

probably no human influence in the area.

Results point towards the necessity to reinforce paleoclimate research to fully appreciate natural climate variability beyond the instrumental record and to plan future strategies leading to sustainable development. Efforts should concentrate on bridging the gap between geoscientists and policy-makers and government agencies, persuading the latter two groups about the significance of our research for improving long-term planning actions. Geoscientists alone cannot seal the gap. One strategy could be to involve social scientists and economists in our projects, to de-

code our findings to the end-users and politicians.

This conference successfully established new contacts between scientists from Latin America, North America and Europe. The scientific outcome will take the form of a special issue in the journal "Quaternary International" edited by E. Piovano, R. Villalba and S. Leroy. The meeting was sponsored by IGCP-490 (The role of Holocene environmental catastrophes in human history), ICSU/IUGS (Dark Nature) and a number of Argentinean agencies including CONICET and FONCYT. The International Association of Sedimentologists, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, the

IUGS-Geoindicators Initiative and ICSU project provided funding to 26 participants from Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

The volume of abstracts is available at: <http://www.efn.uncor.edu/investigacion/ciges/Meeting/index%20mar%20chiquita%20meeting.htm>.

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Sub-aerially Exposed Continental Shelves Since the Middle Pleistocene Climatic Transition

INQUA INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP, HONG KONG SAR, CHINA, 9-13 MAY 2005

This workshop, held at the University of Hong Kong, forms part of a 3-year project aimed at the study of sub-aerially exposed continental shelves since the Middle Pleistocene climatic transition. It was attended by 47 participants from 15 countries over 4 days with an additional full-day excursion to Lantau Island. There were 8 keynote addresses covering topics ranging from exposed carbonate shelves (L. Collins), speleothems (F. Antonioli), luminescence dating (A. Wintle), climate change and human migration (A. Montenegro), sea-level studies (Y. Yokoyama), Wanganui Basin (B. Pillans), cosmogenic radionuclides (D. Fink), and geochemical evidence (A. Chivas). A special address was also given to review the results obtained through coastal infrastructural developments in Hong Kong, where 5 interglacial-glacial cycles similar to those in the Vostok ice core have been identified (W. Yim).

Sub-aerially exposed continental shelves provide evidence of climate and sea-level change. Because of the marginal location, continental shelves show features unique to both truly terrestrial and truly marine environments, and are therefore important for high resolution land-sea correlation. Other topics



Fig. 1: Field excursion stop to examine offshore cores in a shallow bay showing evidence of 4 interglacial-glacial cycles. Photo taken by Dr S. Yang.

discussed included paleosol development, greenhouse gas production, landslide deposits, fluvial deposits, eolian deposits, geotechnical properties of sea-floor sediments, and the applicability of a range of dating methods for future investigations.

Current plans are to hold the 2006 field meeting either in Western Australia, eastern India, or southern Italy. Finalized details will be announced at a later date. In 2007, a symposium

is planned for the 17th INQUA Congress in Cairns, Australia.

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