



First Circular

28 July - 3 August, 2007
www.INQUA2007.net.au



May 2006

Quaternary Research and Global Change

Rising greenhouse gases are driving climatic boundaries beyond the Quaternary envelope; rising tides of humanity are pushing the ecosphere towards an impoverished and uncharted state. The world approaches a crossroad.

In uncharted seas, sailing directions are taken from historical knowledge. Never has the need to understand Quaternary history been greater: history of climate, the biosphere and humankind. Quaternarists are skilled in integrating with other disciplines. The challenges are clear; our goal is that INQUA 2007 enhances our global ability to meet them.

Host

Australasian Quaternary Association Inc.

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www.aqua.org.au

AQUA



Welcome

On behalf of INQUA, the Organising Committee has pleasure in announcing the next congress, to be held at Cairns, in Australia's tropical north, and invite expressions of interest in participating. Please notify us of your interest, and continue to visit the website (<http://www.INQUA2007.net.au>) as momentum for the Congress increases.

When

Saturday 28 July – Friday 3 August, 2007

The Venue

Set between the Great Barrier Reef and rain-forest mountains, the tropical city of Cairns lies within the climatic heat-engine of the western Pacific. INQUA 2007 will be held in the Cairns Convention Centre, a splendid facility in downtown Cairns, close to the waterfront. The Centre comprises a main auditorium (capacity 1100 in tiered seating), a large hall for poster and sponsor

displays, seven conference rooms (capacities from 65 to 160) plus a number of smaller meeting rooms (capacities from 10 to 30) (click to view), together with extensive open-plan spaces.

Accommodation

Cairns offers plentiful accommodation ranging from five-star hotels to motels and back-packer hostels, much within short walking distance from the Convention Centre. The conference will have block bookings in 3½ star – 5 star hotels. Family apartments will also be available. A wide variety of inexpensive accommodation within walking distance of the Conference Centre also is available; from October 2006, this website will provide a full guide to accommodation.

Registration and indicative costs

Registration will open in October 2006 and standard-rate registration will continue until 31 January 2007. The standard rate is expected to be around US\$600 (Aus\$850), and the late rate will be around US\$700. The discount student rate will be about US\$430. Mid-conference excursions and the conference dinner event are expected to be around US\$70 (AU\$100).

Travel support

Limited funds are available to assist young scientists and students to attend the Congress. INQUA will preferentially support attendees from developing countries and Eastern Europe, and AINSE (Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering) and AQUA will be able to assist some Australian and New Zealand postgraduate students. Persons wishing to apply for such financial support will be requested to provide their proposed abstract and other details by 31 January 2007. Further details of this process will be provided on the Congress website by July 2006.

Abstracts, submission and publication

All abstracts should be submitted by 31 January 2007. Submission will be electronic, via this website, and will be accessible from July 2006. Abstracts will be published as an issue of *Quaternary International* and will be distributed to delegates at the Congress.

Program outline

A draft program outline is provided on the website and will be continuously updated. The program will include about 6 major plenary sessions in the main auditorium, together with a series of keynote addresses linked to topical symposia. There will be up to 8 parallel sessions of symposia and oral sessions. Except for plenary and keynote addresses, oral presentations will be 15 minutes in length. Poster presentations will be displayed in two 3-day blocks of 400+, separated by the mid-conference excursion. Poster authors will be available for discussion from 1.15 to 2.45 pm each day.

The program outline allows for about 800 oral papers, excluding keynote and plenary presentations. There are 9 slots for half-hour keynote presentations; with 8 parallel sessions, there could be 72 keynotes but the real number is likely to be fewer than 30, being the number of symposia and topical sessions.

Plenary sessions and keynotes

Six major *plenary events* (one per day in the main auditorium) are proposed; each would have 2-3 principal speakers addressing a theme of global significance. One *plenary event* will be held to honour the late Sir Nicholas Shackleton and will be devoted to “Innovation in Quaternary Science”. Symposia and sessions have the option of including a *keynote address*; these will be held either in the main auditorium or larger conference rooms, and may run in parallel. Two time-slots daily are allocated to keynotes.

Symposia and sessions

The Local Organising Committee strongly urges persons interested in leading a symposium or session to propose a title or theme. Groups wishing to convene workshops or business meetings within the Congress are also invited to contact the Local Organising Committee. A list of possible symposia and sessions is provided on the web site.

Pre- and Post-conference field trips

A wide variety of field trips will be offered, catering for a diverse range of interests including landscape evolution, coastal geomorphology and archaeology. Trips will be conducted through Australia, Southeast Asia, and New Zealand. A current list of offered trips is provided on the website.

Organising Committees

An organising committee deals with the administration and running of the Congress. Subcommittees deal with the program, excursions, publicity, sponsorship and publications arising from the meeting. A current list of committee members is provided on the web site.

All enquiries should be directed to the Congress email address INQUA2007@icms.com.au or addressed to XVII INQUA Congress 2007, ICMS Pty Ltd, GPO Box 2200, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, Telephone: +61 2 6257 3299, Facsimile: +61 2 6257 3256