

## **INQUA-SEQS 2006: Quaternary Stratigraphy and Evolution of the Alpine Region in the European and Global Framework**

INQUA-SEQS-2006:

Quaternary Stratigraphy and Evolution of the Alpine Region in the European and Global Framework

After the Meeting of 2005 in Bern, the Annual Conference of the INQUA – SEQS (Subcommission of European Quaternary Stratigraphy) was held in Milan from the 11th to the 15th of September 2006. The Scientific Sessions took place in the Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e del Territorio of the Milan Bicocca University. The Conference was organised by the C.N.R. – Institute for the dynamics of Environmental Process and from the Milan Bicocca University under the patronage of the Lombardy Region – D.G. Territorio e Urbanistica, the CAI – Italian Alpine Association and AIQUA – Italian Quaternary Association.

The scientific Session was characterised by three days of oral and poster presentations followed by two days of field trips.

The main topic was the Quaternary evolution of the Alpine area and nearby basins in relation to global climatic changes. The oral presentations were divided into 5 scientific Sessions:

Geological and glacial history of the Alps during the Quaternary.

The Last Glacial/Interglacial transition and the Holocene: glacial advances, paleo-limnology, dendrochronology, and radiocarbon datings

Marine and continental Quaternary events: records and correlations

Climatic and biotic evolution of the Alpine region and nearby area: Pliocene and Quaternary.

The contribution of geochronology to Pleistocene Stratigraphy.

The participation of 110 researchers coming from all over Europe, the ex-USSR, Canada and United States and 74 presentations (51 oral and 23 posters) offered a wide spectra of new scientific data, especially in the geo-chronological sector and the last Glacial-Interglacial transition.

The most innovative contributions came from geochronology (cosmogenic nuclides, luminescence and U-series isotopes), a research field in strong evolution during the last years; a particularly interesting Session was devoted to the Late Glacial/Holocene transition, where advances in the knowledge of the chronologic and paleo-environmental field have been illustrated.

During the Field Trip, which was attended by ca. 50 scientists, some of the key sites for the Quaternary evolution of the Italian Alps were visited: the Plio-Pleistocene lacustrine basins of Pianico-Sellere and Lefte, the Iseo Lake, the Garda glacial amphitheatre, the Sorda Valley Section, and the Fumane Rock shelter. These sites were presented by Italian researchers who carried out geological, paleo-climatic and archaeological investigations with important results recognised at an International level.

During the discussion the need emerged for Conferences devoted to the Holocene in the Alps and the Mediterranean regions. The creation of an International working group on the Alps was proposed, with the aim of investigating Alpine dynamics during the Quaternary and the correlation between the northern and southern sides. We also inform the public that if somebody is interested in getting further information on these topics, the DEUQUA (Deutsch Quaternary Association) plans to hold the annual Meeting in Munchen (Baviera, Germany) between the 27th and 29th of April 2007, including a field trip in the Würm valley (Baviera). The German colleagues guarantee, in case of a large participation from Italian colleagues, the translation of and the explanation in English. Detailed information will be available between January and February 2007 on the DEUQUA web site <http://www.baunat.boku.ac.at/iag/DEUQUA/DEUQUA.htm>. Further information could be obtained writing to: Markus Fiebig, Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Phone: +43 1 47654 5402,

Fax: + 43 1 47654 5449, [markus.fiebig@boku.ac.at](mailto:markus.fiebig@boku.ac.at)

Next year the 17th INQUA Congress will be held in Cairns (Australia) from the 29th of July to 6th of August while the next INQUA –SEQS Conference in 2009, will be held in the northern France.

The abstract and the paper presented together with the field trip Booklets are available at the web site of the Milano Palinology and Paleoecology Laboratory at the web site: [www.disat.unimib.it/palinologia](http://www.disat.unimib.it/palinologia); the abstract will soon be available on the web site of the SEQS that will be hosted at Cambridge University.

The Proceedings of the Conference will be published in two special volumes of Quaternary International: The first volume will be devoted to the contribution presented in the scientific Sessions and will be printed within the end of 2007. The second will be devoted to the problems faced during the Field trip; the publication is planned for the first half of the 2008.



The visit to the Fumane Shelter (Lessini Mts)