

## The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Jurassic System, San Luis Potosí, Mexico, 4<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> of February 2018

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In 2014, towards the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> Jurassic Congress in Jaipur, India, we received a warm invitation from Dr Ana Bertha Villaseñor on behalf of her scientific colleagues for the 10th Jurassic Congress to be held in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. The city of San Luis Potosí, an old colonial mining town in the central Mexico Altiplano, was a good choice – it is famous of its elegant colonial style, including the beautiful Templo de Nuestra Señora del Carmen – a pearl of the expressive *barroco novohispano* architecture.

The 10<sup>th</sup> ICJS was co-organized by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (UASLP). Preparatory work for the congress started in 2013 and the Organising Committee had expended an enormous amount of time and resources on the organization and a complex set of arrangements. The Congress sessions were all held at the Centro Cultural Bicentenario of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Mexico. The theme chosen for the Congress was “Marine and Non-marine Jurassic Systems”, organized with a variety of 10 scientific sessions:

1. Marine and non-marine Jurassic boundaries and stratotypes;
2. Biostratigraphy, sequence stratigraphy, isotopic stratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy, and cycle stratigraphy of the Jurassic;
3. Biodiversity dynamics and evolution of Jurassic life;
4. Depositional facies, palaeogeography and environmental change and ecosystem reconstruction in the Tethys sea;
5. Jurassic paleoclimate, paleoatmospheric circulation, and CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheric levels;
6. Biotic, climatic and ocean chemistry effects of CAMP;
7. Major bio- and geological events of the Jurassic, their causes and mechanics;
8. Mineral and energy resources (oil, gas and coals, *etc.*) of Jurassic deposits;
9. Gulf of Mexico – Caribbean evolution, and Jurassic source rocks and reservoirs;
10. Jurassic Geoparks and museums: their roles in geological relic protection and public education.

Altogether, 81 delegates from 16 countries participated in the Congress and 77 oral and 15 poster presentations were given, triggering many interesting debates. As usual, an important topic of each Jurassic Congress is advance in defining missing GSSPs (Global Stratotype Section and Points). Besides accomplishment of the working group for the base of the Kimmeridgian (a formal proposal was submitted in 2016), progress with the last remaining GSSP definitions, the base-Callovian, base Oxfordian and base-Tithonian are progressing more slowly (although the base-Oxfordian is at a more advanced stage). A separate session was devoted to the base-Callovian issue, mainly regarding the historical proposed boundary stratotype for the Callovian Stage at Albstadt-Pfeffingen, Germany. Eckhard Mönning reported on current state of this site and the much advanced studies on ammonite fossils. However, strong condensation of the profile is a major concern, and there is still a need to find an alternative candidate that meets all the formal and practical requirements.

An extremely important part of any Jurassic Congress is the field excursion programme before and after the Congress. With a superb stratigraphic record of the Jurassic system developed in varied shallow marine, continental, and transitional environments, with a wide variety of tectonic settings including continental rifts, peri-arc marginal basins, epicontinental

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**Fig. 1. Pre-Congress field trip C, Michelangelo Martini explains provenance and depositional architecture of fluvial deposits of the Otlattepec Formation. Photo: Pitaksit Ditbanjong**



**Fig. 2. Discussion at the outcrop of channel and fluvial plain deposits, Santa Cruz Nuevo, field trip C. Photo: Pitaksit Ditbanjong**

shelves, and pelagic environments, pre- and post-Congress field trips offered us a splendid opportunity for expanding our knowledge and experience.

The field trips included:

- Paleoenvironment and biostratigraphy of the Upper Sinemurian (Lower Jurassic) of east-central Mexico. Leader – Carlos Esquivel Macias.
- The Hettangian-Sinemurian record of NW Sonora. Leaders – Carlos González León and Timothy Lawton.
- Two canyons through the Jurassic: sedimen-



**Fig. 3. Charming local geological museum, established by local community of the Rosario Nuevo village, hosting collection of fossils from the continental to marine succession of the Tezoatlán Basin**



**Fig. 4. Archeological site “Cerro de las Minas” – remnants of the Nuiñe culture stronghold (c. 400–800 CE), overlooking the town of Huajuapán de León**

Additionally, the Mid-Congress excursion to the Joya Honda maar was offered, followed by memorable Mexican Ranch Party at Peotillos Hacienda.

A special volume for 15 to 20 works presented at the congress, related to the American Jurassic will be published by Journal of South American Earth Science.

At the closure ceremony of the Congress, the Delegates expressed their support for the inclusion of *Volumina Jurassica*, our open access journal supported by ISJS, in the coveted listing of ISI/Web of Science. Then, Josef Pálffy (past ISJS chair) presented Budapest as the venue for the 11<sup>th</sup> Jurassic Congress in 2022. This proposal was

tological and paleontological records of Oaxaca, southern Mexico. Leaders: Patricia Velazco and Michelangelo Martini.

- Early Jurassic volcanic-sedimentary remnants at the ancient western equatorial margin of Pangea and the Late Jurassic epicontinental shelf of the Central Mexico Mesozoic Basin: Zuloaga and La Caja formations in northern México, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas. Leaders: Ana Bertha Villaseñor, Rafael Barboza, Federico Olóriz.
- Gulf of Mexico rift to drift transition recorded in Chiapas. Leader: Roberto Molina Garza.



**Fig. 5. Cactus “forest” – characteristic Mexican landscape of Oaxaca and Puebla state**

received very positively and after three congresses held in Asia and America, the next Jurassic Congress will return to Europe.

The organizing committee, chaired by Ana Bertha Villaseñor, spared no expense to make us feel welcome and to enable an excellent and successful Congress to be held. Our hosts introduced us not only to the Jurassic geology of Mexico, bringing home to delegates the pivotal role of Mexican Jurassic in understanding Jurassic biogeography, but they also took all the opportunities to show us natural beauty, fascinating history and cultural richness of this great country. We felt a warm hospitality everywhere, enjoying fantastic company, food, music and dances at the farewell cocktail party at the Casa de Moneda and during traditional Mexican “*callejoneada*” (walking, singing and dancing with music band in the streets of San Luis Potosí). To all our great hosts we express our sincere thanks.



**Fig. 6.** Old town of San Luis Potosí – Templo de Nuestra Señora del Carmen