



INQUA 2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023 was for INQUA, the year of the XXI INQUA Congress with the theme “*Time for Change*”, organised by our Italian colleagues in Rome. About 3,000 researchers attended the Congress with its 142 scientific sessions.

At the INQUA Congress

INQUA presented awards to scientists who distinguished themselves through contributions to Quaternary science and INQUA.

Qiaomei Fu (China) received the 2023 **Sir Nicholas Shackleton Medal** for Outstanding Young Quaternary Scientists. Denis-Didier Rousseau (France) received the 2023 **Liu Tungsheng Distinguished Career Medal** for Distinguished Service to the International Community in Quaternary Science, and Norm Catto (Canada) received the 2023 INQUA Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to individuals with an outstanding contribution to INQUA. In addition, five prominent Quaternary scientists—Allan Ashworth (USA), Akira Ono (Japan), Dahe Qin (China), Mauro Coltorti (Italy), and Rivka Amit (Israel)—were granted the **INQUA Honorary Life Fellowship**.

International Council (IC) meeting (see also INQUA Secretary-General Report)

To promote INQUA membership, the INQUA Executive invited for the 2023 IC meeting Congress participants from countries currently not listed as INQUA Members to nominate a delegate to attend the IC meetings as an observer. A so-called **INQUA dinner** was organised to thank the IC delegates, the INQUA Journals editors, and the XXI INQUA Congress organisers in Rome for their valuable contribution to INQUA.

INQUA Executive Committee

The 2019-2023 INQUA Executive formally stepped down at the General Assembly's closing ceremony. Allan Ashworth (Immediate Past President), Zhengtang Guo (Vice-President) and Lynne Quick (Vice-President) left the INQUA Executive. Laura Sadori (former Vice-President) was elected INQUA President in the 2023-2027 INQUA Executive. Enikő Magyari (Secretary-General), Freek Busschers (Treasurer) and Maria-Fernanda Sanchez Goni (Vice-President) were re-elected. Thijs van Kolfschoten (President) stepped back as INQUA President and continues serving the Executive as Immediate Past President. New in the Executive are Pradeep Srivastava (India) (Vice-President) and Kathleen Nicoll (USA) (Vice-President). There is still 1 Vice-President position vacant.

The new Executive Committee met in presence in Rome (soon after the closure of the congress) and many times online. The in-presence meeting of the EC was scheduled for 29 Jan-2 Feb 2024 in Athens together with the Commission Presidents and the Early Career Researchers representative.

The XXII INQUA Congress 2027

The INQUA Secretary-General received only one offer to organize the XXII INQUA Congress 2027. The **Indian Quaternary Research Community** offers to host the **INQUA 2027** Congress with the theme *Quaternary Science as Societal Services*. An offer that has been accepted by the International Council members and ratified by the General Assembly.

INQUA Secretariat

The contract with the INQUA secretary, Aritina Haliuc (Romania), and the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, Hungary), which hosted the INQUA Secretariat, ended on 31-12-2023. Aritina Haliuc continues to serve INQUA as a secretary on a freelance basis.

INQUA Project Funding

In 2023, INQUA received 59 Project applications; 15 were awarded.

INQUA Fellowship Program

The INQUA Fellowship Program financially supports early-career scientists (ECRs) and scientists from low- and middle-income countries/developing countries (DCRs) to gain international quaternary research experience at a foreign institution for 3-6 months. In 2023, INQUA received 56 applications; 6 were awarded.

A new program will be launched in September 2024 with slightly changed rules that will be available with the call.

INQUA Publications

Our INQUA/Elsevier journal **Quaternary International** published 36 issues in 2023. INQUA's Newsletter, **Quaternary Perspectives**, published two issues in 2023, with many exciting contributions reporting on ongoing projects. A second INQUA/Elsevier Journal, entitled **Quaternary Environment and Humans**, was launched during the INQUA 2023 Congress. In addition, 12 issues of the INQUA Monthly Newsletter appeared in 2023.

INQUA Participation in International Initiatives in 2023

INQUA is affiliated with other international scientific unions/organisations and supports several global initiatives. INQUA is a full member of and active within the International Science Council (ISC). INQUA Executive members attended meetings of the ISC -- **GeoUnions** and the Delegate meeting of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). INQUA actively participated in and contributed to the *International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD)* program with a seminar of the VP Maria Fernanda Sanchez Goni on *From the theory of Ice Ages to the IPCC climate projections*. INQUA also joined the *International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024-2033 (IDSSD)*.

The Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) initiated a successful initiative, the identification and recognition of iconic geologic sites, as exemplified by the announcement of the "First 100" IUGS **Geological Heritage Sites**. INQUA is one of the partners of the project and coordinated the submission of Quaternary sites and played a role in the selection of the submitted Quaternary Geoheritage site proposals to be published in the *2nd 100 Geological Heritage Sites* book, to be published in 2024.

INQUA also actively participated in 2023 in the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES) Program.

The cooperation with the **International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)** is new. The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), and

International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) are planning an international event for Early Career Researchers (ECR). This gathering, set to take place in China in November 2025, aims to facilitate discussions on biodiversity changes and biome evolution.

Rome, April 5 2024

Laura Sadori, INQUA President



Thijs van Kolfshoten, INQUA Past-President

