

2020

Stay connected – the INQUA-SACCOM SEQS 2020 Virtual Meeting in Poland

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The Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy (SEQS) developed during the past decades to a scientific family and the annual SEQS Meetings and Fieldtrips strengthened the cordial friendships between the participants from several countries from Eastern and Western Europe. It also allowed personal insights into the Quaternary Geology of Italy, Romania, Armenia, Slovenia, France, Russia etc. Prof. Adam Nadachowski, from Poland was a frequent participant of the SEQS Meetings and Fieldtrips and the 2020 SEQS-Meeting was dedicated to his 70th birthday.

Perfectly organized by his Polish colleagues (Prof. Krzysztof Stefaniak, PhD Urszula Ratajczak, Artur Sobczyk, Adrian Marciszak, Adam Kotowski, and several others) Adam Nadachowski was honored by a “firework” of more than 82 virtual presentations. The topics of the presentations varied from biostratigraphy, fauna and vegetation, Karst and Cave sequences, Quaternary stratigraphy, chronology, geomorphology and tectonics, Human and environment in the Quaternary to Major regional subdivisions of the Quaternary in European and Asian regions. Special attention was for the SEQS Project DATESTRA - towards a common database. A total of 95 participants from 14 countries heard about new investigations from the Himalaya, the Chinese loess plateau, the caves of the Russia far east to Hominid sites in Kyrgyzstan, river plains in Slovenia and numerous other sites in Poland, Russia, Italy, Austria etc. About 45% of all presentations were held by female researchers and a very balanced mixture of experienced and young Quaternary scientists attended the sessions of the meeting. The organizers would like to publish the proceedings of the meeting in a Special Issue of Quaternary International.

The SEQS-meeting in Poland was a big success, despite the fact that it was “only” virtual. The Fieldtrip, originally scheduled for September 2020, is postponed to 2021. Our hope is to meet all the participants in Poland in 2021 and to visit the exciting Quaternary sites and to learn more about the geology of that specific area.

News and updates about SEQS activities can be found on the SEQS homepage: <https://www.inqua-seqs.org/>. We hope to meet you again in the future and we wish Prof. Adam Nadachowski all the best and we congratulate him with his 70th birthday.

Images of the meeting can be found at <https://uni.wroc.pl/paleosrodowisko-osady-fauna-i-migracje-ludzi-w-europie-srodkowej-w-czwartorzedzie/> and at <https://www.inqua-seqs.org/meetings/>

Detailed Report on the SEQS-2020 virtual meeting in Poland

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On 28th of September 2020, under the patronage of professor Przemysław Wiszewski the Rector of University of Wrocław, the INQUA SEQS-2020 conference “Quaternary Stratigraphy – paleoenvironment, sediments, fauna and human migrations across Central Europe” was held remotely due to the COVID19. The Meeting was dedicated to the 70th birthday anniversary of prof. Adam Nadachowski, who was very active in the last decades in the SEQS activities. The following Organizations and Institutions took the patronage of the conference: INQUA - SEQS Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy; INQUA – SACCOM Commission on Stratigraphy and Chronology; INQUA – International Union for Quaternary research; University of Wrocław; Polish Academy of Sciences; Committee for Quaternary Research PAS; Polish Geological Society.

The opening ceremony took place in the historic Library of the Institute of Geography and Regional Development. Also the proceedings were broadcasted from there. The conference was opened by the Chairman of the Organizational and Scientific Committee prof. Krzysztof Stefaniak from the Department of Palaeozoology at University of Wrocław and conducted by MSc Adam Kotowski. The opening ceremony consisted of speeches by the following: Rector of the University of Wrocław prof. Przemysław Wiszewski; President of INQUA prof. Thijs van Kolfschoten; Deans of the Faculty of Biological Sciences dr Marcin Kadej; Deans of the Faculty of Geosciences and Environmental Management prof. Henryk Marszałek; President of INQUA - Section on European Quaternary Stratigraphy prof. Markus Fiebig; Chairman of The Committee for Quaternary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences prof. Zdzisław Jary; Director of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków Dr Sebastian Tarcz

All of the speakers underlined the uncommon circumstances under which the conference was organised. The Rector of the University of Wrocław underlined, among others, that this conference is in line with the activities of the University of Wrocław as a research university. In the speeches the merits of the jubilarian – prof. Adam Nadachowski were emphasized. Professor Jan Burdukiewicz gave a laudation for prof. Adam Nadachowski. At the end the jubilarian prof. Adam Nadachowski responded with warm words of thanks.

During the 30-minutes break preceding the lecture session, a diaporama was presented to illustrate the various stages of Professor Nadachowski's work.

The lecture and poster sessions were divided into 4 thematic parts:

Session 1 Karst and cave sequences

Session 2 Quaternary stratigraphy, chronology, geomorphology and tectonics

Session 3 Human and environment in the Quaternary

Session 4 Major regional subdivisions of the Quaternary in European and Asian regions: toward a common database (Datestra).

The sessions were directed by Urszula Ratajczak, Artur Sobczyk and Adam Kotowski. 103 participants representing the following countries were registered before the conference: Austria (1), Croatia (1), Czechia (1), Spain (2), the Netherlands (1), India (1), Israel (1);

Lithuania (1), Germany (3), Poland (45), Russia (23), Slovenia (1), Ukraine (13), UK (3), Italy (6).

Due to the large number of applications, 10 minutes were planned for each oral presentation, including a short discussion, and 2 minutes for posters' presentation. The sessions ended with an open discussion. In total, 28 oral presentations were delivered and 42 posters were presented.

In the last part, the Chairman of the Organizing and Scientific Committee, prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Stefaniak thanked all participants, University Authorities, INQUA and INQUA-SEQS representatives, organizers and the jubilarian Adam Nadachowski and invited everyone to the next edition of this conference next year to Wrocław, Poland. The speech summarizing the conference was taken by the President of INQUA prof. Thijs van Kolfshoten (the Netherlands), President of INQUA - SEQS prof. Markus Fiebig (Austria); Vice-President prof. Guzel A. Danukalova (Russia) and Secretary: prof. Pierluigi Pieruccini (Italy).

Despite the technically complex organization of the meeting due to the pandemic situation and the large number of participants, the meeting was managed without major disruptions. For this a special thanks is devoted to the efficient team supporting the virtual meeting, in particular the moderators and session directors, as well as the participants who followed the recommendations set by the organizers.

Apart from the Organizational and Scientific Committee, following employees of the University of Wrocław and the University of Nicolaus Copernicus in Toruń were involved in organization of the conference: computer specialists: Marcin Hatalak, Mateusz Haglauer, Marek Ćmikiewicz, Karol Geinert, Mateusz Skrzatek; media and photography service Małgorzata Jurkiewicz and Magdalena Marcula, students from the Scientific Association of Student Palaeobiologists: Dorota Orlińska and Aleksandra Kropczyk.

Summaries of all presentations along with the academic profile of prof. A. Nadachowski, his list of publications and several speeches devoted to his person were presented in the volume of abstracts, which is available online at the link https://www.inqua-seqs.org/files/SEQS2020_Abstracts_Wroclaw_Poland.pdf