

IAS



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

N° 182 October 2002

CONTENTS

Editorial	3
New IAS bureau and council	5
16 th ISC Johannesburg	7
16 th ISC: A very personal view	10
Sorby Medalist / Honorary Member	12
Submarine slope systems	13
Calendar	14

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EDITORIAL

GOOD MORNING IAS

The Bureau and Council of the International Association of Sedimentologists have been renewed at the 16th International Sedimentological Congress, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 8-12 July, 2002. Following the process established in the Statutes and Bye-Laws of the Association, I was appointed as General Secretary of IAS. I have to confess that my acceptance to be nominated for the job was notably encouraged by suggestions and comments from Andreas Strasser, the past IAS General Secretary having held two periods (8 years) of the administrative life of the Association. His experience, good achievements, and specially the fact he survived after so long time made me feel confident and believe on the interest of the work to be done. Accordingly, I assumed the job as a privilege and as a very rewarding personal and professional perspective that should result in best service for IAS members.

It is a good signal that the International Association of Sedimentologists celebrates its fifty anniversary on this year. Throughout this period the IAS has become a solid and wealthy scientific association who leads the field in soft-rock research (1) by editing publications of major interest (the journals *Sedimentology* and *Basin Research*, IAS Special Publications, Field-guides,...) to a broad international audience from both

companies and academia, (2) by organising sedimentological congresses and workshops, as well as sponsoring scientific meetings world-wide, (3) by encouraging and helping postgraduate students in their studies of sedimentology, for which the IAS provides financial support through its Postgraduate Grant Scheme and Friendship Scheme, and "last but not least" (4) by spreading out scientific and administrative information of interest by means of the IAS Newsletters and a permanent contact to the representatives of the sedimentological communities from different countries. The Special Lecture Program adds to all these activities trying to promote and energising the scope of sedimentology at a world-wide scale.

A great effort is invested by the whole IAS Bureau and Council staffs to maintain active and healthy the life of the Association. However, enthusiastic participation of individual members, more than 2100 from 83 countries, is required for keeping on the friendly atmosphere and promising dynamics reached over the years. Suggestions, information, and complains of course, if any, will be welcome at the General Secretary office. Besides initiatives from individual members, the role to be played by the National Correspondents is critical on this track as they are committed to inform of sedimentological activities in their respective countries.

Smooth flows of information will result in more useful and attractive IAS Newsletters, the way in which members are updated about the activities of the Association, the progress in sedimentological research conducted by local, national or regional groups, and the organisation of future meetings. The design and contents of the Newsletters will undergo some changes in the coming year, this in accordance with a non-written rule that obliges to make changes when persons change. I hope that the challenge of editing a new format of the Newsletter will be achieved with success. Changes will also affect the IAS-Homepage where information about the Association is easily available now, but imperatives of the new

demands in a fast evolving electronic world will surely make the website to be brushed up.

Up to here some little (?) ambitions and projects to be developed soon. This will be run along with proposals of novelties and decisions to be taken by the new Bureau, working in a collective way. The work done by our colleagues of the past IAS Bureau, to whom I would like to thank, constitutes a quite solid launching point for the job.

*José-Pedro Calvo,
IAS General Secretary.*

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16TH INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS IAS 2002, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The 16th International Sedimentological Congress was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from July 8 to 12, 2002. 358 delegates from 49 countries met in the nice campus of the Rand Afrikaans University of Johannesburg where up to 5 parallel sessions were held. Main theme of the Congress, "3.5 Billion Years of Sedimentation", clearly reflects one of the aims of the organisers to focus on the remote history of the Earth, of which South Africa hosts a superb geological record. Sessions devoted to "3 Billion Years of Earth's Glacial History", "Tempos and Events in Precambrian Time", "Gondwana Basins" or "Karoo-age Sedimentary Systems" testify to the importance given to regional, but also universal, topics discussed during the Conference. These topics ran in parallel with many other items of current and future sedimentological interest.

As in any international meeting, the quality of talks and posters was variable, though always willing to display most advanced research of the delegates. The main goal of the Congress, i.e. to allow the participants to compare their own research with the international standards, to communicate with colleagues and to make new acquaintances, was fully attained. To notice, new techniques (Powerpoint display) for talk presentations have gained considerable space, so that probably more than half of the talks were given by using this technique in confrontation with the standard ones. Attendance to the poster exhibitions,

properly scheduled in the afternoon, was quite acceptable, which was helped by a generous offer of beer, wine and snacks nearby the poster exhibition area.

Ample room for socialising was given during the icebreaker party in the Sandton Convention Centre on Sunday evening, and during the gala dinner on Thursday in the Lesedi Cultural Village, near Johannesburg.

The General Assembly of the IAS was held on Tuesday, 9th July. The presidential address by Maurice E. Tucker, entitled "Confessions of a limestone sedimentologist: sand, sea and sequences", dealt with subjects of merging sedimentological interest, such as coexistence of terrigenous sediments and reefs, and other exciting topics. The Sorby Medal was awarded by Roger Walker (presented by George Eynon), Honorary Membership to Luis Spalletti (citation by Daniel Ariztegui) (see also page 12 of the Newsletter). President, General Secretary, Treasurer, chief Editor of Sedimentology, and Special Publications Editor then presented their reports, and the new IAS Bureau and Council were presented. Ryo Matsumoto reported the General Assembly about the preparation of the next International Sedimentological Congress, to be held in the city of Fukuoka, Japan, on 2006. Gerald Friedman gave a talk on the history of the IAS from 1952 to 2002.

Many delegates attended the General Assembly and participation of young people should be outlined. Acknowledgement for the work of young people in the conference was set up by awarding of the best student poster prizes, a new issue that should be continued in next IAS congresses. The prizes were awarded (on behalf of the co-authors of the posters) to the following student participants:

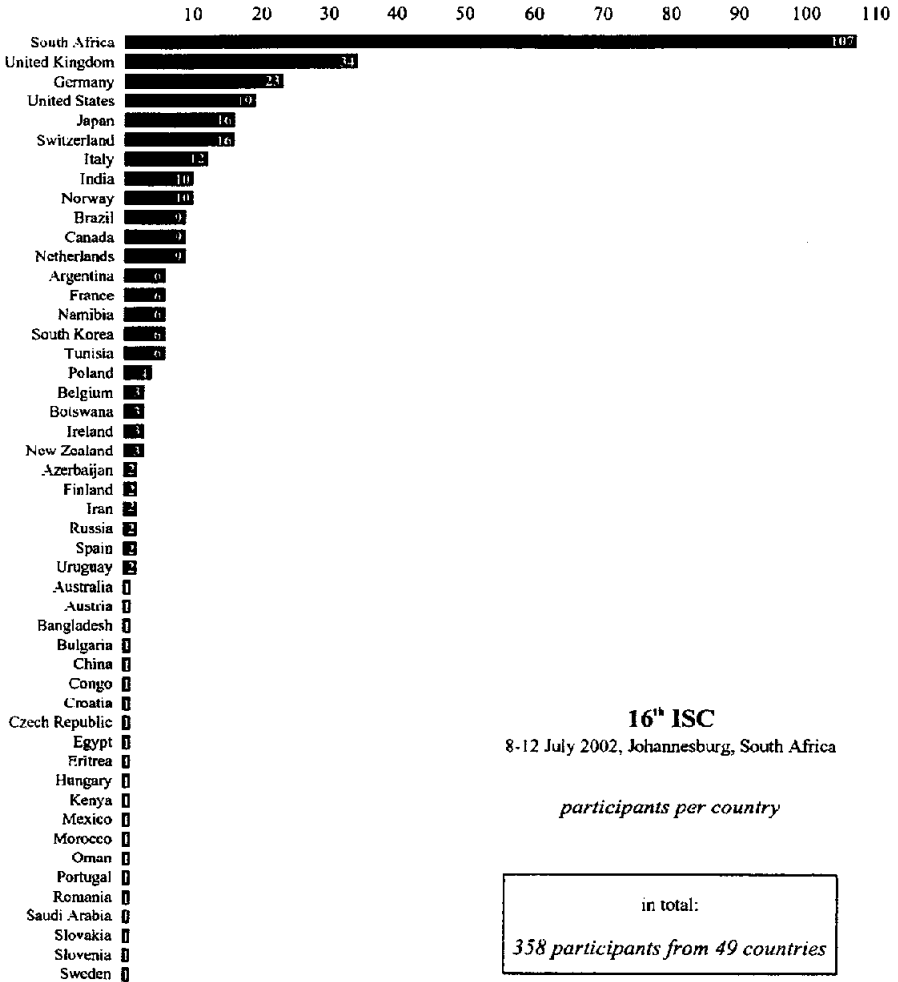
- H. Freitag (Univ. of Cologne, Germany)
- S. Heimsud (Univ. of Bergen, Norway)
- P. Hopley (Univ. of Liverpool, UK)
- R. Takeuchi (Univ. of Tokyo, Japan)
- M. Werner (Univ. of Wurzburg, Germany).

Seven excursions were run before the Congress, and 3 after it. Several one-day geological excursions were run also during the middle part of the congress. Each excursion had between 10 and 35 participants who were enthusiastic about discovering the varied and fascinating sedimentology of South Africa, which allowed a very nice view of world-wide famous Precambrian and Karoo deposits. Three short courses were held, with a few tens of participants. The themes were Sequence Stratigraphy, Placer Deposits, and Heavy Minerals. The organisers did a great job in preparing and running the field trips and short courses.

IAS 2002 can be considered a great success. In the name of the IAS Bureau I would like to thank the Congress Committee (Bruce Cairncross, Nick Beukes, John Hancock, Dion Brandt, Gerhard Els, Marek Wendorff, Udo Zimmermann, Tinus Jordaan, Jochen Schweitzer, Mark Grodner, Rod Tucker, Johann Neveling, Michael Knoper, Ina Redelinghuys, Richard Bailey and Hennie Jonker), and people who enthusiastically helped and resolved technical problems during development of the sessions, field trips and short courses for all the work and effort they have invested. I also thank the various sponsors and institutions who have generously supported the Congress, and the Rand Afrikaans University of Johannesburg which hosted the meeting.

An abstract volume of 430 pages, the field-trip guides distributed to the participants, lot of excellent South-African wine, marvellous landscapes, a general view of the culture of the country, and nice feelings flowing from the friendly atmosphere within the Congress are the outcome of the meeting. Next congresses in Europe (Croatia, Portugal,...), and in Japan by 2006 will renew the experience.

*José-Pedro Calvo,
IAS General Secretary.*



16th ISC

8-12 July 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

participants per country

in total:
358 participants from 49 countries

16TH INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS: A VERY PERSONAL VIEW

Johannesburg, South Africa, July 8-12, 2002

Only about 300 sedimentologists gathered for this year's International Sedimentological Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa – not much compared to about 800 delegates in Alicante, Spain, four years ago. Was it the long outward journey, concurrent events, the apparent predominance of “Precambrian” sessions announced in the circulars, or just the vague reputation of Jo’burg as one of the “crime capitals of the world”? Anyway... everyone who missed the congress missed a rich (more than 300 abstracts!) and various programme resulting in a lively and interesting meeting, perfectly organised by Bruce Cairncross and his team at the Rand Afrikaans University.

However, the first thing I remember is not about science, but about the local climate. It was COLD! Like almost all the other non-South-African delegates I more or less ignored the organisation team's repeated warnings of night temperatures below freezing and came just in jeans and T-shirt to the first day of the meeting – after all, I was going to Africa, and Africa is a “hot” continent, as everyone knows. Well, I quickly learned not to underestimate the South-African winter, and it was really amusing to watch the fashion change-over of the next few days. At the end of the meeting, even polar fleece gloves and Gore-Tex jackets (with hoods put on) could be spotted in the audience.

But let's start with the beginning: Two weeks earlier, I landed on Jo'burg International Airport to attend a 6-day field trip to Neoproterozoic carbonates led by Dawn Sumner (University of California, Davis) and her Master's student James Bishop. Ever since I heard words like “Transvaal Supergroup” or “banded iron formation” in my Earth history lectures as an undergraduate student, I dreamt of laying my hands – respectively my hammer – on those *really* old rocks. Yet what I got to see the following 6 days in the heart of the Karoo semi-desert surpassed my expectations by far: we entered into the evolution of a giant carbonate platform by a carefully selected, small number of spectacular outcrops, which were visited and lively discussed in great detail. But above all, I was impressed by the sheer preservation state of these sediments. They are still flat lying and seem to have been deposited “just yesterday” – in fact, their age is about 2.5 billion years! The atmosphere of the field trip profited from a perfect logistic preparation and became more and more familiar with each day in the vans and each sundowner followed by a communal dinner. I have to agree to the closing remark of Robert Riding: “If everything runs so smoothly, you know that someone must have worked very hard.” Thank you Dawn and James! It was one of my most fascinating geological experiences ever and I am sure that it will stay high up in the ranking for the rest of my professional career.

Back to Jo'burg, after a day of recreation, the congress itself started. All told, about 220 talks and 100 posters were presented. The huge majority of the posters were of a very high standard and the talks were generally well delivered and well illustrated. After attending the four days of presentations (split into two blocks by a day of short courses and one-day field-trips – a brilliant idea to give relief to a packed time schedule) one had the impression of having had a glimpse on the variety and richness of modern sedimentological research. Only a small criticism at this point: five parallel sessions for only 300 delegates were too much. I often had to choose from three interesting parallel talks.

At last year's IAS meeting in Davos I loved the idea of "posters & beer", creating a relaxed and informal ambience, which in my eyes lowered many personal and mental barriers and thus boosted unbiased exchange of ideas. The Jo'burg organisation team even topped this with their "cocktail events" during the poster sessions: an extensive buffet flanked by a bar serving beer, a choice of South-African wines and non-alcoholic drinks.

I might be wrong because I did not display a poster myself, but I had the slight impression that in competition with the buffet, the posters lost a bit of their impact. Maybe the organisers of the 2003 meeting in Croatia should keep this in mind.

What rests to say? There were many friends to meet and new contacts with many interesting people to be established, so I was provided with much input and took home many new impulses for my own work. I experienced a country rich in contrasts but all the more fascinating, and it's overwhelming geologic past. In simple words: I learned a lot!

*Niels Rameil
Department of Geosciences
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SORBY MEDALIST

At the 16th International Sedimentological Congress in Johannesburg, the highest award of the International Association of Sedimentologists, the Sorby Medal, has been given to **Roger Walker** for "distinction in Sedimentology". The citation by George Eynon and Roger Walker's acceptance speech will be published in the February 2003 issue of *Sedimentology*.

Previous Sorby medalists are:

- 1978 R.A. Bagnold, F.P. Shepard (*Sedimentology* 26, 157-165)
 - 1982 F.J. Pettijohn (*Sedimentology* 30, 149-151)
 - 1986 R.G.C. Bathurst (*Sedimentology* 34, 177-186)
 - 1990 R.L. Folk (*Sedimentology* 38, 191-195)
 - 1994 J.R.L. Allen (*Sedimentology* 42, 191-192)
 - 1998 R.N. Ginsburg (*Sedimentology* 46, 201-203)
-

HONORARY MEMBER

Luis Spalletti has been awarded the Honorary Membership of the IAS for being "distinguished sedimentologists who has played an important role in the affairs of the Association" Citation will be published in *Sedimentology* of February 2003.

Honorary Membership has already been awarded to:

- 1975 A. Vatan
- 1978 Y. Gubler, P. Allen (*Sedimentology* 26, 157-165)
- 1986 G.M. Friedman, G.V. Middleton (*Sedimentology* 34, 177-186)
- 1991 H.G. Reading (*Sedimentology* 39, 353-354)
- 1998 H. Füchtbauer, K.H. Hsu (*Sedimentology* 46, 205-206)

SUBMARINE SLOPE SYSTEMS: PROCESSES, PRODUCTS AND PREDICTION

28-30 April 2003

The University of Liverpool, U.K.

Submarine slopes provide the critical link between shallow-water and deep-water sedimentary environments; providing a sensitive record of sedimentary supply, accommodation creation and tectonic processes and their interactions on the slope and across the shelf. Recent interest in submarine slope systems has been fuelled by the discovery of large hydrocarbon fields in morphologically complex slope settings (e.g. Gulf of Mexico, offshore Angola). Improved generic models for the stratigraphic evolution of submarine slope systems, therefore, is a pertinent issue. The stratigraphic response to the interplay between parameters that control the evolution of submarine slope systems, e.g. slope gradient, topographic complexity, sediment flux and calibre, base level change, tectonic setting, is complex.

The joint IAS / Geological Society meeting aims to bring together international researchers with a wide range of geological expertise from industry and academia working on modern and ancient (outcrop and subsurface) submarine slope systems. A range of workshops and fieldtrips will be offered and a Geological Society Special Publication is planned.

For all details, please consult the conference website (<http://www.slope2003.net>). The second circular will be available in electronic form in October.

Convenors:

David Hodgson, Steve Flint (University of Liverpool, UK) and Tim Garfield (ExxonMobil, Houston, USA).

CALENDAR

CONTINENT-OCEAN INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE EAST ASIAN MARGINAL SEAS

November 11-14, 2002, U.S.A. (The Bahia
Resort, San Diego, California)

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Web-page: www.whoi.edu/pclif/EAB.html

ORGANIC-CARBON BURIAL, CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN CHEMISTRY (MESOZOIC-PALEOGENE)

December 9-11, 2002, U.K. (Geological Society
of London,

Burlington House, London)

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Web-page:

www.earthsci.ucl.ac.uk/conferences/GSLC

THIRD INTERNATIONAL LIMNOGEOLOGY CONGRESS

29 March - 2 April 2003, U.S.A. (Tucson,
Arizona)

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E-mail: acohen@geo.arizona.edu

BRAIDED RIVERS 2003

April 7-9, 2003, U.K. (Birmingham)

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Web-page: <http://www.cwr.bham.ac.uk/braid/>

COASTAL SEDIMENTS '03

The 5th International Symposium on Coastal
Engineering and Science of Coastal Sediment
Processes

May 18-23, 2003, U.S.A. (Clearwater Beach,
Florida)

Contact: Darlene K. Gregory

Conference Secretariat

Tel: +1 361 939 90 04

Fax : +1 361 939 93 55

E-mail: dgregory@coastalsediments.net

Web-page: www.CoastalSediments.net

**3RD LATINAMERICAN CONGRESS OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

June 8-11, 2003, BRAZIL (Belém, Pará)

Contact: Dilce de Fátima Rossetti
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CP 399, Belém, Pará 66040-170
Brazil

E-mail: latinoamericano@museu-goeldi.br
Web-page: www.ufpa.br/latinamerican

**12TH BATHURST MEETING OF
CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

8-10 July 2003, U.K. (Durham)

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Tel: +44 191 374 25 24 / 25 01

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Web-page: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/bathurst.2003/>

**16TH CONGRESS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
QUATERNARY RESEARCH (INQUA)**

July 23 - 31, 2003, U.S.A. (Reno, Nevada)

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Division of Hydrologic Sciences

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Web-page: <http://inqua2003.dri.edu>

**PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE
EVOLUTION OF PALEOGENE
STRATIGRAPHY**

A Symposium of the International Sub-

commission on Paleogene Stratigraphy

August 26-30, 2003, BELGIUM (Leuven)

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Afd. Historische Geologie

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B-3000 Leuven, Belgium

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Web-page: www.unituebingen.de/gco/isps/news

**22nd IAS MEETING OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

September 17-19, 2003

CROATIA (Opatija)

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E-mail: dpavelic@yahoo.com

Web-page: <http://www.igi.hr/ias2003>

**8TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
FOSSIL ALGAE**

September 18-20, 2003, SPAIN (Granada)

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**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY**

January 14-16, 2004, THAILAND (Bangkok)

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Chulalongkorn University,

Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Fax: (662) 2185464-5

E-mail: thanawat@sc.chula.ac.th

**23rd IAS MEETING OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**
September 15-17, 2004
PORTUGAL (Coimbra)
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(PORTUGAL)
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**SUBMARINE SLOPE SYSTEMS:
PROCESSES, PRODUCTS AND
PREDICTION**

April 28-30, 2003, Liverpool, U.K.
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Liverpool L69 3BX, U.K.
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E-mail: hodgson@liverpool.ac.uk
Web-page: <http://www.slope2003.net>

ALLUVIAL FANS

June 8-13, 2003, SE SPAIN (Sorbas, Almeria)
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Web-page: <http://alluvialfans.net>

**9TH FRENCH CONGRESS OF
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

October 14-16, 2003, FRANCE (Bordeaux)
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Boxed announcements have
full or partial IAS sponsorship