



10th INTERNATIONAL · CONGRESS ON · THE Jurassic SYSTEM

First Circular

The 10th International Congress on the Jurassic System (10th ICJS) will be held in the winter of 2018 from the 4th to the 10th of February at the Centro Cultural Bicentenario of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, Mexico. The city of San Luis Potosí, is an old colonial mining town in the central Mexico Altiplano. The organizing committee chaired by Ana Bertha Villaseñor is happy to invite you to this event. Preparatory work for the congress started in 2013, and we are now working at full speed to make this an unforgettable academic and cultural experience. The 10th ICJS will be co-organized by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (UASLP).

Meeting Scientific Program

With a superb stratigraphic record of the Jurassic system in basinal, shallow marine, continental, and transitional environments, in a wide variety of tectonic settings including continental rifts, peri-arc marginal basins, epicontinental shelves, and pelagic environments Mexico offers a splendid opportunity for field experience and academic growth. The Jurassic sections of northern Mexico were recognized in the now classic studies of Castillo & Aguilera (1895), Carl E. Burckhardt (1904-1930) and Ralph W. Imlay (1936-1989). These historical sections and their fauna will be re-visited during the Congress. The theme chosen for the Congress is “Marine and Non-marine Jurassic Systems”, and a variety of scientific sessions will include: 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 Thethys sea; 5) Jurassic paleoclimate, paleo-atmospheric circulation, and CO² 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 recourses (oil, gas and coals, etc.) of Jurassic deposits; 9) Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean evolution, and Jurassic source rock and reservoirs; 10) Jurassic Geoparks and museums: their roles in geological relics protection and public education, etc.

We invite researchers of the Jurassic who are interested in acting as session conveners to submit further proposals for organizing sessions. Preparation of field excursions has also progressed during these two years. Among the field trips prepared, at this time we would like to highlight the following:

A. Paleoenvironment and biostratigraphy of the upper Sinemurian (Lower Jurassic) of east-central Mexico. Principal marine strata will be visited with ammonites and bivalves but also continental environments with plant remains of the Huayacocotla Formation. Chair Dr. Carlos Esquivel Macias.

B. The Hettangian-Sinemurian record of NW Sonora. Strata of Triassic and Lower Jurassic ages with ammonites. Chairs Drs. Carlos González León and Timothy Lawton.

C. Two canyons through the Jurassic: Sedimentological and Paleontological records of Oaxaca, southern Mexico. Continental to marine rocks of early-middle Jurassic ages with plants and ammonites and bivalves assemblages will be seen. Chairs: Drs. Patricia Velazco and Michelangelo Martini.

D. 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. Continental and marine rocks of Triassic to Lower Cretaceous ages will be seen. Chairs: Drs. Ana Bertha Villaseñor, Rafael Barboza, Federico Olóriz.

E. Gulf of Mexico rift to drift transition recorded in Chiapas. Continental Jurassic deposits of Todos Santos Formation and evaporitic to shallow water siliciclastic platform of Jurassic ages will be seen. Chair: Dr. Roberto Molina Garza.

Meeting Cost

| | Before 15 January 2017 | After 15 January 2017 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Full Registration | \$550 | \$650 |
| Student | \$300 | \$350 |
| Accompanying person | \$300 | \$350 |
| Abstract Fee | \$30 | |

Details about Abstract deadline, format and guidelines will be provided in the second circular and the meeting website. Registration entitles the person to full participation as well as the following: Sunday Ice Breaker Party, every day lunch; Wednesday mid-congress excursion with Mexican Ranch Party at Peutillos Hacienda, Tuesday Poster and Wine; Friday Farewell Party. The fee will be received by the organizing committee and will grant you an abstract book. For further information visit the congress web site: <http://www.10thjurassic2018.com.mx>

The official language for the congress is English. The congress will include conferences, symposia and technical sessions (oral and poster), exhibits, field trips, plenary sessions, as well as social and cultural activities. Details about technical sessions, as well as oral presentation and poster guidelines will be provided at a later time.

Grants: A limited number of grants will be available to students. Students interested must download the application form from the website fill it and send it to the organizing committee according to instructions in the meeting website. You will be required to submit your abstract(s) at the same time as registering. The abstract fee is non-refundable.

No abstracts will be accepted without payment of the registration fee. You will be able to edit your abstract up until the closing date for abstract reception. There is a maximum of two abstracts permitted per registrant, but only one abstract can be presented orally. No refunds of registration fees paid will be granted after 15 March, 2017. Prior to this date a 20% charge will be made to cover administration costs. Registration can only be carried out online. Full instructions are found on the website.

San Luis Potosí

The downtown area of the city of San Luis Potosí houses historical and artistic buildings that include the cathedral, Templo del Carmen, Government Palace, City Hall, Teatro de la Paz and the Royal Bank Building, all legacies of the colonial era. Other attractions include the Potosí regional museum, with a beautiful collection of pre-hispanic art, the National Mask Museum housed in a beautiful XIX century building, the Laberinto Museum dedicated to the promotion of science, and the Francisco Cossio Museum, with an eclectic collection of art and objects. The Federico Silva museum exhibits the monolithic sculptures of Silva. It hosts temporary exhibitions of international contemporary sculptors.

Outside the city, ecotourism is popular in the Altiplano desert ghosttown of Real de Catorce and the waterfalls and mountain streams of the Huastecan region. Huastecan food is a little known jewel of the Mexican cuisine. San Luis Potosi has many good restaurants in the downtown area. Walk up Venustiano Carranza street or around San Francisco plaza and you will find many of the city's top culinary gems. For the more adventurous, San Luis Potosi is packed with mobile eateries, either bicycles, small carts, or even trucks. Here is a list of some of the typically available foods on offer: corn on the cob, tamales, tacos sudados, gorditas de horno, and the popular enchiladas potosinas.

Transportation

The city of San Luis Potosí can be reached by air; the airport is 10km north of the city off Hwy 57. Aeroméxico Connect offers direct service to/from Mexico City and Monterrey with connecting flights to various US, Europe, and South America cities. From the U.S., direct flights are available on American to Dallas and on United to Houston. There are also flights from Cancún to San Luis Potosi by Volaris and Interjet, but with restriction in dates. It is recommended to fly to Mexico City and take a bus to SLP, if you prefer to save.

Bus travel in Mexico is safe and comfortable. Various companies offer non-stop overnight buses from Mexico City to San Luis Potosí (7.0 hours). From other cities there are frequent buses to SLP. In order to travel by bus, first a taxi should be taken from the airport to the bus station. Bus companies:

ETN <http://www.etn.com.mx/>

Primera Plus <http://www.primeraplus.com.mx>

Omnibus de México <http://www.odm.com.mx/>

Taxi travel in San Luis Potosí is cheap and easy. Many yellow taxis will be seen travelling down the streets, and can easily be flagged down for local travel. They do not use taximeters, and the price can vary between US\$4 and US\$10. Official limited transportation will be offered to transport participants from local airports and from hotels during the event. Relevant information will be published on the website.

Accommodations

Chain hotels and locally run hotels are mostly located in the "Zona Hotelera", just outside the city, on the highway near the bus station. The meeting will be hosted by the Hilton, Ankara, and Real Plaza hotels, all near the meeting venue. Reservations for these hotels can be arranged through the meeting website. Inexpensive independent hotels are mostly downtown. Upper-end hotels are priced at about M\$2200, with moderate hotels at about M\$600. For budget travelers hostel accommodations are very reasonably priced at about M\$150.

Field Trips

(A) *Paleoenvironment and biostratigraphy of the upper Sinemurian (Lower Jurassic) of east-central Mexico.*

The Huayacocotla Formation represents the Sinemurian (Lower Jurassic) of east-central Mexico. The lower Sinemurian is represented by the Bucklandi, Semicostatum and Turneri ammonite zones with all of the subzones included. The upper Sinemurian

is represented by the Obtusum, Oxynotum, and Raricostatum zones with each one of subzones extant.

The study of the Huayacocotla Formation is important with regard to the origin of fossil hydrocarbons; by the middle 2000s the viewpoint of the field of oil exploration was that the existing knowledge was sufficient; however, the formation still possesses many geological / structural, paleoenvironmental and paleontological features worthy of study. For instance, the Huayacocotla Formation has long been interpreted as deposits of an aulocogen; simultaneously it was regarded as a complex of Sinemurian formations with unspecified biostratigraphic zones. Another misinterpretation has been correlation with Jurassic continental sequences from North America; but, now its marine origin is clear. It has also been interpreted as a component of the "Hispanic corridor" hypothesis, permitting the migration of Pacific faunas to the proto-Atlantic, which is certainly documented with bivalves and ammonoids; although the true opening of the Gulf of Mexico happened here (circa Bajocian-Bathonian-Kimmeridgian time), much later its faunal expansion from the Pacific Ocean has also been documented with ammonoids. In recent years studies of the Huayacocotla have been incorporating concepts and techniques related to taphonomy, geochemistry and petrology; in consequence now it is seen as an extended, rather than condensed, sequence, which represents an intra-arc basin associated with the early extensional stages of Pangean disaggregation and subsequent opening of the Gulf of Mexico.

(B) *The Hettangian-Sinemurian record of NW Sonora.*

The Antimonio Formation in the Sierra del Alamo Muerto, in the Sonoran desert, was deposited in a forearc setting in the western margin of North America facing the Panthalassa ocean. It furnishes a record of continuous sedimentation across the Triassic–Jurassic system boundary and is one of a few stratigraphic sections globally preserving latest Triassic to Hettangian ammonoid fauna in stratigraphic succession. The system boundary occurs near the middle of the formation, within a 155 m thick interval where laminated beds contain evidence of deposition in an anoxic or disaerobic setting. Although the package containing the boundary is not fossiliferous, it is bounded by Triassic and Jurassic biotas. The Triassic–Jurassic system boundary should fall within or stratigraphically close to the laminated beds. The Sonoran desert is one of the most spectacular deserts of the world, house of the Sahuaro cactus and an amazing biodiversity.

(C) *Two canyons through the Jurassic: Sedimentological and Paleontological records of Oaxaca, southern Mexico.*

By the Late Triassic, a major plate reorganization produced the break-up of Pangea, which was the last supercontinent assembled on Earth. Because of its paleogeographic position along the nascent plate boundary between North and South America, the early Mesozoic tectonic history of Mexico was dominated by the development of major normal to strike-slip faults, which produced a complex crustal configuration characterized by subsiding basins bounded by exhuming basement highs. Voluminous,

continental to marine sedimentary successions were accumulated in these basins during the Jurassic, representing a unique stratigraphic record related to the fragmentation of the western equatorial margin of this supercontinental mass.

This trip will provide an overview of two Early-Middle Jurassic basins exposed in the state of Oaxaca, southern Mexico. Observed outcrops are exposed along two amazing canyons and consist of alluvial-fluvial to marine deposits that were derived from different crustal blocks, reflecting the complex history of extension and exhumation of the continental lithosphere during the Jurassic. Some of the stratigraphic units that will be observed on the field contain a variety of fossil flora that will stimulate the discussion on the paleoclimatic conditions under which the Jurassic successions were deposited. The trip will also comprehend a visit to the archeological site of Cerro de las Minas, which is located just to the north of Huajuapán de León and represents the vestige of the Ñuiñe culture of the Mixteca Baja area.

(D) *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.*

The Sierras of the Mexican Altiplano contain a superb record of Jurassic magmatism and sedimentation along the western margin of Pangea. A scenic volcanic-sedimentary Triassic to Early Jurassic Succession will be seen in the “*General canyon*”, area of Real de Catorce. The Middle to Upper Jurassic record is contains the La Joya Formation deposited in an extensional basin, the Oxfordian Zuloaga carbonate shelf and the mixed carbonate and siliclastic epicontinental La Casita and La Caja shelves. The classical sections of Castillo & Aguilera and Burckhardt studied in the late XIX and early XX centuries will be visited.

(E) *Gulf of Mexico rift to drift transition recorded in Chiapas.*

This trip will take you to the Todos Santos and San Ricardo formations in the Cintalapa area of Chiapas. Jurassic continental deposits of the Todos Santos Formation Chiapas record the transition from extensional arc, to initial rift stage, to the rift climax. The San Ricardo Formation and equivalent strata record initial flooding of the Gulf of Mexico with evaporite deposition, to a shallow water siliclastic platform, eventually recording the drift phase of opening of the Gulf and thermal subsidence leading to deposition of source rock in the Chimeco Formation. The San Ricardo Formation consists of four members including calcareous strata of the Callovian-Oxfordian, shelf carbonates with dasycladales of the Kimmeridgian, and foraminifer bearing marls of the Tithonian.

Full information about field trips will be given in the next circular, the organizers encourage you to check frequently the web page, for news.

Visa Requirements

A foreigner who has any of the following documents shall not require Mexican visa:

- a) A document certifying permanent residence in Canada, USA, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or any of the countries of the Schengen area.
- b) Valid visa from the United States of America.

Those citizens from other countries or regions who do not have the documents described above must obtain a visa to travel to Mexico. You must apply in any Mexican consulate for a visitor visa without permission to engage in gainful activity.

Additional information in:

http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/paises_visas/en.html

General Information

The city

San Luis Potosí is the capital of the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí. The city lies at an elevation of 1,850 meters. It has an estimated population of about one million inhabitants in its metropolitan area, which is formed with the neighbor city of Soledad and some other small townships inside the urban area. The city is located in the west-central part of the state at 22.16°N, 100.98°W.

The city is named after Louis IX of France (Saint Louis, King of France), who is the city's patron saint. Potosí was added in reference to the fabulously rich mines of Potosí, Bolivia, discovered some forty years before the city was founded, as the exploitation of silver and gold mines in Cerro de San Pedro near San Luis was the main reason for the founding of the city in 1592.

In pre-Hispanic times this territory included cultural groups of Aridoamerica. The southern part of the state was occupied by the Otomi kingdoms, its northern and central-west regions, where the city of San Luis now is located, were inhabited by Chichimeca tribes. The eastern mountainous terrain was occupied by huastecan people. Still today the region keeps important symbolism for the Wixarrica/Huichol Indians, who in their pilgrimage visit the Wirikuta territory. Wirikuta is a sacred site to the Huichol Indians high in the mountains of central Mexico, between the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Zacatecas ranges. In Wixarricas's mythology it is believed the world was created in Wirikuta.

Climate

San Luis Potosí features a semiarid climate (BSh) under the Köppen climate classification. Due to its high altitude, the city experiences only a handful of hot days each year. While the climate exhibits noticeably cooler (January and February) and warmer periods (April and May) of the year, temperatures are relatively consistent throughout the course of the year. The bulk of the city's precipitation is seen from May through October. San Luis Potosí receives, on average, 400 mm of precipitation annually. The daily mean temperature in the winter is about 15°C, with a high of about 22°C and an average low of about 6°C. The semi-arid climate makes for somewhat extreme temperature changes.

Currency

The national currency of Mexico is the Mexican Peso. Prices throughout the country are commonly shown with a dollar-sign (\$) in front of the Peso amount. Although in some parts of the country businesses willingly accept US\$, it is almost always more advantageous (less expensive) for travelers to pay with Mexican Pesos (M\$). Remember there is a difference between the sell rate and the buy rate. Always try to use larger bills first, as it is often difficult to find change when you need it. Don't get stuck trying to pay a 40-pesos cab fare with a 200M\$ bill - and a driver who says he doesn't have enough change. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), which are widespread, often provide the best possible exchange rate. Currency bills are 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, and rare \$1000 Mexican Pesos.

On a related topic, it is also strongly advised that travelers call their bank(s) and/or credit-card companies, prior to departure, to inform them of their impending travel plans. Failing to do often leads to card use restrictions or cards been suspended.

Organizing Committee

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