

INQUA Briefing for National and Regional Delegates of the International Council

Briefing 004, August, 2016

Dear National Correspondent,

Greetings from INQUA. This report continues with the traditions of INQUA of keeping its adhering members updated on the progress during the year and to develop a synergistic interface with them.

This report is therefore aimed to

1. Ensure a continued contact and liaison between the INQUA executive committee and member countries;
2. Inform the stake holders of the important decisions and directions that INQUA and its science is taking;
3. Keep an up to date directory of national contacts;
4. Develop a mechanism for seeking mandates from member countries for making changes to INQUA statutes and bye-laws.
5. Use the good offices of member countries to enhance the membership base of INQUA.

We apologize for the delay in preparing this report which has resulted mostly because of the changeover in the executive following the congress. The following is an update on the activities during the past year. INQUA is looking forward to your comments and expectations in all aspects of its functions.

XIX INQUA CONGRESS AT NAGOYA-2015

The INQUA congress was held successfully in the historic town of Nagoya in the modern Nagoya Congress Centre, Japan, during July 28-August 2, 2015. The theme of the congress was *Quaternary Perspectives on Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Civilization*. This was the second largest INQUA congress. It was attended by

1789 participants from 68 countries, presenting over 2000 papers in 122 scientific sessions. The congress was well-organized in an elegant convention centre and the entire organization spoke volumes about the meticulous planning from the Japanese hosts. They truly set the benchmark high. The congress was inaugurated by the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

The Plenary Lectures were as follows.

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| 1 | Emerging signals of tropical Pacific climate variability: the mid-Holocene to the last millennium | Kim Cobb, Georgia Institute of Technology USA |
| 2 | Ecological Processes in a Changing Environment: Perspectives from the Quaternary | Jessica L. Blois, University of California, Merced, USA |
| 3 | Organic molecules as tools for Quaternary paleoclimatology | Naohiko Ogochi, JAMSTEC Japan |
| 4 | Connecting remote climate changes? Models can help! | Masa Kageyama, LSCE, France |
| 5 | Continuous sea-level records with well-constrained chronologies: Implications for rates of change and climate sensitivity | E. J. Rohling, ANU, Canberra, Australia |
| 6 | Utilizing results of Quaternary studies to predict earthquake scenarios and resultant ground motion of future earthquakes | Haruko Sekiguchi, Kyoto University, Japan |
| 7 | Giant tsunamis in the Holocene: geological and historical evidence and geophysical modeling | Kenji Satake, University of Tokyo, Japan. |
| 8 | The Quaternary Period/System and its official subdivision: past, present, and future | Martin J. Head Brock University, Canada |
| 9 | Towards better radiocarbon calibration: a story of a Japanese lake | Takeshi Nakagawa, Ritsumeikan Univ. Japan. |

Members of the scientific board of 'Future Earth' <http://www.futureearth.org/who-we-are>, a new global initiative on sustainability organized by ICSU, ICSS, Belmont Forum, UNESCO, UNEP, UNO and WMO, also made presentations. They were:

1. Tetuzo Yasunari: *Future Earth - towards global sustainability*
2. Masayo Hasegawa: *Engagement Committee – diverse stakeholders*
3. James Syvitski: *The Anthropocene and Future Earth*
4. Pascale Braconnot: *Does paleoscience have a role in Future Earth?*

INQUA will continue to monitor the activities of 'Future Earth' to inform the Quaternary community of how its scientists can become involved in future activities.

SUPPORT TO ATTEND CONGRESS

INQUA supported 145 Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and provided a grant of €28,000 to support participation of scientist from low GDP countries. In addition, the local organizing committee supported 12 Asian researchers and 60 Japanese ECRs. Several National committees also supported participation of their scientists.

INQUA MEDALS

During the congress, INQUA honored some of the distinguished scientists who made exceptional contributions to further the cause of Quaternary science and the activities of INQUA. The awardees and titles of their presentations are:

1. **INQUA Distinguished Service Medal**
Prof. N. Rutter, Canada; *My Career with INQUA*
2. **Liu Tungsheng Distinguished Career Medal**
Prof. A.G. Wintle, UK; *A lifetime of luminescence in the service of the Quaternary*
3. **Sir Nicholas Shackleton Medal:**

Dr. R.E. Kopp, USA; *Piecing together sea-level change in the Quaternary and the carbon age*

Currently, we are seeking nominations for the Sir Nicholas Shackleton medal. More details are available online at:

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/8852ab4443fb46dadaa89ffe5/files/ShackletonMedalCallForm.docx>

Please keep in mind two important issues, 1) Deadline for nominations: **21st September 2016**; 2) Nominations should be submitted electronically to **both** the INQUA Secretary-General, Dr Brian Chase (brian.chase@univ-montp2.fr), and the Chair of the Awards Committee, Vice-President Dr Franck Audemard (faudemard@funvisis.gob.ve).

INQUA FELLOWS

INQUA honored the following scientists with Life Time Fellowships. These are

1. Professor Cecile Baetman, Belgian Geological Survey, Belgium
2. Professor Hiroshi Machida, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan
3. Professor David. J. Lowe, University of Waikato, New Zealand
4. Professor Brad. J. Pillans, Australian National University, Australia
5. Professor An Zhisheng, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xian, China

INQUA feels privileged to honor these distinguished scientists.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee for the period 2015-2019 will be,

President	Professor Allan Ashworth (USA)	allan.ashworth@nds.u.edu
Secretary General	Dr Brian M Chase (France)	brian.chase@univ-montp2.fr
Treasurer	Dr Marie-France Loutre (Belgium)* Professor Mariarita-Rita Palombo	mariarita.palombo@uniroma1.it
Vice President	Dr Frank Audemard (Venezuela)	faudemard@gmail.com
Vice President	Professor Zhengtang Guo (China)	ztguo@mail.iggcas.ac.cn
Vice President	Professor Thijs van Kolfschoten (Netherlands)	T.van.Kolfschoten@arch.leidenuniv.nl
Vice President	Professor Ashok Singhvi (India)	inquasinghvi@gmail.com
Past President	Dr Margaret Avery (South Africa)	mavery@iziko.org.za

*Dr. Loutre was elected as the Treasurer but she had to step down due to a career move to become Executive Director of PAGES. After a search, the INQUA executive invited Dr. M-R. Palombo to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the inter-congress period.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – WASHINGTON D.C., MARCH 2016

The first executive committee meeting was held March 16-18, 2016. The meeting set the tone for the scientific activities of the next four years.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING

As in the past, the science of INQUA is being delivered through its five Commissions viz.

1. Coastal & Marine Processes (CMP)
President: Dr Craig Sloss (Australia) c.sloss@qut.edu.au
2. Humans & the Biosphere (HABCOM).
President: Dr. Nicki Whitehouse (UK) Nicola.whitehouse@plymouth.ac.uk
3. Palaeoclimates (PALCOM)
President: Prof Atte Korhola (Finland) atte.korhola@helsinki.fi
4. Stratigraphy & Chronology (SACCOM).
President: Prof Mauro Coltorti (Italy) maurocoltorti@gmail.com
5. Terrestrial Processes, Deposits & History (TERPRO).
President: Prof. Alessandro Michetti (Italy) alessandro.michetti@uninsubria.it

Details of the activities of each of the commissions can found at:

<http://www.inqua.org/aboutCommissions.html>

During the Washington meeting, funding requests for 18 international focus groups (IFGs) and 27 projects in various categories were received. Of these, 9 IFGs and 14 projects were funded for a total of €105,000. A list of the approved projects is on-line at: <http://www.inqua.org/projects.html>. Special focus was placed on funding early career researchers.

Please encourage scientists from your nation who are interested in developing proposals to first make email contact with the presidents of the commissions or the Secretary General.

In associated business, the EC approved a single deadline for the submission of funding proposals to bring more efficiency and less confusion to the process. More details about funding can be found at <http://www.inqua.org/awards.html> and we encourage you to notify scientists in your nation of the possibilities.

QUATERNARY INTERNATIONAL

Prof. Norm Catto stepped down as Editor-in-Chief of INQUA's flagship journal Quaternary International after 25 years at the helm, during which time he personally handled more than 400 issues and literally shared emails with hundreds of authors. The INQUA community is extremely grateful for the professionalism he brought to his position. Norm is replaced by a team of editors headed up by Editor-in-Chief, Min-Te Chen (Taiwan), assisted by five associate editors; A. Asrat (Ethiopia), Z. Liu (China), B. Mauz (UK), A. Negri (Italy) and F. Rivals (Spain).

The issue of a large number of accepted manuscripts awaiting formal publication was discussed. The EC approved the expenditure of funds to clear the backlog which is expected to take about two years. There was also some discussion on how to avoid the situation from happening again. These included limiting the size of articles, publishing extra issues and possibly opening up a new journal. Problems have developed because of the high demand on the journal for publishing.

REVIEW OF INQUA ACTIVITIES

Allan Ashworth, as president, is in the process of establishing a panel of distinguished scientists to review commission activities to ensure that they are relevant to the INQUA mission. The panel will be made up of Honorary Fellows and past officers of INQUA supported by other global leaders. The report that will be prepared from their reviews, and the actions recommended by the Executive, will be presented at the next International Council in Dublin.

Other discussion related to proposals included:

- a) Do International Focus Groups best reflect the INQUA mission?
- b) Do ECRs need to include senior scientists as mentors in their proposals?
- c) The need for commission presidents to provide clearer guidelines in the preparation of budgets.

NEW MEMBERS AND FEES

We welcome Turkey as a new member. The level at which membership fees are paid continues to be voluntary. This has resulted in disparities which the EC is addressing. ICSU has a published list of a recommended fee structure that in part is based on GNP and population size. Two Vice Presidents have been assigned a task to examine various models used by other unions and these will be discussed during the next EC meeting. Recommendations from those discussions will be forwarded to member nations for their comments before any decision are discussed by the International Council.

It was also decided to enhance the membership base of INQUA and be all inclusive, irrespective of the size and GDP of any country. Recruiting new members is being undertaken by two vice-presidents. The EC considered it important that all Quaternary scientists are aware of INQUA activities and a special effort is being made to achieve this during the next two years. The start is that we are compiling a global email list. Soon any Quaternary scientist wishing to be included on the mailing list will be able to sign-up online from the INQUA web site. Registration for the list can also be made through the Secretary General, Brian Chase:

QUATERNARY PERSPECTIVES

Quaternary Perspectives, the newsletter of INQUA, provides updates on happenings in the INQUA community. It was decided to explore publication of Quaternary Perspectives in Face book, Twitter and as INQUA blogs, in addition to emailing it to a larger number of scientists. Suggestions that QP be published quarterly were tabled for further discussion. Future publications will provide overview from INQUA commission leaders, articles on history of INQUA and its structure, highlights of important papers from projects. We urge you to circulate this as widely as possible.

STATUTES AND BYE-LAWS

It was recognized that current practices of INQUA may not adequately be covered by the statutes and bye-laws and that they may need to be revised.

INTERCONGRESS MEETINGS

The EC approved the concept of a dedicated Early Career Researcher meeting and also a joint INQUA/PAGES workshop in 2017/2018 and will examine proposals for both at the next EC meeting

GENDER AND DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES

Concerns about gender and demographic imbalance were raised. It was agreed that all parts of the organization needed to be vigilant and to be proactive to ensure balance at the time that future nominations were being made for various positions.

INQUA WEBSITE

€2000 was approved for the construction of a new INQUA website. The goal is that this will be available by the next EC meeting

ICSU AND GEOUNION ACTIVITIES

INQUA is participating in ICSU activities by participating in the ICSU annual unions meeting and also in the GeoUnions meetings. Allan Ashworth represented INQUA at the Paris meeting in 2016.

INQUA CONGRESS -2019

The INQUA CONGRESS 2019 will be held during 25-31st July, 2019 in Dublin, Ireland. The theme of the congress will be ***Life on the Edge*** and the congress will be organized by Irish Quaternary Association and will be held in the Convention Centre, Dublin <http://www.inqua2019.org/ehome/index.php?eventid=142403&>. Preparations for the congress are proceeding well and we anticipate a great meeting. More information will be available through Prof. P. Coxon. Allan Ashworth, is the liasson between INQUA and the congress organizing committee.

We look forward to being in continued contact with you,

Ashok Singhvi
Vice-President

Allan Ashworth
President

Brian Chase
Secretary Gen