

IAS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

Newsletter

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REPORT

4th Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology and XI Argentinian Meeting of Sedimentology

Bariloche, November 20-24, 2006

The 4th Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology together with the XI Argentinian Meeting of Sedimentology were both recently held in San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro Province, Argentina from 20th to 24th November 2006 and they were convened by Dr. Daniel Poiré (CIG-UNLP) with the support of the Argentinian Association of Sedimentology (AAS) as an Organising Entity.

San Carlos de Bariloche was founded in 1902 by the coast of Nahuel Huapi lake and it is the most important city of Río Negro province, Patagonia, Argentina. The city is distinguished by its beautiful landscape composed of mountains, lakes, glaciers, forests and abundant animal life and flora. Rock and timber buildings along with roofs of shale are typical of its architecture. Situated at the foot of the Andes, San Carlos is an ideal option of venue due to its location and splendid climate throughout the Spring season. November was an ideal month for field excursions and outdoor activities.

The Congress program of oral and poster presentations covered a wide range of topics of vital interest to sedimentological work in the Patagonia and in the different basins across South America, as well as having an

international appeal applicable to modern and ancient systems in general.

One Pre-Congress Short Course «Clays and sedimentary environments» by Silvana Bertolino (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina) was carried out in November 19th.

The Congress started with an official opening ceremony on the evening of November 20th, which was followed by a lively ice-breaker party. Nearly 300 participants and 100 students from 14 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, UK, China, India, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela and Wales) attended the Congress, a fact which reflects the growing interest in sedimentology in Latin-America. The delegates represented universities and research centers, mainly from Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, as well as different oil companies. Funds from IAS allowed the attendance and presentations of postdoctoral students (7 in total) from Venezuela, USA and Argentina.

During the meeting, there were 101 oral presentations and 106 posters distributed into 16 technical sessions and 4 special sessions. The themes were: Fluvial and alluvial environments, Lacustrine sedimentation, Aeolian, Siliciclastic sedimentation in



General view of the city of San Carlos de Bariloche located at the foot of the Andes

transitional and shelf environments sedimentation, Marine carbonate-evaporite sedimentation and diagenesis, Slope and deep sea sedimentation, Basin analysis and stratigraphy, Tectonics and sedimentation, Ichnofacies models, Palaeoecology and taphonomy, Environmental sedimentology, Hydrocarbon reservoirs and source rocks, Sequence stratigraphy, Volcaniclastic deposits and processes, Sedimentary mineral resources and mineralization, and Biostratigraphy into sedimentological models.

Six keynote addresses, preceding each block of technical sessions twice a day, worked very nicely to begin the morning and afternoon sessions, and provided an opportunity for everybody to get together in the same room and enjoy a good lecture.

The keynote speakers included «Millennial-scale cycles in the sedimentary record: are beds millennial cycles?» by Maurice Tucker (University of Durham, UK); «The sequence stratigraphy, sedimentology and economic importance of evaporites and evaporite-carbonate transitions» by Rick Sarg (Colorado School of Mines, USA); «Paleogeography of the Upper Paleozoic basins of western Gondwana:

a first approach» by Carlos O. Limarino (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina); «The four-dimensional sedimentology of sandy braided rivers: linking process to product, assessing the impact of flood magnitude and questions of scale invariance» by Jim Best (University of Leeds, UK), «Clastic sedimentation processes in lakes of Northern Patagonia: implications for paleoclimatic and paleoearthquake reconstructions» by Emmanuel Chaphron (ETH Zurich, Switzerland - Universidad Austral de Chile, Chile) and «Estratos de crecimiento en contextos compresivos: su importancia como indicadores de la interacción entre sedimentación y deformación» by Oscar López-Gamundi (Hess Corporation, USA)

An Intra-Congress Field Trip was led by G. Vilarrosa. Its aim was to reconstruct the geomorphology, sedimentology and paleogeography of the surroundings of Bariloche city and lakes around the area. More than 200 people participated in this trip.

A highlight of the Congress was the social dinner on the 24th November, enjoyed by 150 participants who also had the opportunity to dance in a very pleasant environment. Finally, to

complete the scientific program, about 16 participants attended a Post-Congress Field Trip led by Dr. Luis Spalletti (UNLP-CONICET) carried out to observe the geology and appreciate the superb outcrops of the most extensively studied petroleum basin of Argentina. Numerous outcrops along the Andean Fold and Thrust Belt were visited in order to show the participants the stratigraphy, sedimentology and facies associations of Mesozoic siliciclastic, carbonate and evaporite units. The field trip emphasized the stratigraphic architecture of fluvial, aeolian, shallow

marine and deep marine sequences and reservoir rocks.

The 4th Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology and the XI Argentinian Meeting of Sedimentology ended on the evening of November 24th with the announcement of the 5th Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology to be held in Mérida, Venezuela and organized by Rosa Aquino (PDVSA).

*Sergio D. Matheos
President of the Argentinian
Association of Sedimentology (AAS)
National Correspondant of the IAS*

Sedimentology in Denmark: Current and Future Activities

Since Denmark has not been represented by a national correspondent for the IAS for some years, I have been asked to give a report on current and future activities of the sedimentological community in Denmark.

The sedimentological community

Six years ago, the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) relocated to the same premises as the Institute of Geology and Institute of Geography (both part of the University of Copenhagen), in the centre of Copenhagen, to form the new Geocenter Copenhagen which also includes the Geological Museum, located nearby. The close proximity of these four geo-institutes benefits both scientific collaboration as well as teaching – good for both scientists and students. This has clearly benefited the sedimentological community in Denmark enabling closer links, frequent informal presentations, networking etc. At the time of writing, the Geocenter concept is expanding to include the Institute of Geology at the University of Aarhus, where sedimentology is also an important focus area, as it is at the Technical University of Denmark. The sedimentological community in

Denmark is completed, of course, by a range of active workers employed in oil companies, engineering companies, and local authorities.

In recent years, student recruitment in the natural sciences has been in decline; recent initiatives, such as the Geocenter concept, are underway to reverse this trend and ensure a source of geoscientists – including sedimentologists – in the future. A thriving scientific community requires a mouthpiece and forum – this is provided by the Geological Society of Denmark which is active both in publishing sedimentological papers and in arranging regular broad-spectrum geological meetings – we are becoming experts at hijacking visiting scientists to present their latest discoveries, so if you are passing through Copenhagen, give us a call!

Activities

Sedimentological research in Denmark spans the full range, from marine geology and recent coastal processes, through facies analysis/architecture and sequence stratigraphy often linked to multidisciplinary hydrocarbon or groundwater reservoir studies, over regional basin studies at outcrop or in the subsurface, to diagenesis and provenances.



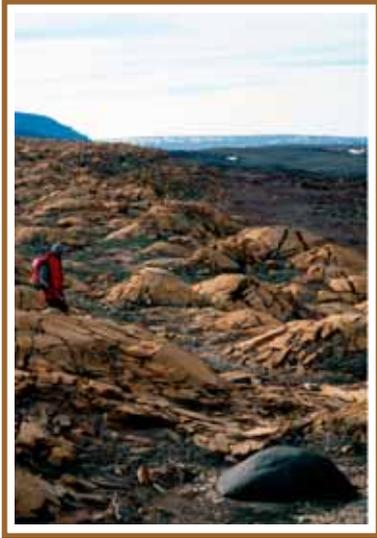
Stevns Klint. The type locality for the Danian Stage. The locality is world famous for the exposure of the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary (K/T). The boundary layers are in the shadow immediately under the overhanging upper part. Photograph and text: Peter Frykman (GEUS, 2006).

The rich reserves of hydrocarbons in the Danish sector of the North Sea provide the impetus for much sedimentological research in Denmark, particularly in the Upper Cretaceous – Danian chalk deposits where present work is focusing both on the diagenetic and mechanical evolution of the nannofossil ooze and on the facies, stratigraphic architecture and palaeoceanographic origin of these unique sediments. Indeed, two research chalk centres have recently been established in Copenhagen. The Cretaceous Research Centre (CRC) is focused on sedimentology, palaeoecology and palaeoceanography, and has recently obtained two complete lowermost Danian – Upper Campanian 450 m long cored well-sections from the vicinity of the famous Stevns Klint Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary section – these form the basis for integrated sedimentological, geochemical and biostratigraphic studies linked to seismic and georadar investigations. The first complete geological profile of the 14.5 km long sea cliff, Stevns Klint has just been published in Bulletin of the Geological Society of Denmark, vol. 54. At the other end

of the spectrum, the nano-scale characteristics of chalk are under investigation by the Nano-Chalk Venture, an industrial/academic collaboration.

Danish sedimentological research into the Jurassic, both in Denmark and East Greenland, peaked in the 1990's but Jurassic strata in the North Sea remain a recurring industrial target and a revival in research interest is underway, both in terms of facies/sequence stratigraphic analysis of the North Sea Jurassic and with respect to detailed reservoir analogues based on the spectacular exposures in East Greenland.

Many sedimentologists in Denmark are involved in groundwater research, both in shallow Quaternary reservoirs and, in more recent years, in characterizing deeper Miocene groundwater reservoirs on the basis of outcrops, seismic sections, well logs and cores. Comparable integrated studies are being utilized in understanding the geometries and internal characteristics of potential hydrothermal and CO₂ sequestration reservoirs.



Extensive field of stromatolite reefs from the upper part of the ?Late Proterozoic Morænesø Formation in North Greenland. The Morænesø Formation mainly comprises glacial tilloidal rocks. These are overlain by this very characteristic unit of circular stromatolite reefs that reach a height of approx. 2 metres. Photograph and text: Martin Sønnerholm (GEUS, 2006).

Holocene to Recent sedimentology is being carried out along the North Sea coast of Denmark from the tidally-dominated Wadden Sea in the south to the wave-dominated coast towards the north. In the Wadden Sea area, barrier islands, tidal channels, tidal flats, lagoons, estuaries and fluvial channels are studied by means of cored wells, ground-penetrating radar profiles, seismic sections and age

determinations, making it possible to reconstruct this dynamic system through time. Other studies include fine-grained sediment budgets for the Wadden Sea, bed form studies in recent tidal inlets, and detailed characterization of aeolian dunes.

Sedimentological research projects underway in Greenland at present include the study of highly karstified Neoproterozoic – Lower Cambrian carbonates that record the early stages of evolution of the Franklinian Basin in North Greenland, Neoproterozoic glacial deposits in North-East Greenland and Upper Palaeozoic carbonates of the Wandel Sea Basin. In addition, sedimentological and provenance studies are underway in the Kangerlussuaq Basin of East Greenland, a subject of importance for understanding Late Mesozoic – Palaeogene sediment pathways in the North Atlantic region, and in the Cretaceous–Palaeogene sediments of the Nuussuaq Basin in West Greenland.

There are currently 18 Danish members of the IAS.

Jon Ineson, Peter Frykman and Martin Sønnerholm are thanked for input.

*Peter N. Johannessen
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Sea-level Changes: Records, Processes and Modeling (SEALAIX'06)

Giens (France), September 25-29, 2006

From 25 to 29 September 2006, a multidisciplinary International Symposium on « Sea-level changes : Records, Processes and Modeling » was organized by G.F. Camoin (CNRS-CEREGE, France), A. Droxler (Rice Univ., USA), Craig Fulthorpe (Univ. Texas at Austin , USA) and Ken Miller (Rutgers Univ., USA) in Giens, French Riviera, France. The organization of the Symposium benefited from the participation of the Scientific Committee members: J. Anderson (Rice Univ., USA), J. Austin (Univ. Texas at Austin , USA), E. Bard, (Coll. France, France) , G. Karner (EXXON, USA), C. Kendall (Univ. South Carolina, USA), Ph. Lapointe (TOTAL, France), G. Mountain (Rutgers Univ./LDEO, USA), H. Posamentier, ANADARKO, Canada).

The Symposium was sponsored by the International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS), the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), the Association des Sédimentologistes Français (ASF), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), TOTAL and the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

The meeting brought together 160 researchers from 21 countries with different expertise (sedimentology, geochemistry, geophysics, climatology,

modelling, tectonics, geomorphology, paleoceanography, biology) and research interests. Travel and living expenses of 17 students, post-docs and young scientists were partially covered by the IAS, the SEPM and the Symposium itself.

The scientific contributions presented during the Symposium have covered the records and modeling of sea-level changes (amplitude and timing), as well as related sedimentary processes concerning a range of time windows from the Paleozoic to modern times, in a variety of depositional environments (e.g. *reef systems, carbonate platforms, siliciclastic, and mixed margins, marginal seas, coastal and marsh environments, tidal flats, delta complexes etc.*) occurring at various latitudes and in various tectonic settings (continental margins, volcanic islands, uplifted areas). The great majority of those studies were based on a multidisciplinary and multiproxy approach.

The Symposium has been structured around four themes corresponding to distinctive modes of the Phanerozoic Earth System: Quaternary sea level changes, Icehouse Earth sea level changes (i.e. the last 33 Ma), Greenhouse Earth sea level changes (250-33 Ma) and Paleozoic sea level



changes. Each of the four thematic sessions included one or two keynote addresses, invited talks, poster presentations (including highlights of the poster session in plenary session) and a workshop on current knowledge, future issues, and controversies regarding sea level records, processes, and modeling.

The first day (Sept. 25) was dedicated to last deglacial and recent sea-level changes with keynote address by A. Cazenave (CNES, France) and talks by A. Vött, K. Statterger, L. Fleitout, E. Gischler, G. Lericolais, R.G. Fairbanks, Y. Yokoyama, S. Jorry, J.P. Liu, J.B. Anderson, G.A. Milne and Y. Saito.

A session on sea-level changes during the last glacial cycles has been planned on the second day (Sept. 26) with a keynote address by Kurt Lambeck, ANU, Australia and talks by A. Simms, A. Thomas, M. Siddall, S. Goshal, S. Berné, P. Whitehouse, P. Kindler, W. Yim, E. Rohling, A. Dutton, B. Olson and J.J.G. Reijmer.

The third day (Sept. 27) included two thematic sessions on the Icehouse Earth sea level changes (i.e. the last 33 Ma) and the Paleozoic sea level changes with keynote addresses by G. Eberli (RSMAS, USA) and B. Haq (NSF, USA) and talks respectively by G. Mountain, B. Van Vliet-Lanoë, A.

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Tripati, F. Fourner and by J. Kenter and Ph. Lapointe.

On the fourth and fifth days (Sept. 28 and 29) oral sessions have been devoted to the Greenhouse sea-level changes with a keynote address by A. Hallam (Univ. of Birmingham, UK) and talks by K.G. Miller, M.D. Simmons, C. Robin, J.-P. Cogné, E. Procter, R. Speijer, N. Rameil, M. Aurell, J. Spring, P. Schulte, M. Bachmann, G. Dromart, D. Bosence, S. Hesselbo and E. De Man.

On the last afternoon (Sept. 29) an open discussion has been organized to summarize the outcomes of the daily workshops.

75 posters have been presented during the Symposium. Extended abstracts are included in a 233-page abstract volume published by the Association des Sédimentologues Français. Three special issues of *Global and Planetary Change*, *Marine Geology* (to be confirmed) and *Basin Research* will include full papers related to this Symposium.

The next meeting on that topic is planned in October 2007 in Salt Lake City (JOI/USSAC/DOSECC/IODP/ICDP/CHEVRON workshop on « Drilling to Decipher Long-Term Sea-Level Changes and Effects ») and will be organized by C. Fulthorpe, K.G. Miller and A.W. Droxler.

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REPORT

Polish Sedimentological Conference – POKOS 2

Zwierzyniec, Poland, June 22-23, 2006

The Polish Sedimentological Conference «Sedimentation in foreland basins» was held in Zwierzyniec (eastern Poland) on June 22nd and 23rd, 2006. The Faculty of Geology of Warsaw University, Polish Geological Institute, Geological Society of Poland and Roztocze National Park were the conference organizers. Anna Wysocka, Ma³gorzata Koz³owska-Deuszkiewicz, Marek Jasionowski and Anna Poszytek coordinated the preparation of the conference. The pre- and post-conference field-trips took place thanks to the collaboration between Polish and Ukrainian sedimentologists. The conference was the continuation of National Meetings of Sedimentologists which have been organized annually by the Sedimentological Section of the Polish Geological Society from 1992 to 1998 and Polish Sedimentological Conference POKOS which was held in Zakopane in 2004.

The conference was attended by more than 120 participants from different Polish scientific centers, a group of sedimentologists from Ukraine and a few geologists from the Czech Republic, Slovakia,

Germany, Hungary and Vietnam. The conference was financially supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Warsaw University Foundation and Lublin Brewery. The conference materials comprise 178 pages all together. They include extended field session guidebooks (almost 100 pages) as well as abstracts of papers and posters. The guidebook of field sessions was published in Polish with English summaries. The participants were also given the special issue of *Przegląd Geologiczny* (2006; 54, 5), devoted especially to the development of the Carpathian Foredeep and Miocene sedimentation in this basin.

Two field sessions were organized before the conference. They concerned late Badenian and Sarmatian sedimentation in the northern part of the Carpathian Foredeep which was a part of the Parathetys sea. The participants were familiarized with quartz sands locally with rodoids and bioclasts. In many places the presented deposits display extremely well preserved cross bedding and different bioturbation. Carbonates including serpulid-microbialite bioherms were



Participants in the POKOS 2 Conference

shown as well. The outcrops, mainly abandoned quarries and sand-pits, located in both the Polish and Ukrainian parts of the Roztocze Upland were the goals of the field trips. The post-conference session lasting four and half days was organized in the Ukrainian Podolia. It was devoted to sedimentation of Badenian and Sarmatian deposits filling the Carpathian Foredeep and also Silurian carbonates. The geologists from Warsaw and Lvov were the leaders of the field-sessions.

There were delivered 33 papers and 34 posters concerning different aspects of sedimentology and the related topics as for example lithostratigraphy, ichnology, geophysics, paleontology.

The discussions which took place during the conference enabled the participants to exchange the ideas and views. They also contributed to strengthening integration within

Polish sedimentologists as well as between Polish and Ukrainian sedimentologists. It is important to note the attendance of numerous M.Sc. and Ph.D. students at the conference.

The participants decided that organization of conferences called POKOS, which in Polish language is not only abbreviation of Polish Sedimentological Conferences (Polska Konferencja Sedymentologiczna) but also means harvest, would be continued. The next conference will take place in the Sudetes region (western Poland) in 2008. It will be organized by the sedimentologists from Wrocław University with cooperation with Czech geologists. We do hope that it will be a real sedimentological harvest.

*Michał Gradziński
IAS National Correspondent from
Poland*



REPORT

The fifteenth meeting of Swiss sedimentologists

On Saturday, the 27th of January, 2007, the fifteenth edition of the traditional SwissSed Meeting took place in Fribourg, the small university town on the French-German language border. For the first time in its existence, the SwissSed meeting happened in the absence of its father, André Strasser, who had to suffer an unexpected minor medical intervention. The 80 participants, of all ages, came essentially from Switzerland, of course, but also from Germany, France, and the UK, demonstrating that this meeting has an international touch. The goal is to give young sedimentologists (Master and PhD students, young post-docs) the opportunity to present their research results in a friendly, but scientifically top-level environment, before they are confronted with the rough world at big international meetings. Everybody speaks English, which is good practice for people who otherwise draw in some French or German dialect.

This year's keynote lecture was presented by Dan Bosence from the Royal Holloway University of London, who gave a provocative talk about the tectonic origin of high-

frequency, peritidal carbonate cycles of Liassic age. The absence of André, a strong proponent of cyclostratigraphy, was strongly felt at this time. In the other 12 talks, themes ranged from climate reconstruction at the Triassic/Jurassic boundary in Eastern Europe to evaluating the toxicity of a local water reservoir in the northern part of Switzerland. The 20 posters demonstrated also the various facets of sedimentology from isotope geochemistry on brachiopod shells to historical landslide in Lake Lucern.

During coffee, lunch, and tea breaks, the social aspects of SwissSed took over. Everyone had the opportunity to exchange anecdotes and to develop contacts and collaboration with researchers from other institutions. The conclusion of the day was that, despite external demands to join with the Swiss Geoscience Meeting that takes place in the fall, SwissSed is alive and well. Many thanks to the Fribourg staff for the perfect logistics and see you next year.

*Pascal Kindler
Geneva, Switzerland*

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 directly related to the PhD research subject.

Up to 10 grants, each of about € 1000 are awarded twice a year.

These grants are available for IAS members only, and only for PhD students. Students enrolled in MSc programs are **NOT** eligible for grants. Research grants are **NOT** given for travel to attend a scientific conference, **NOR** for acquisition of equipment. Student travel grants for conferences can be usually obtained directly from organizers of the meeting.

The **Grant Scheme Guidelines** provide a summary of required information needed for successful a Grant Application. Applications are evaluated on the basis of the scientific merits of the problems, the capability of the researcher, and reasonableness of the budget.

Supervisor's Letter Guidelines list the information needed.

IAS Grant Scheme Guidelines

The application should be concise and informative and contains the following information (limit your application to 4 pages):

Research proposal - 2 pages maximum

Bibliography - ½ page

Budget - ½ page

Curriculum Vitae – 1 page

Recommendation letter (or e-mail) from the supervisor supporting the applicant is mandatory and the research proposal must be sent directly to the Treasurer of IAS by the application deadline.

Guidelines for letter from supervisor

The letter from the supervisor should provide an evaluation of the capability of the student to carry out the proposed research, the significance and necessity of the research, and reasonableness of the budget request. The letter must be sent directly to the Treasurer of IAS by post or e-mail by the application deadline (Patric Jacobs, Department of Geology and Soil Science, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281/S8, B-9000 Gent, BELGIUM. E-mail: patric.jacobs@ugent.be). An application form is on our website (<http://www.iasnet.org>).

Grant application

Research Proposal –

- ♦ **Title**
- ♦ **Introduction:** Introduce the topic and provide

relevant background information; summarise previous work by you or others. Provide the context for your proposed study in terms of geography, geology, and /or scientific discipline.

- ♦ **Motivation:** It 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:** 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.
- ♦ **Facilities:** Briefly list research and study facilities available to you,

such as field and laboratory equipment, computers, library.

- ♦ **Bibliography** – provide a list of key (5-10) publications that are relevant to your proposed research. The list should show that you have done adequate background research on your project and are assured that your methodology is solid and that the project has not been done already.
- ♦ **Budget** – Provide a brief summary of the total cost of the research. Clearly indicate the amount (in euros) being requested. State specifically what the IAS grant funds will be used for.
- ♦ **Curriculum Vitae** - Name, postal address, e-mail address, university education (degrees & dates), work experience, awards and scholarships, independent research projects, your abstracts and publications.

Application deadlines: 1st session: March 31
2nd session: **September 30**

Recipient notification: 1st session: before June 30
2nd session: **before December 31**

CALENDAR

ALLUVIAL FANS 2007 *

18-22 June, 2007
Banff, Alberta,
Canada

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13TH BATHURST MEETING OF CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGISTS *

July 16th - 18th
2007
Norwich, UK

Convenors Dr A. Kendall and Dr J. Andrews
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4TH INTERNATIONAL LIMNOGEOLOGY CONGRESS *

July 11-14, 2007
Barcelona
Spain

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**2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE IGCP PROJECT 507 ON
PALEOCLIMATES OF THE CRETACEOUS IN ASIA AND THEIR GLOBAL
CORRELATION**

*20-25 August, 2007
Seoul National University,
Seoul, Korea*

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**25TH MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY
(SEDIMENTOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT) ***

September 4-7, 2007
Patras,
Greece

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26th MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY *

1-3 September, 2008
Bochum, Germany

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**18TH INTERNATIONAL
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS ***

26 September
1 October, 2010
Mendoza,
Argentina

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