INQUA
International Union for Quaternary Research

LOESSFEST 2018

"DIVERSITY OF LOESS: PROPERTIES, STRATIGRAPHY, ORIGIN AND REGIONAL FEATURES".

VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA, 23-29 SEPTEMBER 2018

Dear colleagues,

The Loess Focus Group and Ponto-Caspian Stratigraphy and Geochronology Focus Group of International Union for Quaternary Research are pleased to invite you to participate in International conference in Loess research – ***LoessFest2018: "Diversity of Loess: Properties, Stratigraphy, Origin and Regional Features".***

LoessFest2018 will be held in Volgograd, Russian Federation from 23rd to 29th of September 2018. The conference is jointly organized by the INQUA Loess Focus Group and Ponto-Caspian Stratigraphy and Geochronology Focus Group in order to bring the international communities together to solve a number of contentious issues involving stratigraphy, geochronology, geological history, archaeology and climate change in loess regions.

The main goal of the Loessfest2018 is to facilitate cross-disciplinary and cross-regional correlation of geological, archaeological, environmental, and anthropological records in loess-paleosol sequences.

Loessfest2018 will also focus on observation of geological characteristics of Quaternary sections in Lower Volga valley, describing the eventful palaeogeographical history of the region and loess-paleosol formation in an area under an active transgressive-regressive regime of the Caspian Sea and fluctuations of Volga River. The sections scheduled to be visited during the field trip show the stratigraphy and palaeogeography of the northern Eurasian Pleistocene, they contain a unique record of major regional and continental phenomena (e.g. glacial-interglacial cycles of the East-European plain, the Caucasus and Central Asia), as well as of global climate change. The loess record in the Lower Volga region covers the Late Quaternary period and highlights dust accumulation from different sources, such as Volga River, Middle and Late Quaternary glacial deposits of East European plain, Central Asian deserts and Caspian Sea.

The Conference will be held in the Volgograd State University campus (http://www.volsu.ru/other/english/). The two days of the Conference will be devoted to oral presentations and posters, and three days will be devoted to geological field trips that focus on

series of sections in Lower Volga region. It is expected that the meeting will bring together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world to provide a foundation for collaboration on correlation and integration of subjects covered by the conference and INQUA Loess and POCAS Focus Groups.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1. Geochemistry and provenance of loess
2. Geochronology of loess/paleosol sequences and dust MAR
3. Loess/paleosol stratigraphy
4. Loess as a paleoclimate archive
5. Environmental evolution based on the study of paleosols
6. Engineering geology of loess regions
7. Loess in the changing landscape of the Caspian Sea

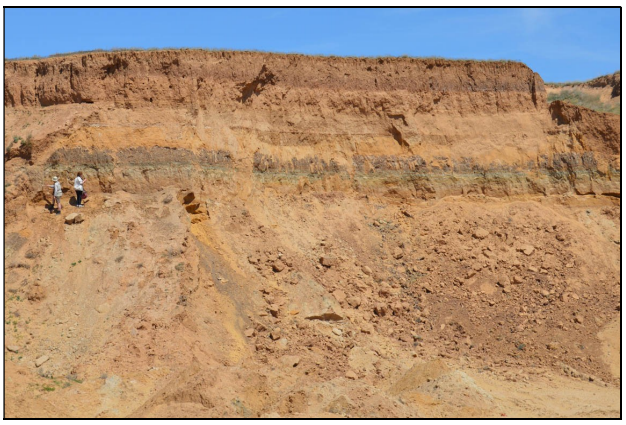
VENUE

Volgograd is a city of southern Russia, the capital of Volgograd Oblast. The city is noted for its history, culture, architecture and industry. Formerly known as Stalingrad, it was given its present name in 1961, as part of a wider process of destalinization. It became famous for its resistance during the beginning of the Battle of Stalingrad, followed by the surrounding and the capitulation of 6th German Army during World War II. It is often regarded as the largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare, which today is marked by an impressive monument and cultural site. The population of Volgograd urban area is estimated more than 1 million. Volgograd is also one of the host cities of the 2018 FIFA World Cup. In Sothern Russia, the end of September is a good time for Field Trips. Daily maximum temperature is usually about 20-25° C.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

- September 23rd: Arrival and Registration. Ice-breaking party.
- September 24th: Scientific sessions. Conference Dinner.
- September 25th: Scientific sessions.
- September 26th: Field trip 1. Akhtuba river sections: Srednyaya Akhtuba, Leninsk.
- September 27th: Field trip 2. Volga river sections: Raigorod, Cherny Yar, Nizhneye Zaymishe.
- September 28th: Field trip 3. Tour of Volgograd city; Mamayev Kurgan and the Motherland Calls Memorial complex.

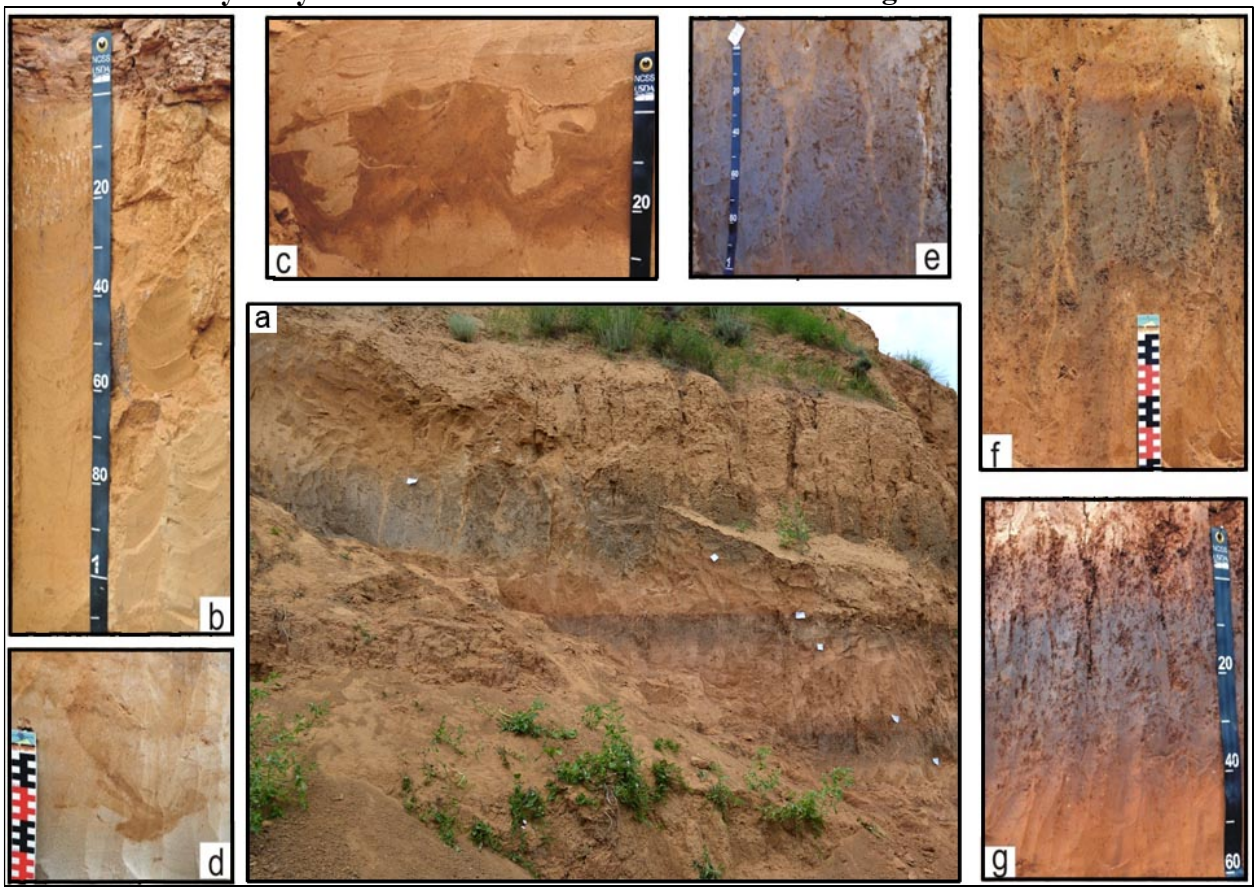
Leninsk section



Cherny Yar section

Nizhneye Zaymishe section

Raigorod section



Srednyaya Akhtuba section

ACCOMMODATION

There are numerous hotels in Volgograd. The organizing committee will provide information and assistance to participants for accommodation, with prices for hotels to be provided in the Second Circular. Note: Volgograd University will provide student dormitories for free for limited number of participants upon request.

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee (Please refer to the "Registration Form")

Early registration (before 1 July 2018), Euro		On-site registration, Euro	
Full registration	Student registration*	Full registration	Student registration*
100	65	120	80

*Student identification is required.

The registration fee covers conference attendance, refreshments during coffee breaks, lunches during Field Trips, museum entrance fees, and bus transportation during the Field Trips. It does not cover the conference dinner as well as hotel accommodations in Volgograd and during the Field Trips.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The conference organizing committee will provide four grants to memorize two outstanding Russian researchers of Loess: prof. Andrei Velichko and prof. Andrei Dodonov. The INQUA Loess and POCAS IFG's will provide two grants for international attendants and the Russian Science Foundation project 17-77-20058 will provide two grants for Russian attendants. This support will include 200 Euro for travel expenses, conference fee full reduction and accommodation in Volgograd University student dormitories. An application for support must be e-mailed to the Organizing Committee (available on www.loessfest2018.ru after 1st of February).

Professor A.A. Velichko grant for research in palaeoclimate, palaeopedology and provenance of loess

Professor A.E. Dodonov grant for research in stratigraphy, geochronology and palaeontology of loess

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official conference language is English.

ABSTRACTS

Preference will be given to short and informative abstracts containing new data and arguments. As a rule, your abstract(s) should not exceed 1 page. Uninformative or irrelevant abstracts will not be considered. The guidelines for abstract preparation and submission are outlined in the Abstract Template (available on www.loessfest2018.ru after 1st of February). Every registered participant has the right to submit up to two abstracts as the first author.

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Each speaker will have 15 minutes for a presentation, including questions. Invited speakers will have 30 minutes. Poster format is 100x180 cm. Projection Equipment: Screens, LCD (PowerPoint presentation) projectors, and overhead projectors are available.

PUBLICATION

Accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference Proceedings. Full papers based on the conference submissions then have the opportunity for publication after proper review in a Special Volume of a peer-reviewed journal (to be defined and announced in the Second Circular).

VISA

Visitors from other countries must carry a valid passport and visa to be able to enter Russian Federation. The organizing committee will provide a valid invitation and assist participants during this process. For more information on visas and other required travel documents, please contact the Russian Embassy or Consulate in your area before applying.

DEADLINES

15 February - First Circular

20 February - Abstract submission and registration opens at www.loessfest2018.ru

1 May - Abstract submission closes

15 May - Notification of abstract acceptance

20 May - Submission of application for financial support opens

20 June - Submission of application for financial support closes

30 June - Deadline for early registration

1 July - Second Circular and the Preliminary Conference Programme

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENTS

N.S. Kasimov, *academician RAS, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia*

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We look forward to welcoming you to Volgograd LoessFest in September 2018!