

Paleoclimate Working Group Forms at ICCP

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At the June, 2007 meeting of the International Congress on Carboniferous and Permian (ICCP) in Nanjing, China, participants agreed to form a paleoclimate working group. This reflects a growing awareness of the importance of paleoclimate for addressing a variety of Permo-Carboniferous issues.

The Co-chairs for the ICCP meeting were Xiang-dong Wang and Shu-zhong Shen, and sessions at the meeting were:

Late Paleozoic Floras as Proxies for Climatic Change
Carboniferous and Permian Macro- and Microfossils: Integrative Stratigraphy and High Resolution Biostratigraphy
Bio-Diversity Patterns and Quantitative Analysis of Biotic Databases: Computerized Palaeontology
End-Permian Biotic Mass Extinction and Early Triassic Recovery
EARTHTIME-Carboniferous and Permian geochronology
Isotopic Geochemistry and Geobiology in the Permo-Carboniferous
Evolutionary Palaeogeography and Palaeoclimatology; Pangea formation and breakup
Gondwana and Peri-Gondwana Faunas, Stratigraphy, and Geology
Stratotypes, Boundaries, and Global Correlations Cyclothems and Sequence-Stratigraphy
Carboniferous and Permian Reefs, Biofacies, and Basin Analysis
Carboniferous-Permian nonmarine-marine correlations

Two evening workshops were held, one on the PaleoStrat data system for paleontology, stratigraphy, geochemistry, and geochronology, and the other dedicated to GeoSystems and paleoclimate. Many of the talks encompassed issues of paleoclimate, so the GeoSystems workshop was attended by about 50 people. Lively discussions by this international group of participants covered issues of science, politics and funding. It was agreed that the formation of a Paleoclimate Working Group would:

- 1) Increase the visibility for the science
- 2) Provide ICCP continuity between the every 4-year ICCP meetings
- 3) Enhance interaction with other organizations
- 4) Advance the science through the sharing ideas and data

and that it would foster the development of:

- 5) Community Carboniferous-Permian climate models
- 6) A "library" of paleogeographic maps
- 7) A community "toolbox" of analytical and statistical tools

The working group will be sponsored by the ICCP, the International Commission on Stratigraphy

(ICS), and GeoSystems. If you are interested in joining this group, please send an e-mail to Walter Snyder (wsnyder@boisestate.edu) indicating that you would like to join and answer the following:

Please answer Yes (Y) or No (N) for each of the following; do you want to:

- Y/N 1) volunteer to have your name considered for being part of the first steering committee?
- Y/N 2) join the paleogeographic map committee?
- Y/N 3) join the digital data committee?

Once the working group and steering committee are formed, a chairperson for the working group will be solicited.