International conference

“Archaeology and Paleogeography of Central Asia. In honour of archaeologist V.A. Ranov”

To celebrate the centenary of the Soviet-Tajik archaeologist, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
Vadim Alexandrovich Ranov

Dushanbe – Khovaling
Tajikistan
October 1-6, 2024
Dear Colleagues,

We invite you to participate in the international conference “Archaeology and paleogeography of Central Asia”. This meeting is called to honour the ground-breaking work of the Soviet-Tajik archaeologist Vadim Aleksandrovich Ranov, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.

The conference is intended to bring together specialists from various fields in the study of the human settlement of Eurasia and the environment of the Quaternary period. The purpose is to discuss new data on history, geoarchaeology, palaeogeography, Quaternary geology, stratigraphy, and geochronology, to present the latest achievements in the reconstruction of the ancient history of mankind, and to find solutions to some pressing issues relating to the Stone Ages of Central Asia and the adjacent regions.

The meeting is intended to create conditions for interdisciplinary and interregional correlation of archaeological and geological data; it is planned to hold a series of thematic sections and round table discussions of specific problems of Palaeolithic science, stratigraphy and paleogeography of the Quaternary period. The scientific content of the conference builds on the scientific heritage of V.A. Ranov; although it is focussed on the Central Asian region and the Stone Age, it will also cover the most significant areas of modern archaeology and palaeogeography throughout Eurasia.
Field seminars

An important part of the conference will be field seminars at key Palaeolithic sites in Tajikistan and at unique sections of the loess-palaeosol series of the Khovaling plateau. These Quaternary sections are one of the most interesting and significant archives of the history of landscape and climate evolution: the loess-palaeosol series are up to 200 m thick and contain more than 40 pedocomplexes, many of which contain evidence of different tool technologies.

The sections that will be presented to conference participants during field excursions will enable them to become familiar with the stratigraphy and palaeogeography of one of the key regions of central Eurasia, and to trace the unique record of the main regional and global events in environmental and human history. The organizers of field seminars will present new significant data obtained over the last few years on the structure, genesis and age of stratigraphic units and archaeological sites.
The conference honours the work of Professor V.A. Ranov (1924-2006) – Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Head of the Department of Archaeology, A. Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography. V.A. Ranov was an outstanding researcher of the Stone Age of Tajikistan and Eurasia as a whole, and one of the world's leading experts on the Stone Age. For a long period (1949-2005) he studied the ancient history of mankind, and made a major global contribution to the development of Stone Age archaeology and related sciences (Quaternary geology, palaeopedology, palaeogeography, etc.). Based on the results of many years of archaeological research, he developed a cultural and chronological interpretation of all periods of the Stone Age of Tajikistan and Central Asia, periodized Central Asian Stone Age sites, and proposed a model of the "relay" type of migration of in the Palaeolithic. As a result of studies of hominin habitation in palaeosols, in the 1970’s V.A. Ranov opened a new scientific topic in the study of the world's Stone Age - the “Loess Palaeolithic”. In the difficult high-mountain conditions of the Pamirs, he discovered and excavated the Oshkhona site and opened more than 60 Stone Age sites, attributing their industry to the Markansu Epipaleolithic culture (8-6 ka). There he also discovered the highest mountain rock art in the world (Shakhty grotto).

V.A. Ranov participated in excavations in almost 20 countries, gave lectures at the world's largest scientific centres, and had the opportunity to work with Stone Age collections in many famous scientific and museum repositories. For many years he was vice-president of the international commission “Palaeoecology of Ancient Humans” INQUA.

The conference will include an exhibition of scientific works and archaeological collections from Stone Age sites studied by V.A. Ranov.
Scientific topics of the conference:
1. Historiography of Stone Age research in Central Asia in the context of the scientific heritage of V.A. Ranov.
2. Current issues in Palaeolithic studies of Eurasia.
3. Current state of research of the Stone Age of Central Asia: new methods and ideas.
4. General issues of palaeogeography of the Quaternary period of Central Asia
5. Loess-palaeosol series of Eurasia and their significance in the study of the Quaternary history
6. Glacial history and human occupation of the high mountain regions of Eurasia
7. New methods in palaeogeography and Quaternary geology
8. Modern methods in Stone Age archaeology
10. Central Asia as a cultural crossroads in the Stone Age: migrations, technological innovation and adaptation to climate change

Preliminary conference program:

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<td>October 1, 2024</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Exhibition of scientific heritage of V.A. Ranov Grand Breakout sessions</td>
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<td>October 2, 2024</td>
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<td>Plenary session</td>
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<td>Field seminar “Palaeolithic of the Khovaling loess plateau”, day 1.</td>
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Venue

The conference will be held at the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. The plenary session will take place in the conference hall of the National Library of Tajikistan, and individual sessions in the halls of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of NAST and the Presidium of NAST. Dushanbe is the dynamically developing capital of Tajikistan, connected by air with many cities in Europe and Asia. Conference participants will stay in comfortable hotels in the centre of Dushanbe; special conditions and prices will be offered to conference participants. International flights to Dushanbe are conveniently carried out through Istanbul (Turkish Airlines; Somon Air), Munich (Somon Air), Dubai (Somon Air; Fly Dubai), Moscow (Somon Air; Utair; Ural), Urumqi (Somon Air; China Southern), Tashkent (Somon Air; Uzbekistan), Almaty (Air Astana), Delhi (Somon Air).
Field seminars

An important part of the conference will be field workshops within the Khovaling loess plateau - the area where V.A. Ranov studied a series of unique Palaeolithic sites. The meeting participants will have the opportunity to visit and get acquainted with the geological structure of Kuldara (the oldest Early Palaeolithic stratified site in Central Asia) Obi-Mazar, Lahuti-IV, Khonako-III, and the geological section Khonako-II, containing more than 15 pedocomplexes. The two-day field seminar will be held in the town of Khovaling (overnight hotel accommodation, meals and transport provided). Travel time from Dushanbe to Khovaling is ~4 hours. Unfortunately there is only room for 50 participants, so early booking is desirable.
Participation form and registration fee

Participants have the opportunity for up to a maximum of two presentations (1 oral and 1 poster). Payment of the conference registration fee is possible either by bank transfer or on-site upon registration. Meeting participants will be provided with assistance in completing registration procedures and choosing a hotel. The registration fee includes participation in the conference, coffee breaks, conference dinner, program and a bag with meeting materials.

Registration fee:
- Until September 31, 2024 by bank transfer: 75 USD
- Cash upon registration: 100 USD

Registration for participation in the field seminar (50 USD) is separate and, unless agreed with the conference organisers, must be paid in advance. The field seminar is limited to 50 participants.

To participate in the conference, you must return the registration form before July 30, 2024. Abstract(s) must be sent to the organizing committee's email address: ranov2024@gmail.com, and must be received by August 31, 2024.

Abstract rules and all relevant information will be posted soon on the conference website: www.ranov100.org

We look forward to seeing you in Tajikistan!
Scientific committee of the conference:

- K.H. Khushvakhtzoda, President of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
- A.P. Derevianko, academician, scientific director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS
- G.G. Matishov, academician, scientific director of the Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- N.K. Ubaydullo, professor, director of the A. Donisha Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
- H.A. Amirkhanov, academician, Institute of Archaeology RAS
- Lu Huayu, professor, Dean, School of Geography and Ocean Science, Nanjing University
- A.V. Panin, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography RAS
- Liping Zhou, professor, Department of Geology, Peking University
- S.A. Vasiliev, professor, Institute of History of Material Culture RAS
- A.S. Saidov, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
- A.A. Krivoshapkin, corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS
- V.E. Pavlov, professor, Schmidt Institute of Physics of the Earth
- Fahu Chen, academician, Director of the Institute for the Study of the Tibetan Plateau, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Andrew Murray, professor, Department of Geosciences, Aarhus University
- Zh.K. Taimagambetov, academician, National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- David Wright, professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Oslo
- Shejiang Wang, professor, Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology CAS
- Y. Yakubov, academician, A. Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography
- A.A. Anoykin, principal researcher, international project THOCA
- Thomas Stevens, professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Uppsala
- K.A. Kolobova, professor, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography SB RAS
- O.H. Amirzoda, professor, Director of the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the NAST
- Kathryn Fitzsimmons, professor, University of Tubingen
- R.N. Kurbanov, principal researcher, international project THOCA
Conference Organizing Committee

Co-chairs:
- N.K. Ubaydullo, professor, A. Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography
- Lu Huayu, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Geography, Nanjing University
- R.N. Kurbanov, principal researcher, international project THOCA
- A.A. Anoykin, principal researcher, international project THOCA

Members of the organizing committee:
- T.U. Khudzhageldiev, Senior Researcher, A. Donish Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography NAST
- P.M. Sosin, Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology NAST
- Xiaoyong Wang, professor, Faculty of Geography, Nanjing University
- S.V. Schneider, senior researcher, candidate of historical sciences, Institute of Archeology and Ethnography SB RAS
- Sh. Khojaev, Ph.D., Director of the Agency for the Protection of Archaeological sites and Cultural Heritage under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- T.G. Filimonova, Senior Researcher, A. Donish Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography NAST