



**The First International Symposium of the  
International Geoscience Programme Project 608**

**Cretaceous ecosystems and their responses to palaeoenvironmental changes  
in Asia and the Western Pacific**

**Lucknow, India  
December 20-27, 2013**

**Second Circular**

**Objective**

The Cretaceous is one of the greenhouse periods in the Earth's history, well known for elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels and much higher global sea level than what exists today. Knowledge of past global warming events and their effects on the ecosystem help us better understand the consequences of present and future climatic changes. Palaeobiodiversity, palaeobiogeography, palaeoclimatic and palaeoceanographic aspects with their many ramifications are important to understand the Cretaceous Period in its totality. The project IGCP 608 aims to enhance understanding of the Asia-Pacific Cretaceous marine and terrestrial ecosystems and their responses to palaeoenvironmental changes based on the study of well preserved geological records of Asia and the Western Pacific region through a variety of lithological, biotic and geochemical proxy data. A diversified marine and terrestrial fossil record of this region will provide interesting insights into faunal and floral diversity, their turnover, patterns of extinction, and subsequent recoveries. Geochemical studies on the Cretaceous marine sediments of Western Pacific and Eastern Tethys can provide useful information on temperature fluctuations, latitudinal temperature gradients, Oceanic Anoxic Events (OAEs), Oceanic Red Beds (ORBs), ocean acidification etc. The major objectives are to discuss and delineate establishment, variations and evolution of the Cretaceous terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Asia and the Western Pacific.

The first international symposium of IGCP 608 scheduled to be held at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), Lucknow is planned to share state-of-the-art knowledge of Cretaceous Land, Ocean, Biosphere and Ecosystems in each participating country in addition to presentation of research results on a variety of multidisciplinary themes related to the Cretaceous Period. A special session is also planned for some selected sedimentary basins in the Indian Subcontinent fundamentally important for understanding the Cretaceous ecosystems of South Asia. The Symposium will provide a platform to workers of diverse disciplines and

geographical areas of research activity to present their results and ideas, and to discuss problems of Cretaceous terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

A **post Symposium five-day field excursion** to the Cretaceous non-marine to shallow-marine sequences distributed in the central and western peninsular India is proposed. These sequences consist of the Bagh Beds with a prolific marine fauna and the overlying dinosaur-bearing Lameta Formation, which in turn is overlain by the Deccan Trap volcanics and the intercalated sedimentary deposits (inter-trappeans) straddling the KT boundary.

**Venue: Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, (BSIP), Lucknow**

The Institute, founded by Professor Birbal Sahni FRS in 1946, is a well-established centre for integrated research on palaeobotany, palynology and allied earth system sciences and coordinates its activities with other knowledge centers in the areas of mutual interests. It has specialist scientific groups working on Precambrian, Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic and Quaternary megafossils, palynofossils, fossil phytoplankton and organic matter. Over the years, BSIP has hosted several international & national conferences & workshops with active participation by researchers from all over the globe. The BSIP is privileged to host the **First International Symposium of the International Geoscience Programme Project 608**.



**About the city of Lucknow:**

Lucknow is a historically important city well connected by Air, Rail and Road to New Delhi and other major cities of India. There are many historical monuments reminiscent of the Moughal and British periods (Bara Imambara, Chota Imambara,

British Residency, Art Gallery, Roomi Gate, La Martiniere etc.). Lucknow is a gourmet city well-known for its *Awadhi* or *Mughlai* cuisine besides multi-cuisine foods for international visitors. The city is also famous for its unique embroidery, done manually, called *Chikankari*. Weather during the month of December in Lucknow is cold; delegates are advised to carry adequate winter clothes.

Lucknow is also known for a number of educational and research institutions such as the University of Lucknow (adjacent to BSIP), BR Ambedkar University, CSM Medical University, SG Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Central Drug Research Institute, National Botanical Research Institute, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Central Institute of Medical & Aromatic Plants, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, to name a few.

### **Travel Information**

Lucknow city can be easily reached via frequent domestic flights from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi and other major cities including Kolkata and Mumbai (Bombay) as well as by train. Train reservation is, however, is not easy to obtain and must be made several weeks in advance. At the Lucknow airport which is about 15 kms from BSIP, conveyance will be made available to bring the delegates to the venue of the symposium and/or their respective places of stay. Delegates are advised to reach Lucknow on December 19, 2013 as the Symposium programme shall start at 9:00 AM on December 20, 2013. **Delegates participating in the post symposium excursion are requested to book their tickets for return journey from New Delhi only.**

### **Transport Facilities**

Transport will be provided to delegates from the Lucknow airport and railway station to the venue of the symposium and to the places of their stay. Delegates will also be provided transportation during the days of the symposium to facilitate their participation in sessions and all other programmes.

### **Letters of Invitation**

Letters of Invitation to attend the symposium will be provided upon request from delegates who intend to participate and have already submitted the registration form. The invitation letters are intended to help delegates in obtaining visa for traveling to India, where applicable, and do not imply any commitment for financial assistance to attend the symposium.

### **Passports and Visas**

Delegates coming from abroad require a valid passport with a minimum of six months validity, and visa as per Government of India visa policies. *A photocopy of the passport is required to be sent by the delegates to the organizers to complete certain formalities at our end.*

### **Accommodation**

The delegates will be provided accommodation on payment basis in hotels/guest houses. The current tariff of hotels in Lucknow ranges approximately from ~\$ 50 (Rs.3000) to ~ \$150 ( Rs. 8000). Efforts are being made to provide accommodation to the delegates in guest houses of other government research Institutes at economical rates as BSIP has limited accommodation at its own guest house. Delegates are requested to send accommodation requirements well in advance. The month of December being a winter season, the delegates are advised to carry adequate winter clothes.

### **Symposium Fee**

**Registration Fee** for the Symposium is \$ 150 for delegates and \$ 100 for accompanying persons. Fee for delegates cover Symposium material (bag, abstract volume and stationary); breakfast, lunch, tea/coffee; Symposium reception, banquet and dinner on all days (20-22 December, 2013) besides internal travel.

### **Fee for Post-Symposium Field Excursion**

Fee for the Post-Symposium field excursion to central and western peninsular India is \$ 800 each for delegates/ accompanying persons. Covered in the fee are air travel (Lucknow-New Delhi-Indore-New Delhi), hotel accommodation, all meals during the excursion days (23-27 December, 2013), and participation in closing ceremony. Also included is a visit to the world famous 5th -6th century AD Buddhist rock cut caves (Bagh Caves), a heritage site with a English speaking official guide especially requested from the Archaeological Survey of India.

### **Support Programme**

According to annual funding received from UNESCO/IUGS for IGCP 608, financial support may be considered to cover registration and/or accommodation charges for a limited number of participants from developing countries. The consideration shall be subject to: 1. submission and acceptance of abstract before the deadline. 2. participation in the symposium by the applicant. Financial support does not include international/domestic travel and excursion fee. For financial support please contact Professor Sunil Bajpai ([directorbsip@gmail.com](mailto:directorbsip@gmail.com); [sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com)).

### **Abstract Submission**

Abstracts of both oral & poster presentations, highlighting salient points in not more than 2000 words, typed in double space in Times New Roman, 12 point font mentioning the title, name(s) of the author(s) with their affiliation (s) and e-mail ids should be sent to Professor Sunil Bajpai ([sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com)) and Prof. G.V.R. Prasad ([guntupalli.vrprasad@gmail.com](mailto:guntupalli.vrprasad@gmail.com)), **before October 31, 2013**. Participants are requested to mention the name of the delegate (in multi-authored papers) who wishes to make an oral presentation.

## **Publication**

An abstract volume and field excursion guidebook will be published for participants. The proceedings of the symposium are proposed to be published as an edited volume of a peer-reviewed, international scientific journal.

## **Programme and Schedule**

### **Itinerary for IGCP 608 first meeting in India**

19 December, 2013: Arrival of participants  
20-22 December, 2013: Scientific sessions of the symposium; business meeting  
23-27 December, 2013: Post-symposium field excursion

20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013	Inauguration of IGCP Symposium at BSIP, Lucknow Scientific sessions
21 <sup>st</sup> December, 2013	Scientific sessions, BSIP, Lucknow
22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2013	Scientific sessions, BSIP, Lucknow; Departure for Indore in the afternoon
23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2013	Post-symposium field excursion; stay at Zeerabad Visit to sections around Zeerabad
24 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013	Visit to sections around Zeerabad ; Visit to the Bagh Caves
25 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013	Departure for Godhra (afternoon); stay at Godhra
26 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013	Visit to Rahioli section; stay at Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad)
27 <sup>th</sup> December, 2013	Valedictory at Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad)

## **Schedule**

The schedule to the IGCP 608 First Symposium is as follows.

31 July 2013: Submission of the Registration Form (extended date)  
30 September, 2013: Request for Accommodation  
31 October, 2013: Submission of the Abstract  
31 October, 2013: Submission of request for financial support  
30 November, 2013: Announcement of detailed Symposia Programme

Website link: [www.bsip.res.in](http://www.bsip.res.in)

## SECOND CIRCULAR

### First Symposium of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP 608): Asia Pacific Cretaceous Ecosystems

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Please type or write in block letters

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ First and middle name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_ M \_\_ F

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliations with Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the presentation \_\_\_\_\_

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Mode of Presentation:  Oral  Poster

Please fax or e-mail the filled-in registration form by July 31, 2013 to :

Professor Sunil Bajpai

53 University Road, Lucknow - 226007, India.

**Tel:** +91- 0522 -2740008, 2740011, 2740413, 2740399

**Fax:** +91-0522 -2740485, 2740098

**E-mail:** [directorbsip@gmail.com](mailto:directorbsip@gmail.com); [sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sunilbajpai2001@yahoo.com)