

Theme: SEQS conference 2002 Report

## **THE INQUA-SEQS CONFERENCE - 2002 REPORT** (Ufa, 30<sup>th</sup> June-7<sup>th</sup> July 2002)

This year's meeting of the INQUA Subcommittee on European Quaternary Stratigraphy took place in Russia, Ufa, 30<sup>th</sup> June-7<sup>th</sup> July.

The theme of the meeting was "UPPER PLIOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE OF THE SOUTHERN URALS REGION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR CORRELATION OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN PARTS OF EUROPE".

The conference was organized by INQUA Subcommittee on European Quaternary Stratigraphy, INQUA Commission on Stratigraphy, Institute of Geology Ufimian Scientific Centre Russian Academy of Sciences, SEQS - EuroMam and EuroMal, Academy of Sciences of the Bashkortostan Republic, State Geological Department of the Bashkortostan Republic, Oil company "Bashneft", Russian Science Foundation for Basic Research, Bashkir State University with the Scientific committee led by Dr. Thijs van Kolfschoten (Leiden University, The Netherlands) including also Prof. Philip Gibbard (Cambridge University, United Kingdom), Prof. Leczek Marks (Polish Geological Institute, Poland) and Dr. Guzel Danukalova (Institute of Geology USC RAS, Russia).

The organising committee of the conference led by the director of the Institute of Geology USC RAS, Corr. Member of RAS Victor Puchkov including also Rasikh Khamitov, The Head of the State Geological Department of the Bashkortostan Republic, Alexander Chernov, the State Geological Department of the Bashkortostan Republic, Victor Philippov, the Council of Ministers of the Bashkortostan Republic, Dr. Emir Gareev, Ufimian Scientific Centre RAS, Rauf Nugumanov, Chair of the Administration of Ufa, Prof. Mukhamet Kharrasov, Rector of the Bashkir State University, Prof. Rifkat Talipov, Pro-rector of the Bashkir State University, Irek Zaripov, Chair of the Administration of the Burzhan region, Khamza Akhmetov, Chair of the Administration of the Karmaskaly region, Vener Kamaletdinov, Chair of the Administration of the Blagovar region, Ravil' Davletov, Chair of the Administration of the Dyurtyuly region and Dyurtyuly town, Alexander Kim, Chair of the Administration of the Ilish region, Ampir Syrtlanov, the Director of the Oil company "Bashneft", Iljaz Abdrachmanov, the Director of the Uchaly mining company, Mikhail Kosarev, the Director of the National park "Bashkortostan", Dr. Guzel Danukalova, Institute of Geology USC RAS, Dr. Anatoly Yakovlev, Institute of Geology USC RAS and Dr. Larisa Belan, Bashkir State University.

The conference focused on 1) Upper Pleistocene – Holocene: environmental changes, stratigraphy, sediments (lithology, genesis), Palaeolithic archaeology (age, geological position and the environment), Quaternary dating methods, human influence on environmental changes; 2) on Lower – Middle Pleistocene; 3) Upper Pliocene and its transition to the Pleistocene.

A main issue was the inter-regional east-west correlation of the European Quaternary.

69 participants from Belarus, China, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia attended the meeting.

The conference started with a cultural excursion around Ufa (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

During 5 sessions (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> of July) 16 papers were presented orally and a poster session comprised 43 presentations. The opening 1<sup>st</sup> session included presentations by Corr. Member of RAS, Prof. Dr. Victor Puchkov on the Geological development of the Urals with emphasis on tectonic and neotectonic problems, and the presentation addressed partly to the area of the excursion by Guzel Danukalova,

Anatoly Yakovlev, Liliana Alimbekova, Alexander Agadjanjan, Pavel Kosintcev, Evgenija Morozova and Andrei Eremeev and also presenting the general outline of the Late Pliocene and Pleistocene fauna and flora of the Southern Urals region. Almost a half of the conference presentations concerned directly the interregional correlation topics, namely of Central and Eastern or Western Europe and the Mediterranean, and of Central Asia. All of these greatly contributed to the solution of the main conference topic.

The oral and poster sessions were followed by 4,5 days of field excursion (2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> of July). During the excursion the Upper Pliocene, Lower, Middle and Upper Pleistocene sections along the excursion route (about 200 km to the west and 350 km to the south-east from Ufa) the following objects were demonstrated: the Gornova section in the Belaja river valley (Middle-Upper Pleistocene): Late Palaeolithic site on the high terrace of the river Belaya; the Symbugino section (Upper Pliocene – Lower Pleistocene): sequence in the Chermasan river valley; the Novo-Sultanbekovo section (Upper Pliocene – Lower Pleistocene): sequences exposed in gullies located in the Belaya river valley; the Bazitamak section (Upper Pliocene – Lower Pleistocene – Upper Pleistocene): sequences in the Baza river valley; the Chui-Atasevo sections (Upper Pliocene – Lower Pleistocene – Upper Pleistocene): sequences in the Baza river valley; the Ilenka sections (Upper Pliocene – Upper Pleistocene – Holocene): sequences in the Ilenka river valley; the Shulgan-Tash (Kapova) cave in the Ural Mountains – Late Palaeolithic locality with wall paintings. The participants visited the Geological Museum of the State Geological Department (Ufa) and the Regional Museum of Natural History in the Djurtjuly town. The participants of the conference traveled to the Shulgan-Tash (Kapova) cave crossing the Southern Urals and then crossed the boundary between Europe and Asia on the bridge across the Ural river. The excursion programme in the different regions of Bashkortostan republic was enhanced up with cultural activities presented by the local Bashkirian people.

89 scientists from 12 countries contributed to the volume of conference abstracts.

The conference papers include the volume of abstracts (96 pages) and the excursion guide (139 pages).

The conference proceedings will be published in the Quaternary International and also in some others Journals. The contribution must have a maximum size of 10 printed pages including figures, tables and references. The manuscript must be sent before January 1, 2003, to: Thijs van Kolfschoten, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, PO Box 9515, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank all the people involved in organisation of this meeting and all the participants for their contributions.

The Organizing Committee would like to thank INQUA for the financial support (3231 Euros) of the SEQS Conference in Ufa.

These funds were used to support the attendance of scientists at the conference.

The money were used to cover conference registration, conference field-excursion logistics, hotel accomodation and food.

Chair of the Organising Committee:

Director of the Institute of Geology USC RAS,  
Dr. Ph., Corr. Member of RAS

\_\_\_\_\_ **Victor Puchkov**