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Report on the NECLIME Annual Meeting 2011 in Bucharest, Romania

The NECLIME Annual Meeting 2011 was held in Bucharest, September 27 -30.

Main topics were 1) Neogene climate and vegetation evolution with a regional focus on Western Eurasia, 2) the use of fossil woods in palaeoclimate reconstruction, as well as 3) quantification of monsoonal patterns, palaeo-elevation and teleconnections having a clear focus on the Eastern Eurasian Neogene. The **abstract volume** of the meeting is published as special issue of the Anuarul Institutului Geologic al României, vol. 77, and is available for download at the NECLIME website.

We would like to thank all participants for contributing with many exciting talks and posters, and for lively discussions thus enabling a most successful meeting. Furthermore, it is our pleasure to announce that in 2013, NECLIME for the first time will have two meetings, an Eastern Asian one in Nanjing, China, and a “European” NECLIME meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria (see forthcoming meetings below).

Hence, the discussions we had on topics 1) and 3) will certainly be resumed on the Nanjing meeting and in Sofia, respectively, ensuring as well data exchange in our joint research projects. As regards topic 2), it was appointed to have a new NECLIME working group, thus underlining the potential of fossil woods in palaeoclimate and palaeoecological reconstructions (see working groups below).

Furthermore, the relevance and importance of NECLIME research within the frame of the NECLIME 2020 objectives (analysis of climate patterns in time and space / evolution, ecosystem changes / analysis if interactions) was outlined when assessing the quality of model scenarios of changes anticipated for the near future. This holds especially for the topics “influence of GCC on terrestrial climate” of the IPCC report, and aims of the newly formed IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). Review papers in journals addressing a broader readership of geoscientists are welcome to underline the relevance of our research.



Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to Stanila Iamandei and Valentin Paraschiv, and co-workers for their dedication and hospitality, making a perfect meeting possible – Thank you so much from all of us!

Working groups

Reports on the activities of NECLIME working groups were given in the frame of the final discussion

- **New ! Working group on fossil wood**
 - Jacob Sakala kindly agreed to establish a working group on fossil woods. Amongst other topics, wood anatomy as a palaeoclimate proxy will be in the focus. A first meeting will be organized in 2013
- **Digital data on plant distribution (Angela A. Bruch, Torsten Utescher)**
 - Presentation of the new chorotree website by Christopher Traiser (www.chorotree.de)
- **Taxonomy of the Neogene macrobotanical record of Eurasia (Bóglarka Erdei, Torsten Utescher)**
 - Summary of recent advances (report on the meeting in Budapest including taxa list with NLR interpretations are available online under “events”)
- **Taxonomy of the Neogene palynomorph record of Eurasia (Dimiter Ivanov)**
 - Summary of recent advances (cf. abstract volume and report on the meeting in Cracow, available online under “events”)
- **Detailed and high resolution records (Andrea Kern, Mathias Harzhauser, Dimiter Ivanov)**
 - Report on the MATLAB course in Vienna, the potential of the program and alternative software solutions (cf. summary available online under “events”)

We strongly encourage all of you who have interest in joining on of these groups to contact the working group coordinator(s).



Forthcoming meetings

- **NECLIME annual meeting 2012 in Nanjing, China, 27-29 May 2012, hosted by Wang Wei-Ming**

In general, topics to be discussed on the Nanjing meeting should cover all NECLIME issues in order to attract as many colleagues from Eastern Eurasia as possible. Thus, a broader view on Eastern Eurasian evolution of climate and vegetation is envisaged, including the high and low latitudes. The organizers will try to provide facilities of remote contributions via Internet for European colleagues. The following topics will be in the focus:

- Palaeoclimate and palaeoenvironmental evolution in the Neogene of Eastern Eurasia, interactions between climate, biosphere and palaeogeography
- Variability and seasonality of precipitation, including monsoonal patterns and the aridification of Central Asia
- Identification of palaeoaltitude from the palaeobotanical record.
- Palaeoclimate and vegetation modeling
- Floristic exchange between Europe and Asia
- Stratigraphical concepts for E Eurasia

A NECLIME special issue with a focus on Neogene climate and vegetation in Eastern Eurasia is intended to be organised for Palaeoworld in the frame of this meeting. Please consider your contribution.

- **IPC XIII/ IOPC IX conference in Tokyo, Japan, 23-30 August 2012**

NECLIME will organize four open sessions on this conference:

- "Into the Icehouse" - climate and vegetation change at the end of the Pliocene (Utescher & Bruch)
- Quantifying Cenozoic vegetation – new developments in standardized approaches (Bruch, Vassio & Eder)
- Climatically-forced vegetation changes short-termed (Kern & Utescher)
- Himalayan uplift and climate and vegetation change in East Asia throughout the Cenozoic (Zhou ZheKun & Momohara)

Information on funding possibilities can be retrieved from the conference web site (<http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/psj3/ipc13japan/IPC-IOPC/index.html>).



- **“European” NECLIME meeting 2012 and joint meeting of the working groups on taxonomy of the macro and micro-palaeobotanical record in Sofia, Bulgaria, first week of October, hosted by Dimiter Ivanov.**

The joint meeting of both Neclime working groups will be organized by Dimiter Ivanov, and Boglárka Erdei. A first circular providing more details on schedule and program will be sent to you by the coordinators of the working groups early next year.

The “European” Neclime meeting 2012 is planned to be subsequent to the working group meeting and the RCMNS 2012 Interim Colloquium, Bucharest, September 27. – 30, and is tentatively scheduled for the first week of October. The conference will have a clear regional focus on the Paratethys and Eastern Mediterranean. Depending on the number of submitted contributions a duration of 2.5 – 3 days is intended for the “Sofia meeting”, plus 1.5 days for the workshop. A first circular will be sent in early spring next year.

Topics:

- East meets West – Neogene climate and vegetation evolution from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Eastern and Central Paratethys.
- Aridification trends and large scale changes of palaeovegetation patterns – evidence from plants and vertebrates
- Higher resolving reconstructions
- Evolution and dynamics of lacustrine systems

Geologica Carpathica and Phytologia Balcanica are potential options for the publication of a special issue on Paratethys and Eastern Mediterranean climate/environmental evolution.

- **NECLIME annual meeting 2013**

It is intended to hold the NECLIME Annual Meeting 2013 at the Komarov Botanical Institute in St. Petersburg. We are grateful to Svetlana Popova and Dmitry Gromyko for this invitation!

NECLIME web pages

Please contribute in keeping the website updated. Everybody is welcome to submit references of his/her actual publications contributing to NECLIME and outlines of forthcoming projects. This may also serve as a platform to stimulate new projects and to find partners for future activities.



To get the site more informative and colourful we are planning to establish a NECLIME gallery with some selected figures from our publications including pictures from fossils, field work, meetings, etc.

Please submit references, other materials or corrections of existing entries, if any, to our webmaster, Andrea (andrea.kern@NHM-WIEN.AC.AT).

Personalia

We are pleased to welcome our new members:

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