem of geologic significance. It should explain why it is important. Simply collecting data without an objective is not considered wise use of resources.

Methods (max. 125 words):

Outline the research strategy (methods) that you plan to use to solve the problem in the field and/or in the laboratory. Please include information on data collection, data analyses, and data interpretation. Justify why you need to undertake this research.

Facilities (max. 125 words):

Briefly list research and study facilities available to you, such as field and laboratory equipment, computers, library.

Bibliography (max. 125 words)

Provide a list of 5 key publications that are relevant to your proposed research, listed in your 'Introduction'. The list should show that you have done adequate background research on

your project and are assured that your methodology is solid and the project has not been done already. Limit your bibliography to the essential references. Each publication should be preceded by a '*'-character (e.g. *Surlyk et al., Sedimentology 42, 323-354, 1995).

Budget (max. 125 words)

Provide a brief summary of the total cost of the research. Clearly indicate the amount (in Euro) being requested. State specifically what the IAS grant funds will be used for. Please list only expenses to be covered by the IAS grant.

The IAS will support field activities (to collect data and samples, etc.) and laboratory activities/analyses. Laboratory activities/analyses that consist of training by performing the activities/analyses yourself will be considered a plus for your application as they will contribute to your formation and to the capacity building of your home institution. In this case, the agreement of the Head of your Guest Department/Laboratory will be solicited by automated e-mail.

Curriculum Vitae (max. 250 words)

Name, postal address, e-mail address, university education (degrees & dates), work experience, awards and scholarships (max. 5, considered to be representative), independent research projects, citations of your abstracts and publications (max. 5, considered to be representative).

Advise of Supervisor and Head of Guest Department/Laboratory

When you apply for a grant, your PhD supervisor will receive an automated e-mail with a request to send the IAS a letter of recommendation by e-mail. You should, however, check with your supervisor everything is carried out the way it should be. It will be considered as a plus for your application if your

PhD supervisor is also a member of IAS.

Supervisor's name:

Supervisor's e-mail:

If you apply for laboratory analyses/activities, please carefully check analysis prices and compare charges of various academic and private laboratories as prices per unit might differ considerably. Please first check whether analyses can be performed within your own University. If your University is not in a position to provide you with the adequate analysis tools, visiting another lab to conduct the analyses yourself strengthens your application considerably as it contributes to your formation and to capacity building of your home University. Please check with the Head of Department/Laboratory of your

guest lab to assure its assistance during your visit. You should fill in his/her name and e-mail address to solicit his/her advise about your visit.

Name of Head of guest Department/Laboratory:

E-mail address of Head of Guest Department/Laboratory:

Finally, before submitting your application, you will be asked to answer a few informative questions by ticking the appropriate boxes.

- ◆ is your supervisor a member of IAS
- ◆ was this application your own initiative
- ◆ did you discuss your application with your Supervisor
- ◆ did you already had contact in the past with the Head of the Guest Department/Laboratory (if appropriate)

CALENDAR

23rd SwissSed Meeting,

28th February
2015
University of Fribourg,
Switzerland

<http://www.unifr.ch/geoscience/geology/en/research/swissed/swissed-2013>

EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015*

12th-17th April
2015
Vienna
Austria

<http://www.egu2015.eu/>
egu2015@copernicus.org

First International Congress on Continental Ichnology (ICCI-2015)*

21th - 27th April
2015
El Jadida
Morocco

Abdelouahed Lagnaoui
abdelouahedlagnaoui@yahoo.fr

Past Gateways Paleo-Artic Spatial and Temporal Gateways

18th – 22nd May
2015
Postdam
Germany

<http://www.geol.lu.se/pastgateways>

Quadrennial International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC6)*

15th -19th June
2015
Reno
Nevada

Michael Rosen
mrosen@usgs.gov

31st IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY*

22nd-25th June
2015
Krakow
Poland

Michał Adam Gradziński
michal.gradzinski@uj.edu.pl
<https://www.sedimentologists.org/ims2015>

The 2nd International Conference on Tomography of Materials and Structures (ICTMS)

29th June – 3rd July
2015
Quebec City
Canada

<http://ictms2015.ete.inrs.ca>

15th Bathurst Meeting of Carbonate Sedimentologists*

13th-16th July
2015
Edinburgh,
UK

Rachel Wood
Rachel.Wood@ed.ac.uk

Second International Congress on Stratigraphy STRATI 2015*

19th-23rd July,
2015
Graz
Austria

<http://strati2015.uni-graz.at/>
strati2015@uni-graz.at

MinPet 2015

10th-12th September,
2015
Leoben,
Austria

minpet2015@unileoben.ac.at
<http://minpet2015.unileoben.ac.at>

XII GEOSED MEETING*

21st-27th September,
2015
Cagliari
Italy

Stefano Andreucci
sandreucci@unica.it,
Luca G. Costamagna
lucakost@unica.it

2015 National Chinese Conference of Sedimentology

Late October
2015
Wuhan,
Hebei

<http://ccas2015.yangtzeu.edu.cn> (in Chinese).

International Symposium on Aeolian Deposits in Earth History

12th-13th October
2015
Beijing
China

Shiling Yang
yangsl@mail.iggcas.ac.cn
<http://www.conferencenet.org/conference/ISADEH.htm>

5th International Conference on Alluvial Fans*

29th November – 4th
December
2015
Christchurch
New Zealand

James Driscoll
james.driscoll@monash.edu

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