

IAS



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS**

NEWSLETTER

N° 187 August 2003

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“HOT” ARTICLES IN MODERN SEDIMENTARY RESEARCH: THE UPDATED LIST

The world-wide and multidisciplinary database *Science Citation Index (SCI)*, available presently online as *SCI Expanded* via *Web of Science* from Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in Philadelphia, has been applied as a powerful and reliable tool for comprehensive study of citation patterns. *SCI Expanded* includes modern papers only, having been indexed from ca. 5900 source ‘master’ journals. The identification of highest cited references (as a central part of the intellectual essence of a discipline) and dynamic, rapidly developing research frontiers are major tasks of the recent bibliometric studies. For closely linked geological topics of sedimentology, sedimentary geology and sedimentary geochemistry over the millennium crossroad, this kind of relevant ISI data was presented by Racki (2002), where complex methodological aspects of the ranking have been discussed. This note introduces updated “hot” paper classification in sedimentary research (Table 1). I rank only 10 from the most successful articles published since 1996 in three world-renowned periodicals: *Sedimentology*, *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, *Sedimentary Geology*. The success threshold corresponds to 35 ‘real’ cites (without self-citations), even if the 11th position is taken by older article from *Sedimentology* (Webb 1996) displaying the same number of quotations.

From the ‘Big Three’ core journals, the “hot” set of articles includes 8 papers from *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, supplemented by 2 papers published in *Sedimentology* but at high 2nd and 4th positions. Articles from *Sedimentary Geology* are far less widely utilized by sedimentary geologists (at most 23 citations), but one of the most outstanding “young”, published in 2000 article (19 cites) by Goodbred & Kuehl, on the Late Quaternary sequence stratigraphy and depositional evolution of the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta system, comes from this Elsevier periodical.

The single prominent leader of the citation rating (59 cites) is again the ground-breaking article by Shanmugam on turbidite depositional system. In thanks of distinctive advance, the outstanding methodological article on laser grain size analysis by Konert & Vandenberghe from Holland occupies the 2nd rank, outdistancing the older Belgian work by Genty & Quinif on paleoclimatic meaning of internal lamination in stalagmites (both of them received 44 quotations). Nevertheless, the most progressive article, announced already by Racki (2002), is the review paper of Blum & Tornqvist (2000) at the 4th position, very useful synopsis of crucial past, recent and future matters for understanding the fluvial systems. Surprisingly, this is an exceptional singular hit from the Special Millennium Reviews of *Sedimentology*.

In general terms, the thematic spectrum of 10 hot articles in modern sedimentary geology includes both siliciclastic (flysch, mass movements, alluvia, tempestites) and carbonate (stromatolitic deposits, dolomites) leading topics, as well as variety of aspects of the specific Precambrian successions. Despite so strong predominance of benchmark contributions from *Journal of Sedimentary Research*, merely 4 among these renowned articles are written exclusively by American sedimentologists, and a key role of European sedimentary geologists is confirmed by 5 papers.

References

- Goodbred S.L. & Kuehl S.A. 2000. The significance of large sediment supply, active tectonism, and eustasy on margin sequence development: Late Quaternary stratigraphy and evolution of the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta. *Sedimentary Geology* 133, 227-248.
- Racki G. 2002. What is hot in sedimentary research over the millennium crossroad? *Acta Geologica Polonica* 52, 501-505.
- Webb G.E. 1996. Was Phanerozoic reef history controlled by the distribution of non-enzymatically secreted reef carbonates (microbial carbonate and biologically induced cement)? *Sedimentology* 43, 947-971.

Table 1. Ten hot papers in sedimentary geology (published since 1996; JSR - *Journal of Sedimentary Research*; S - *Sedimentology*)

Rank*	Cited Paper [A-Article; R- Review]	Authors (affiliations)	Source	No. of cita- tions***
1	High-density turbidity currents: Are they sandy debris flows? [A]	Shanmugam G. (Mobil Explorat. & Prod. Serv. Inc., Dallas, USA)	JSR 1996 (I**), Vol 66, Iss 1, pp 2-10	59 (+ 7s)
2	Comparison of laser grain size analysis with pipette and sieve analysis: A solution for the under-estimation of the clay fraction [A]	Konert M. & Vandenberghe J. (Free Univ. Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands)	S 1997 (VI), Vol 44, Iss 3, pp 523-535	44 115 (+ 7s)
3	Annually laminated sequences in the internal structure of some Belgian stalagmites - Importance for paleoclimatology [A]	Genty D. & Quinif Y. (Univ. Paris 11, Orsay, France; Fac. Polytech., Mons, Belgium)	JSR 1996 (I), Vol 66, Iss 1, pp 275-288	44 11 (+ 13s)
4	Fluvial responses to climate and sea-level change: a review and look forward [R]	Blum M.D. & Tornqvist T.E. (Univ. Nebraska, Lincoln, USA; Univ Illinois, Chicago, USA)	S 2000 (II), Vol 47, Suppl. 1, pp 2-48	42 11>21 (4s)
5	Classification of offshore mass movements [R]	Mulder T. & Cochoat P. (Inst. Francais Rech. Exploitat. Mer, Plouzane, France; Ecole Natl. Super Geol., Vandoeuvre Nancy, France)	JSR 1996 (I), Vol 66, Iss 1, pp 43-57	41 11 (11s)

6	Texture of microbial sediments revealed by cryo-scanning electron microscopy [A]	Defarge C., Trichet J., Jaunet A.M., Robert M., Tribble J. & Sansone F.J. (Univ. Orleans, France; INRA, Versailles, France; Univ. Hawaii Manoa, Honolulu, USA)	JSR 1996 (IX), Vol 66, Iss 5, pp 935-947	38 J3 (+ 6s)
7	Microbial mediation of modern dolomite precipitation and diagenesis under anoxic conditions (Lagoa Vermelha, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) [A]	Vasconcelos C. & McKenzie J.A. (ETH Zurich, Switzerland; Univ. Fed, Rj, Brazil)	JSR 1997 (V), Vol 67, Iss 3, pp 378-390	36 I2 (+ 6s)
8	Stratigraphy, sedimentology, and isotopic geochemistry of Australian Neoproterozoic postglacial cap dolostones: Deglaciation, delta C-13 excursions, and carbonate precipitation [A]	Kennedy M.J. (Univ. Adelaide, Australia)	JSR 1996 (XI), Vol 66, Iss 6, pp 1050-1064	36 I6 (+ 3s)
9	Tempestite deposition [A]	Myrow P.M. & Southard J.B. (Colorado Coll., Colorado Springs, USA; MIT, Cambridge, USA)	JSR 1996 (IX), Vol 66, Iss 5, pp 875-887	36 I6 (+ 1s)
10	A composite reference section for terminal Proterozoic strata of southern Namibia [A]	Saylor B.Z., Kaufman A.J., Grotzinger J.P. & Urban F. (Case Western Reserve Cleveland, USA; Harvard Univ, Cambridge, USA; Hobart Coll, Geneva, USA; MIT, Cambridge, USA)	JSR 1998 (XI), Vol 68, Iss 6, pp 1223-1235	35 (+ 10s)

*Classified according to 'real' citation numbers (i.e. excluding self-cites), followed by 'article age' (younger papers ranked higher)

**Nominal publication month

*** Citations to 31st May 2003; arrows show changes in the classification stated between 2002, June and 2003, May; (s - self-citations; at least one co-author's name is joint in cited and citing articles)

*Grzegorz Racki
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REPORTS ON THE RECENT JAPANESE SEDIMENTOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Official Establishment of the Sedimentological Society of Japan

The Sedimentological Society of Japan (SSJ) was established since 1971 as a private academic community. A variety of academic activities, such as publication of journal and textbook, an annual meeting, a field excursion, a seminar and so on, have been actively carried out every year, and the society has a membership of more than six hundreds.

At the important moment when the next International Sedimentological Congress was decided to be held in Japan in 2006 aftermentioned in detail, SSJ registered the Science Council of Japan supported by the Japanese Government and was reestablished as an official academic community in the autumn of 2002.

On 26-28 April, 2003, the 1st Annual Meeting of the Sedimentological Society of Japan was held in the Yayoi Auditorium Ichijyo Hall, University of Tokyo, in commemoration of the reestablishment of SSJ. First day, the meeting had a memorial symposium, entitled – New Horizons and Prospects in Sedimentology -. In the symposium, Prof. Seung-Soo Chun, Chonnam Nat. Univ., S. Korea, as an invited speaker gave a special lecture on intertidal sedimentation in south Korea. Prof. Li Sitian, China Univ. Geosci., Republic of China, could not unfortunately join the symposium because of the SARS problem. Further, some speakers gave

the following talks on "New Horizons and Prospects in Sedimentology":

Makino, Y. (SSJ President; Ibaraki Univ.): Futures of sedimentology and the Sedimentological Society of Japan.

Okada, H. (Former SSJ President): Sedimentology in Japan-A legacy.

Taira, A. (Geol. Soc. Japan President; JAMSTEC): From ODP to IODP-Contribution and role of sedimentology.

Chun, S-S. (Invited speaker; Chonnam Nat. Univ., S. Korea): Sedimentation and Holocene evolution of macrotidal-flat depositional system in the southwestern coasts for Korean Peninsula.

Takano, O. (JAPEX): Perspectives on the integrated sedimentary basin analysis: synergy among multidisciplinary approaches based on genetic, qualitative and quantitative concepts.

Saito, Y. (GSJ/AIST): Active sedimentary processes, strata formation, and global change study.

Suzuki, N. (Hokkaido Univ.): Organic geochemistry and biogeochemistry in sedimentology-The past, the present, and the future.

Matsumoto, R. (Univ.Tokyo): From carbonate sedimentology to gas hydrate science: a new model of the global change.

Tada, R. (Univ. Tokyo): Uplift of Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau, evolution of East Asian monsoon, and sedimentation in East Asian marginal seas.

More than 100 participants joined the symposium, and active and fruitful discussions were carried out. At the Annual Meeting, total 48 oral and poster presentations were given by master and PhD students and young researchers.

Establishment of the Organizing Committee for the 17th ISC in Fukuoka

As reported in IAS NEWS-LETTER No 182, it was decided at the last International Sedimentological Congress in Johannesburg that the next 17th ISC will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, on late August to early September, 2006. The 17th ISC will be the first ISC to be held in East Asia. Tentative schedule for the Congress is as follows:

Pre-congress field trips:

August 21-27, 2006

Technical sessions and symposia:

August 28 - September 1, 2006

Post-Congress field trips:

September 1-8, 2006

Under this decision, Japanese sedimentological community started to prepare for the next ISC, and the organizing committee was officially established on 5 March, 2003. The executive board is composed of the following member.

Honorary Chairman:

Hakuyu Okada

Chairman:

Ryo Matsumoto (Univ. Tokyo)

Vice chairman:

Asahiko Taira (JAMSTEC)

Masayuki Tateishi (Nügata Univ.)

Yasuhiko Makino (Ibaraki Univ.)

Fujio Kumon (Shinshu Univ.)

General Secretary:

Hiroki Matsuda (Kumamoto Univ.)

Treasurer:

Noriyuki Suzuki (Hokkaido Univ.)

The organizing committee consists of 2 boards, Scientific Board and Advisory Board, and 4 committees, Scientific Program Comm., Field Trip Comm., Finance Comm., Publicity Comm. and Local Organizing Comm. composed of several sub-committees. Each committee has already started to plan the details of the Congress. The Scientific Board (Chairman; Dr. Taira) had the first meeting at the chance the most of the organizing committee member were gathered at the 1st Annual Meeting of SSJ. The scientific themes and ulterior actions for the 17th ISC were discussed with Prof. Chun from S. Korea. Hence, the organizing committee will construct the detailed plan of the Congress by the distribution of the 1st Circular planed in the autumn of 2004. For additional information, the contact on the 17th ISC is as follows:

Ryo Matsumoto (Chairman) :

ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Hiroki Matsuda (Secretary General):

hmat@sci.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Tentative homepage:

<http://geogate.sci.ibaraki.ac.jp/SSJ/ISC2006/ISC06pc.pdf>

Other Activities

In this autumn, SSJ with the Sedimentological Society of Korea plan to invite Prof. Roger Walker of the Sorby Medalist to Japan and Korea for a lecture tour. In our plan, a few lectures will be held in both countries in middle to late November, 2003. Addition to the

activities of SSJ, a variety of research group, project and societies related to sedimentology, such as Carbonate Colloquium*, IODP, ICDP, IGCP, the Japanese Coral Reef Society, the Japan Association for Quaternary Research and so on, are actively operated at present. Further, the following international conferences related to sedimentology are planned in Japan.

10th International Coral Reef Symposium, June 28- July 2, 2004, Okinawa (<http://www.plando.co.jp/icrs2004>)
Hereafter, Japanese sedimentological community will try to contribute the further development of sedimentology, and to progress toward the success of the 17th ISC. You will be welcome in Japan!

Hiroki Matsuda
National Correspondence
Kumamoto University

* "Carbonate Colloquium" is a group for researchers of carbonate sedimentology, carbonate petrology, carbonate geochemistry, geography, reef ecology and related environmental sciences. The Colloquium was founded in 1991 with Prof. Matsumoto as a representative, and the number of the member is about 50. Total 23 of the seminars and field excursions have been held by 2003.

Report on the
3RD LATIN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY
Belém, June 8-11, 2003

The 3rd Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology was recently held in Belém, Pará, Brazil from 8th to 11th June 2003. Located just south of the equator and near the mouth of the Amazon River, the city of Belém was an appropriate venue for a gathering of sedimentologists, as it is at the focal point of one of the world's major fluvial sedimentation systems. Beneath the muddy waters of this great river complex, modern sedimentation processes are at work. Here, it is possible to observe the impact of cyclic events on the fluvial environment at various temporal and spatial scales: (1) from the annual cycle of the wet and dry seasons with the flooding of the river basin and the return and confinement of the flow into the river channels, (2) to the glacial/interglacial climatic cycles impacting global sea level and, hence, fluvial/coastal evolution, and (3) on the longer term, to tectonic cycles leading to the creation of vast new drainage basins, such as with the Neogene Andean uplift and its effect on the entire Amazon Basin. And, throughout all of these temporal and spatial changes, the Amazon River continuously erodes and transports sediment to the Atlantic Ocean to be finally deposited in the deep waters upon the ever-expanding Amazon Fan. Thus, considering all of these active sedimentation processes in the local environment, the Congress venue in Belém represented a dynamic location for sedimentologists to meet

and discuss various themes in modern sedimentology. The Congress program of oral and poster presentations covered a wide range of topics of vital interest to sedimentologists working in the Amazon Basin and throughout South America, as well as having an international appeal being applicable to modern and ancient sedimentary systems in general.

The Congress started with an official opening ceremony on the evening of June 8th, which was followed by a lively ice-breaker party. Nearly 400 participants from 30 countries representing all continents attended the Congress, which reflects the growing interest in sedimentology in Latin America. The delegates represented more than 116 universities and research centers from Brazil and abroad, as well as 17 oil and ore companies. During the meeting, there were 111 oral presentations and 109 posters distributed into 14 technical sessions and 3 symposiums. Two of the symposiums were conducted in combination with IGCP projects: (1) Sedimentology of Late Cenozoic Fluvial Deposits, IGCP Project 449- Global Correlation of Late Cenozoic fluvial Deposits, coordinated by Dr. Egardo Manuel Latrubesse and Dr. Gerald C. Nanson; and (2) Late Paleozoic and Mesozoic Evolution of Western Gondwana Basins- Joint meeting of IGCP Projects 436 and 471, coordinated by Dr. Luis Spalletti and Dr. Oscar Limarino.

The inclusion of six keynote presentations 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 to enjoy a good lecture. The keynotes focused on "Evaporites now and then – why modern analogues do not give us all the answers" by Dr. John Warren (University of Brunei), "Micritic dolomite: a geobiological signature of anaerobic microbial activity?" by Dr. Judith McKenzie (ETH-Zürich), "Sea Level change and coastal evolution" by Dr. Nils-Axel Möerner (University of Stockholm), "Andean and South Atlantic Mesozoic basins: a common tectonic and paleogeographic history?" by Dr. Luis Spalletti (Conicet fellow at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata - Argentina), "Evolution and application of sequence stratigraphy in Brazilian petroleum industry" by Dr. R. Cainelli (Petrobras), and "Contrasting types of Oligocene/Miocene giant turbidite reservoirs from deep water Campos Basin" by Dr. Carlos Henrique Bruhn (Petrobras).

Besides the technical sessions, the Congress provided an opportunity for nearly 100 participants to update their understanding of several fields of sedimentology through participation in short-courses offered before and after the Congress. These were conducted by outstanding professionals, including Dr. Maurice Tucker (Carbonate Sequence Stratigraphy), Drs. Judith McKenzie and Crisogono Vasconcelos (Geomicrobiology), Dr. John Warren (Understanding and Exploiting Hydrocarbon-metal Associations in

Evaporitic Sequences), Dr. Nils-Axel Möerner (Sea level as an instrument to understand geology and apply in geophysics), and Drs. Luis Buatois, Gabriela Mangano and Renata Netto (Ichnology and Sedimentology: An Integrated Analysis).

A highlight of the Congress was the social dinner on the 10th of June, enjoyed by about 110 participants who also had an opportunity to become acquainted with the local folk dances and songs. Finally, to complete the scientific program, about 60 participants attended the three post-Congress field trips, carried out to study the following: "Cretaceous and Tertiary of Northern São Luís-Grajaú Basin", "Neogene Paleogeography, Paleohydrology and Paleocology of Southwestern Amazonia-Field Conference Glocoph-Inqua", and "Quaternary Evolution of The Bragança Coastal Plain: An Integrated Approach".

The 3rd Latin-American Congress of Sedimentology ended on the evening of June 11th with the announcement of the 4th Latin American Congress of Sedimentology to be held in 2006 in Bariloche, Argentina and organized by Drs. Luis Spalletti, Sergio Matheos and Daniel Poiré.

Dilce F. Rossetti
Chairman of the 3rd Latin American
Congress of Sedimentology

Judith A. McKenzie
President of the International
Association of Sedimentologists

Report on
IAS/GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING: 'SLOPE 2003'
University of Liverpool, UK, April 27-29, 2003

Slope 2003 was convened by Dr David Hodgson and Professor Stephen Flint of the Stratigraphy Group, Liverpool University and Dr Tim Garfield of Exxon-Mobil, Houston. Proceedings started with a one-day workshop on Sunday April 27th run by Dr David Hodgetts of Liverpool on all aspects of modelling of deepwater processes and products. Sixteen presentations covered a range of topics from numerical and physical modelling of debris flow behaviour, through forward modelling approaches to complete deepwater delivery and sedimentation, to the construction of 3-D reservoir models from subsurface and outcrop data. The workshop ended with an in-depth open discussion on the future directions and challenges for modellers.

The main meeting on the Monday and Tuesday included 42 talks and 36 posters and attracted a total of 179 registrants from 19 countries on all continents. The programme was divided into sessions on Submarine channels, Stratigraphic controls, Instability and Flow processes. Keynote speakers included Professor Ron Steel (University of Wyoming), Dr Bruno Savoye (IFREMER, Brest), Professor Mike Gardner (Colorado School of Mines) and Dr Anthony Sprague (Exxon-Mobil Research, Houston). The single oral session format promoted a healthy series of questions from the floor and helped to develop continuity through the whole event. An excellent set of posters

was strongly complementary to the oral sessions and was very well attended by delegates. A distinctive aspect of the meeting was the intentional mixing of presentations on the morphology and oceanographic/sedimentary processes of modern slopes with those on the geology of ancient slope successions. This promoted healthy crossover between traditionally rather separate scientific communities. For example, shallow seismic and side scan sonar imagery illustrated the spatial variability of channels and mass transport complexes in modern submarine slopes settings, whilst numerous ancient and subsurface case studies placed these observations into a stratigraphic context.

The meeting was supported by two excellent post-conference fieldtrips. Dr Ole Martinsen and Dr Trond Lein of Norsk Hydro Research Centre, Bergen, ran a trip to the Carboniferous deepwater succession of County Clare, Ireland, where the 18 attendees experienced sun, sea and lively debate on the range of published interpretations for this basin floor and slope succession. Particular emphasis was placed on the sheet-like, channelised turbidites and spillover systems of the Upper Ross Formation and the spectacular slumps and slides of the Gull Island Formation.

The second fieldtrip was led by Dr Ru Smith of Shell Technology, Rijswijk, to the classic Lower Palaeozoic outcrops of the Welsh Basin. Due to the high-

resolution graptolite biostratigraphy, time-slices of 1My resolution have been established, allowing regional correlation between basin floor, slope and coeval shelf. Within this framework the 17 participants studied the complex relationships between axial and lateral slope systems in a tectonically active basin with evolving basin floor topography and different relative sea level histories on the different basin margins.

The common denominator across the widespread presentations was the complexity and variability in the evolution of submarine slope systems through time (base level, usable accommodation, sediment supply changes) and space (latitudinal and axial to marginal) experienced by researchers.

Clearly, future meetings and research that focus on ocean margin systems will further the understanding of these crucial links between shelf and deep basin. In order to integrate further the different research communities working in ocean margin settings a Special Publication is planned and progress can be monitored on the conference website (www.slope2003.net). The conveners wish to thank the conference sponsors for helping to make the meeting a success. Funds from IAS allowed attendance and presentations from Francisco Lobo, Michael Shultz, William Lyons and Murat Gul.

*David Hodgson
Stephen Flint
Stratigraphy Group
Liverpool University, U.K.*

Report on

BRAIDED RIVERS 2003
Birmingham, UK, April 7-9, 2003

Dr. Greg Sambrook-Smith, organizer of Braided Rivers 2003, began proceedings on a somewhat disturbing note. Delegates were taken on a trip down memory lane to the first Braided Rivers conference in 1992. This glimpse into the past demonstrated the shockingly poor taste in clothing of an esteemed Professor and former editor of *Sedimentology*. Regardless of the fashion faux pas it was clear that the initial conference provided the foundation and inspiration for a great deal of subsequent braided river research. It can only be hoped that this conference will serve as another benchmark for the braided river community, and, with luck, further faculty fashion crimes can be averted.

As with any successful meeting sponsor support is of critical importance. The International Association of Sedimentologists, BP, British Sedimentological Research Group, and the British Geomorphological Research Group all kindly provided funding. Registered delegates at the conference numbered approximately 80, with 40% of those being graduate students. Financial support from the IAS was provided for several graduate students and was greatly appreciated. The bulk of the participants were European, although there were representatives from Bangladesh, Canada, China, Jordan, New Zealand and the United States. This varied representation is extremely beneficial as they bring different issues,

viewpoints, and solutions to various braided river topics.

Upon opening the conference abstract volume it was apparent that this meeting was not a replay of the original conference where geomorphology and sedimentology were the focal points. Over the course of 3 days delegates witnessed 47 oral presentations, including 5 keynote addresses, and 14 posters. Each of the keynote speakers was given by an internationally respected researcher in their area of specialization. These areas included sedimentology, geomorphology, ecology, management and engineering. This expanded focus brought together a rather eclectic mix of researchers, as evidenced by the first two presentations which progressed from ecology to 3D depositional models.

Within the ecology oriented presentations there were two distinct splits. One set of talks focussed on issues of habitat, ranging from spawning salmon of Alaska to beetles on Welsh gravel bars. For many of the geomorphologists and sedimentologists in attendance this was new material. The complexity of multi-channel rivers, in terms of the number and size of channels, and the amount of exposed riverine sediments, creates areas of highly diverse and dynamic habitat. The other ecologically oriented presentations involved the interaction between vegetation and river processes, most notable in terms of bar formation. It was shown, specifically

on the Tagliamento River in Italy, that vegetation can play a crucial role in the establishment and evolution of gravel bars and islands.

An important topic was the response of braided river systems to human impact. Examples from Europe and Canada demonstrated the importance of a continuous bed material supply to the maintenance of braiding. In some situations bed material is trapped in reservoirs, and in others cases gravel extraction is removing the necessary material for bar formation. Flood peak attenuation is also harmful as bar vegetation is able to withstand lower flood peaks and accelerate the process of channel narrowing. Thus, many braided rivers are threatened and have begun conversion to a single channel as bars are either flushed downstream, or accreted to the floodplain.

At the initial conference numerical modelling was identified as a growth area for braided river research. These models provide a means for quantifying and gaining a better understanding of processes that are difficult to capture in field based experiments. The majority of the research presented focused on areas critical to understanding braided river behaviour, namely channel bifurcations and bar development. Numerous researchers used advancements in flume instrumentation to make detailed measurements that could be used to strengthen the numerical models. Scaled flume models also featured prominently in several studies investigating the nature of bedload transport. These attempted to elucidate the magnitude and nature of fluctuating transport rates. As with any bedload transport study it is difficult to determine the definitive cause, but the importance of the downstream

progression of the pool-bar morphologic unit was highlighted.

A conference on braided rivers would not be complete without a discussion of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river system of Bangladesh. Identifying the magnitude and style of planform evolution was discussed. This led directly into subsequent discussions on engineering and management strategies that could be utilized to protect people and infrastructure from bank erosion and flooding. Another suite of presentations dealt with the characteristics of jökulhlaup deposits in Iceland and Greenland. It was clearly demonstrated that the distinctiveness of the deposits is intimately tied to the unique characteristics of the jökulhlaups hydrograph.

The continued expansion of 3-D methodology in sedimentology was apparent in ground penetrating radar (GPR) studies conducted in both modern and ancient deposits. The combination of GPR along with trenches and cores allows a more holistic view of the alluvial architecture of braided river deposits. A particular advancement of the work in Alaska (USA) and British Columbia (Canada) was the utilization of differential aerial photography which permitted a better understanding of the evolution of channel geometry and kinematics. It is interesting to note that of the 47 oral presentations over 60% were on gravel-bed braided rivers, while only 15% focussed on sand-bed braided rivers (half of those being on the Brahmaputra-Jamuna). The remaining talks were either numerical models or dealt with sedimentary rocks. Given the importance of sand-bed braided rivers in the rock record this gap in modern

day process studies could hinder better understanding of sand-bed braided river deposits. Of course, this gap may be largely due to the absence of North American researchers where sand-bed braided rivers are more abundant.

The initial Braided Rivers conference produced a highly cited volume which included many influential papers. In Birmingham not only were many interesting presentations given, but seeds for future research collaborations were planted. Bringing

together a disparate group of people interested in a common theme, braided rivers, will hopefully produce new and exciting combinations. I look forward to experiencing the fruits of Birmingham at Braided Rivers 20?? (hopefully they will be as tasty as a Balti curry).

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CALENDAR

INNOVATIVE STUDIES AND DISCOVERIES

August 10-12, 2003
New York, U.S.A.
Contact: Gerald M. Frieman
Northeastern Science Foundation
Rensselaer Center of applied Geology, 15 Third
St./PO Box 746, Troy
NY 12181-0746, U.S.A.
E-mail: gmfriedman@juno.com
Web-page: www.geocities.com/
northeasternscifdn
Fax: 518 273 3249
Tel: 518 273 3247

IGCP#463 UPPER CRETACEOUS OCEANIC RED BEDS: RESPONSE TO OCEAN/CLIMATE GLOBAL CHANGE – WORKSHOP AND FIELD EXCURSION

August 25-31, 2003
Lhasa, Tibet
Contact: Wang Chengshan
Chengdu University of Technology
Chengdu 610059
Sichuan, China
E-mail: wcs@cdut.edu.cn
Web-page: www.igcp463.cdut.edu.cn

PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE EVOLUTION OF PALEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY

A Symposium of the International Sub-commission on Paleogene Stratigraphy
August 26-30, 2003, BELGIUM (Leuven)
Contact: Noël Vandenberghe
Dept. Geografic-Geologie
Afd. Historische Geologie
KU Leuven, Redingestraat 16
B-3000 Leuven, Belgium
E-mail: noel.vandenberghe@geo.kuleuven.ac.be
Web-page: www.uniteubingen.de/geo/isps/news

TRIASSIC GEOCHRONOLOGY AND CYCLOSTRATIGRAPHY – A FIELD SYMPOSIUM

September 11-15, 2003
Sta Christina, Val Gardena, Dolomites, Italy
Contact: Peter Brack
Department of Earth Sciences
ETH Zentrum, CH-8042 Zurich
Switzerland
E-mail: peter.brack@erdw.ethz.ch
Fax nr.: +41 1632 1088

THE OCEAN MARGIN RESEARCH CONFERENCE

September 15-17, 2003
Paris, France
Contact: Juergen Mienert
Scripps Inst. of Oceanography
Geoscience Research Division 0220
La Jolla, California 92093
USA
E-mail: jmienert@ucsd.edu
Web-page: http://www.ig.uit.no/konferanser/
omarc/index.htm

22nd IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

September 17-19, 2003, CROATIA (Opatija)
Contact: Davor Pavelic
IAS-2003, Institute of Geology, HR-10000
Zagreb, Sachsova 2, Croatia
Fax: +385 1 6144718
E-mail: dpavelic@yahoo.com
Web-page: www.igi.hr/ias2003

8TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOSSIL ALGAE

September 18-20, 2003, SPAIN (Granada)
 Contact: Juan C. Braga or Julio Aguirre
 Departamento de Estratigrafía y Paleontología
 Facultad de Ciencias
 Universidad de Granada
 Campus Fuentenueva s/n
 18002 Granada, Spain
 E-mail: jbraga@ugr.es or jaguirre@ugr.es

THIRD REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON ATLANTIC NEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY CONGRESS

September 19-25, 2003
 Asilah, Morocco
 Contact: Abdelkhalak ben Moussa
 E-mail: b.moussa@fst.ac.ma
 Web-page: www.fst.ac.ma/rcans03

FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH TERTIARY GROUP

September 23-25, 2003
 Granada, Spain
 Contact: Fernando García
 Departamento de Geología
 Facultad de Ciencias Experimentales
 Universidad de Jaén
 E-23071 Jaén, Spain
 E-mail: fegarcia@ujaen.es
 Web-page: www.ugr.es/~estratig

ITALIAN MEETING OF THE ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTARY GEOLOGY (GeoSed 2003)

September 28-October 2, 2003, Algher, Sardinia, ITALY
 Contact: Vincenzo Pascuzzi
 Istituto di Scienze Geologico-Mineralogiche
 Corso Anjioj 10
 Università di Sassari
 07100 Sassari
 Italy
 Tel.: 079 228630
 Fax: 079 231250
 E-mail: pascuzzi@uniss.it

ANALOGUE AND NUMERICAL FORWARD MODELLING OF SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS; FROM UNDERSTANDING TO PREDICTION

October 9-11, 2003
 Utrecht, The Netherlands
 Contact: Poppe de Boer
 Institute of Earth Sciences
 Utrecht University
 P.O. Box 80.021
 3508 TA Utrecht
 The Netherlands
 E-mail: basinmodelling@geo.uu.nl
 Web-page: http://basinmodelling.geo.uu.nl

9TH FRENCH CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

October 14-16, 2003, FRANCE (Bordeaux)
 Contact: Thierry Mulder
 Université Bordeaux 1, DGO, Avenue des Facultés, 33405 Talence cedex, France
 Tel: + 33-556 84 88 47
 Fax: +33-556 84 08 48
 Philippe Razin, EGID, Université Bordeaux 3, 1, Allée F.DAGUIN, 33607 PESSAC cedex, France
 Tel: +33-556 84 80 67
 Fax: +33-556 84 80 73
 E-mail: cgrsasf@pop.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr
 Web-page: http://www.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr/ASF/asf.html

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY

January 14-16, 2004, THAILAND (Bangkok)
 Contact: Thanawat Jarupongsakul
 Department of Geology, Faculty of Science,
 Chulalongkorn University
 Bangkok 10330, Thailand
 Fax: (662) 2185464-5
 E-mail: thanawat@sc.chula.ac.th

ICHNIA 2004: THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ICHNOLOGY

April 9-13, 2004

Trelew (Patagonia), Argentina

Contact: Luis Buatois

E-mail: ichnolog@infovia.com.ar

32nd INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 20-28, 2004

Florence, Italy

Contact: Chiara Manetti

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra

Via La Pira, 4

50121 Firenze, Italy

e-mail: casaitalia@geo.unifi.it

Phone/Fax: + 39 055 2382146

Web-page: www.32igc.org

LE 2^eme COLLOQUE SUR LE JURASSIQUE MAROCAIN

April 21-22, 2004, MOROCCO (Marrakech)

Contact: Prof. A. Ait Addi

Département de Géologie (FST)

B.P.: 549-Guéliz, Marrakech-Maroc

Tel: (212) 44 43 34 04

Fax: (212) 44 43 31 70

E-mail: aitaddi@fstg-marrakech.ac.maWeb-page: www.ucam.ac.ma/fssm/cjm2

23rd IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

September 15-17, 2004, PORTUGAL (Coimbra)

Contact: Rui Pena dos Reis

Universidade de Coimbra, Dpto. Ciências da Terra

Largo Marquês de Pombal, 3014 Coimbra (PORTUGAL)

E-mail: penareis@ci.uc.pt

TIDALITES-2004**6th International Conference on Tidal Sedimentology**

August 2-5, 2004

Copenhagen, Denmark

Contact: Jesper Bartholdy

Institute of Geography, University of

Copenhagen, Oster Voldgade 10, Dk-1305

Copenhagen K, Denmark

E-mail: jb@geogr.ku.dkWeb-page: www.geogr.ku.dk/tidalites

Fax nr. +45 35 32 25 01

Tel. nr.: +45 35 32 25 00

24th IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

January, 10-13, 2005, OMAN, (Muscat)

Contact: Peter Homewood

Carbonate Centre

Sultan Qaboos University

P.O. Box 36, P.C. 123

Al Khod, Sultanate of Oman

GSM: +968 924 14 68

Phone: +968 515 030

Fax: +968 513 147

E-mail: homewood@squ.edu.om

**7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
THE CRETACEOUS**

September 5-9, 2005

Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Contact: Karl B. Föllmi or Thierry Adatte

Institut de Géologie, Université de Neuchâtel,
case postale 2, CH-2007 Neuchâtel, Switzerland

E-mail: karl.foellmi@unine.ch ;

thierry.adatte@unine.ch

Web-page: <http://www-geol.unine.ch/>

Fax nr.: 0041-718 26 01

**17TH INTERNATIONAL
SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

August 27 – September 1, 2006

Fukuoka, Japan

Contact: Ryo Matsumoto

Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
University of Tokyo

Hongo

Tokyo 113, Japan

E-mail: ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jpWeb-page: <http://sediment.jp/>

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