

International Conference on Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of the IGCP
Caravaca de la Cruz (Spain), September 15–18, 2010

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the International Conference on *Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of the IGCP* to be held in Caravaca de la Cruz, southeastern Spain from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th September 2010.

The year 2010 will be the 35th anniversary of the Spanish National Committee, and the Municipal Council of Caravaca is again our sponsor as it was in June 2003 in respect to the international conference on *Bioevents, their stratigraphic records, patterns and causes*, with several topics related to IGCP projects. To implement this anniversary, the present International Conference on *Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of the IGCP* has been organised between the IGCP Spanish National Committee and the Caravaca Municipal Council.

From time to time an European Regional Meeting of the IGCP has been organised, entirely dependent upon a host nation volunteering to organise an event of this kind. Spain has never been the venue of such a meeting, and there is a long period since the last one (Czech Republic, 1999). A proposal was submitted to the 37th Session of the IGCP Scientific Board at Paris on February 20th, 2009, which was unanimously approved. Delegates of the IGCP National Committees would be invited to present main activities and achievements of their respective committees, and would discuss topics of common interest.

During this first decade of the XXIst Century interest continues about those global phenomena which produced relevant changes in the Earth's Natural History: life evolution, climate with extreme representatives, such as Ice House Earth and Green House Earth, global balance of carbon cycle, biosphere-geosphere feedback, plate tectonic and orogenies, extraterrestrial phenomena, etc. A lot of IGCP projects over more than 25 years, have had activities in those fields, and have improved our understanding of the long history of our planet, as far back as the late Proterozoic or more recently in the Ice House Quaternary. IGCP projects are a successful arena for interdisciplinary research, especially since the 1980s, e.g., IGCP project n° 216 *Biological events in Earth History*, where geochemists, paleontologists, stratigraphers, sedimentologists, etc., collaborated and made the geological record more understandable.

Some localities studied by IGCP projects, around the world, are very important as representative for their fossil content, stratigraphical relevance, etc. These facts induced geological institutions to propose programmes such as Geosites and, especially Geoparks, to the IGCP, to preserve those localities, to build mutual profitable relationships between geoscientists, sites owners and/or local and regional authorities, in such a way that they are a natural teaching room. The geological heritage in Europe is the subject of the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage "Pro-Geo". Its representative in Spain, the Commission on Geological Heritage of the Sociedad Geológica de España, in collaboration with the IGCP Spanish Committee, is the organiser of a symposium focused on the SW European countries: France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

A preliminary programme

The meeting will be held at Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia Region, southeastern Spain
Date: 4 days, 15th to 18th September 2010.

Four symposia are foreseen:

- 35th Anniversary of the Spanish Committee, IGCP,
- Geoevents: learning about global changes,
- IGCP European Regional Meeting,
- ProGeo SW Europe Regional Meeting

Field-trips to visit interesting geological sites in the Murcia Region will be organised, as well as visits to some Spanish Geoparks.

Participation is open to every person interested in one or more of those broad topics. The meeting encourages the participation of young scientists.

Student Grant Awards

- A certain number of free registration awards will be available for Graduate students, and young PhDs (no more than 35 years old) who have contribution(s) accepted for presentation at the meeting. These awards will be offered on a first come first served basis.
- The conference will help award recipients to find low-cost accommodation in youth hostels.

Organisers: IGCP Spanish National Committee, Caravaca de la Cruz Council

Sponsor and collaborators

The conference is sponsored by the Caravaca de la Cruz Municipal Council, and is supported by the IGCP Secretariat, the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage 'Pro-Geo', the Regional Government of Murcia, the Spanish Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, the Geological Survey of Spain, the Spanish Paleontological Society, the Geological Society of Spain (Commission of Geological Heritage), the Spanish Mineralogical Society, the Conjunto Paleontológico de Teruel-Dinópolis Foundation, the Comité Español de Investigación en Cambio Ambiental Global (CEICAG), the Universities of Granada and Murcia.

Relevant deadlines

- Pre-registration: November 30th, 2009
- 2nd Circular: middle January 2010
- Abstract submission: late April 2010
- Registration: middle June 2010

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(It will be available in a few days)