

Editorial: PAGES in China

It is a delightful event for the world's paleoscience community that the 2nd PAGES Open Science Meeting (OSM) will be held in Beijing, 10-12 August 2005. This meeting is entitled "Paleoclimate, Environmental Sustainability and Our Future", and will focus on the understanding of past environmental processes, natural variability and human impacts that are indispensable for developing predictive models.

The current issue of PAGES News is dedicated to this important event. The excellent manuscripts presented here recall to my mind the history of how paleo-studies in China have progressed, how Chinese scientists have strived and contributed, and how we have numerously benefited from the international community.

Twenty years ago, loess research represented one of the main themes in paleoclimatology in China, and has significantly contributed to the understanding of the history of the Earth's climate system. Since then, major progress has been made for a variety of other records. Marine and lake drilling carried out in the past years have provided a wealth of new information on various timescales. The Tibetan ice-cores, the speleothem and tree-ring records with quite a good temporal and spatial coverage have documented a detailed history of climate change in China at millennial-to-decadal scales. The abundant historical data in China, unique in many aspects, provide an excellent record for past human-nature interactions. The contributions in this special issue highlight part of this progress and also point out the liveliness of these domains. It is also worth mentioning that a loess record has been traced back to 22 Ma BP and a continuous marine record covering the last 24 Ma has been recovered from the South China Sea. These will also provide new possibilities for addressing the past land-sea interactions. Over the last years, encouraging efforts have also been made in the study of biogeochemical processes and data-model comparisons.

Although major progress has been made, there are still many open questions that require new or future answers. We are encouraged that PAGES study has constantly received great support from various national funding agencies over the past two decades, and is considered a priority research field in the future strategy plans of these agencies. This provides a solid basis for paleoresearch in China to reach a higher level and to contribute more to international efforts.

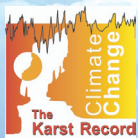
I would like also to take this opportunity to express a warm welcome to all the scientists attending the upcoming PAGES OSM. The 1st PAGES OSM was held in London in 1998 and has led to numerous international collaborations and interdisciplinary exchanges. I hope the 2nd PAGES OSM will be equally successful.

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Climate Change: The Karst Record KR IV Theoretical and Applied Karstology - Int. Symposium (XIXth edition)

26 - 29 May, 2006, Baile Herculane, Romania

Chairs: Bogdan Onac and Silviu Constantin (Romania)

The "Theoretical and Applied Karstology" (TAK) International Symposium has a long tradition in gathering scientists from all fields related to the science of karst and caves, ranging from theoretical ones (such as karst geology, caves mineralogy, physics and chemistry of karst processes, geomorphology) to applicative studies (hydrogeology, show-caves management, sustainable development in karst regions, etc). We would like to bring together again colleagues from all over the world sharing an interest in using cave deposits for paleoclimate reconstructions. All presentations dealing with speleothem records (chronology, geochemistry, isotopic, paleomagnetic, petrographic, etc.) as well as other cave deposits (detrital, archaeological, palaeontologic) relevant for climate history, evolution of karst regions and cave systems, as well as present-day cave conditions monitoring in relation with climate are welcome. We also welcome theoretical approaches and models relevant for cave deposits interpretation (e.g. speleothem growth models, accumulation rates of cave sediments, etc.).

Further Information:

- <http://www.karst.ro/>

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