



Chinese Academy of Sciences NECLIME Symposium - Neogene climate evolution in Eurasia

Nov 18 to 20, 2010, Kunming, China

organized by Zhou Zhe-Kun & Volker Mosbrugger

In order to obtain a better understanding of long-term palaeoclimate changes during the Neogene in Eurasia, the international research network NECLIME – Neogene Climate Evolution in Eurasia was established in 2000. The main objectives of NECLIME are: (1) the quantitative reconstruction of the Neogene climate evolution in Eurasia and of its patterns in time and space based on proxy-data and their quantitative climatic interpretation by means of standardised techniques, (2) the reconstruction of Neogene regional and global atmospheric circulation patterns by means of climate modelling, and (3) the analysis of the interaction between palaeogeography, vegetation and climate. More details about the concept, structure and members of NECLIME can be found on the NECLIME homepage www.neclime.de.

Today the eastern and western coasts of Eurasia are under very different climatic conditions influenced by the predominant atmospheric and oceanic circulation. During the Neogene these conditions changed severely. The patterns and changes of the European climate have been studied intensively by NECLIME during the last 10 years. More than 400 Miocene fossil floras have been compiled and quantitatively analysed in terms of several climatic parameters during the last years. Quantitative climate maps for Europe are generated for each Miocene stage. Characteristic climate patterns appear and can be related to both, global climate change and Alpine tectonics. On one hand, it can be stated that the general climatic change from Middle to Late Miocene, i.e. the decrease in temperature and precipitation, is expressed in the maps. The climate development tends to cause an increase in both, latitudinal and seasonal differentiation, especially for temperature parameters. On the other hand, the palaeogeographic evolution during the Miocene obviously has strong influence on the climatic picture by mountain building and the retreat of the Paratethys.

In parallel, a lot of work has been done by Chinese colleagues and NECLIME members to reconstruct the climate and vegetation development in China. Having this NECLIME meeting first in East Asia, we would like to offer a platform for the colleagues from all parts of East Asia to exchange new results and ideas. The existing knowledge should be summarized and integrated to get a detailed view about East Asian climate history and to detect open research questions for future projects.

Moreover, we would like to focus also on a comparison and integration of data on a continental scale between Eastern and Western Eurasia, trying to detect interactions and over regional links of climate signal to advance our understanding of the Neogene climate system.

Therefore, we would like to define four major topics of the planned meeting:

- East Asian climate and vegetation in the Neogene - local and regional evidence; including
- Large scale patterns and teleconnections in Eastern Eurasia and comparison with Europe, including the history of East and Southeast Asia monsoon systems and the impact of Himalayan uplift on Eurasian Neogene climate history
- Impact of Neogene climatic and environmental changes on East Asian biodiversity

The meeting will be held in Kunming City, a well-known spring-forever provincial capital of Yunnan, southwest China, Nov 18 to 20, 2010. Here is the preliminary itinerary:

17 Nov.: arrival and registration

18-19 Nov.: scientific presentations

20 Nov.: field trip to experience the amazing biodiversity and vegetation around Kunming

21 Nov.: departure from Kunming

Please register with a preliminary title of your contribution before APRIL 1st to "Zhou Zhekun" <zhouzk@mail.kib.ac.cn>. Then you will receive a second circular with details about abstract submission and program.

Registration Fee is three hundred Euro per person, which includes four nights of accommodation, food, transportation from airport to hotel and hotel to airport, conference abstract volume and one day excursion.

If you are interested to attend the annual meeting of the Chinese Paleobotanical Society with participants of usual about 100 from China, organized by Dr. Zhou at the same hotel in Kunming on Nov. 16-17, you are welcome. Details will be announced later.

Information about Yunnan, China:

Yunnan is best known for its biodiversity in Far East, with more than 15,000 higher plants and different vegetation types spanning from tropical to alpine conditions. Post conference excursion will be organized if a minimum number of 5 participants request.

We welcome all the colleagues with expertise on the Neogene evolution of vegetation and climate and look forward to seeing in China in November 2010.

Yours sincerely,
Zhou Zhekun and Volker Mosbrugger