



Newsletter No. 22, Autumn 2010

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Stuttgart / Mexico City / Moscow, October 2010

Dear Paleopedologists,

The Commission on Paleopedology is one of the youngest commissions of the International Union of Soil Science, as it was upgraded from a working group to a commission as recently as in 2004. Dr. Edoardo A. C. Costantini and Dr. Alexander O. Makeev have been chair and vice-chair from the beginning, and both have spent a lot of work and energy for the commission during this time. Thanks to the former commission chairs and the activity of many more commission members, it can be said that the Commission on Paleopedology is a very healthy and active commission. This is indicated e.g. by its very regular meetings and publications. We wish to thank Edoardo and Alexander for their efforts for our commission in the past years.

At the World Congress of Soil Science in Brisbane, Australia, the chair has been passed. The new chair and vice-chair are Dr. Daniela Sauer (Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany) and Dr. Sergey Sedov (UNAM, Mexico City). Dr. Alexander O. Makeev is now working as commission secretary, and will continue being in charge of the web site and Google group.

Contact details of the new commission officers:

Chair:

Dr. Daniela Sauer

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Edoardo Costantini (right), talking to Allan Chivas (INQUA president) during field trip from South to central Australia: post-congress tour of the INQUA congress 2007 in Cairns (photo: Daniela Sauer).



Alexander Makeev giving a master class on the field study of a middle Pleistocene exhumed paleosol: loess-paleosol exposure on the bank of river Ob, loess plateau, Western Siberia, August 2010.

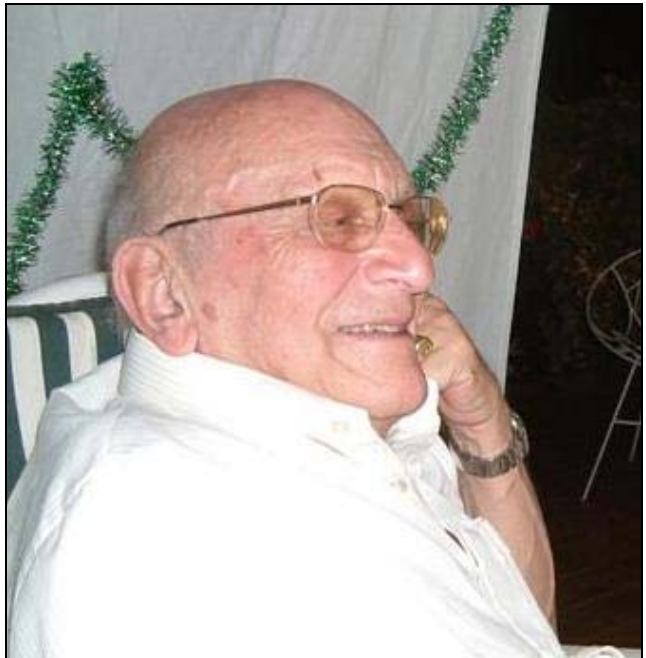


Sergey Sedov and Daniela Sauer during common fieldwork on Late Pleistocene paleosols in Mexico in November 2009 (photo: Marco Pfeiffer).

2. Dan Yaalon receives Dokuchaev Award

It is a great pleasure for us to inform you that Dan Yaalon received the Dokuchaev Award at the World Congress of Soil Science in Brisbane.

Dan Yaalon studied at the Agricultural Universities of Copenhagen and Uppsala and got his PhD in Soil Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He contributed significantly to scientific progress in pedology, paleopedology, clay mineralogy and in the history of soil science. He is well-known in the Paleopedology community, first because of his numerous important publications and moreover, because he is still actively participating in paleopedological discussions via the Paleopedology Google group, sharing his knowledge and experience with our group.



Dokuchaev Awardee Dan Yaalon

*(source of photo: World Association of Soil and Water Conservation, albums;
<http://outdoors.webshots.com/album/165663652DXIDQb>)*

3. Commission activities at the World Congress of Soil Science 2010 in Brisbane

Business meeting

Edoardo Costantini gave an overview on commission activities of the last year, and pointed to the Newsletter No. 21 published in May 2010, which summarizes the main activities of the commission during the inter-congress period between the last two World Congresses. Then, he handed over to Daniela Sauer, who thanked Edoardo Costantini for his efforts working for the Paleopedology Commission. She introduced the new team - chair, vice-chair and secretary of the Paleopedology Commission - and gave information on forthcoming commission activities and events (see 4.-7.).

Sessions

Two sessions organized by the Paleopedology Commission and one joint session of the Commissions on Paleopedology and Pedometrics were held. (Session titles, conveners and papers are listed in 8.) Papers will be published in a Special Volume of Quaternary International; guest editors are Peter Jacobs and Sergey Sedov.

4. Commission events scheduled for the period 2011-2014

2011: After the great success of the linked Soil Geography and Paleopedology events in Mexico in November 2009, it was decided to organize a Joint Meeting of the Commissions on Paleopedology and Soil Geography in 2011.

The meeting will follow immediately the INQUA congress, which will be held in Bern, Switzerland, in July 2011, where several sessions related to paleopedology will be held as well. The meeting will take place at Hohenheim University, near Stuttgart, S Germany (train from Bern to Stuttgart: 4 hours, price: 80 Euros).

The Third International Geochronology Summer School will be held in Switzerland (see 8.).

2012: The Paleopedology Meeting will take place in Russia in July 2012. Dr. Pavel Krasilnikov forwarded the invitation of a group of Russian colleagues at the business meeting in Brisbane. The Meeting will be organized by Alexey Rusakov, Alexander Makeev, Sergey Sedov and other Russian colleagues.

2013: The Paleopedology Meeting 2013 will be organized by Dr. Peter Jacobs and colleagues in Nebraska, USA.

The new chair of Division 1, Prof. Dr. Karl Stahr, will organize a Division 1 Conference in September 2013 in Ulm, Germany.

In addition to these meetings, a field workshop will be organized in Poland during the current IUSS inter-congress period.

2014: The 20th World Congress of Soil Science will be held in South Korea.

5. Information on INQUA Congress 2011 in Bern, Switzerland

The 18th INQUA Congress will be held from July 20 to 27 in Bern, Switzerland.

The congress website is located at:

<http://www.inqua2011.ch/>



We would like to draw your attention particularly to two sessions in which the Paleopedology Commission is involved:

Paleopedological session

Indicators of climatic changes in saprolite, paleosols, polygenetic soils, and soil sediments

(Conveners: Daniela Sauer, Mohammed Rafi G. Sayyed and Birgit Terhorst)

Soil development and soil properties depend on the parent material and on the environmental conditions in which soils have formed. Therefore, paleosols or certain features in polygenetic soils may serve as valuable archives of past environments. It is however essential that these archives are appropriately interpreted in order to obtain reliable reconstructions of palaeo-environments. Therefore, this session focuses particularly on those characteristics of saprolite, paleosols and related archives, which may be used as suitable indicators for certain environmental conditions. Such indicators include specific characteristics in macro- and micromorphology, geochemistry, environmental magnetism, fossil assemblages, mineralogy and clay mineralogy and other parameters.

A second focus of this session is the role of the archives described above for the present "critical zone" in a landscape. The critical zone is the heterogeneous earth's skin of soil, sediments, and weathered rock, as well as the ecosystems they support. Understanding the evolution of the critical zone and its sensitivity to perturbations requires an understanding of its architecture and the processes that produce this architecture. Above all, Quaternary sediments and underlying saprolite control the structure of the critical zone, and therefore also the hydrological, geochemical, and biological functions of the landscape.

This session will thus include contributions presenting indicators for various types of environmental conditions, as well as examples of palaeo-environmental reconstructions of particular regions based on such indicators. Papers bridging Quaternary processes and present critical zone functioning are welcome.

Interdisciplinary session

Reconstructing environmental impacts of climate changes from MIS 5 to present, based on terrestrial and lacustrine archives

(Conveners: Stefano Carnicelli and Valérie Andrieu-Ponel)

This session intends to bring together scientists working on different continental archives and proxies, in order to enable comparison of reconstructions from these archives. A considerable number of palaeo-environmental reconstructions, based on various terrestrial archives, have been elaborated in the last decades. The main investigated archives are palaeo-lakes, speleothems, palaeosols sediments, and loess. These archives include a multitude of proxies: vegetal proxies (pollen, phytoliths, diatoms, vegetal lipids and alkanes, isotopy of soil organic compounds, macro plant remains, and charcoal), faunal proxies (particularly molluscs and beetles), and abiotic proxies (e.g. geomorphology, sedimentology, environmental magnetism, palaeosols' macro- and micromorphology, geochemistry, isotopes). Stratigraphic control has been obtained from sedimentological analyses and palaeomagnetism, palynostratigraphy, and from chronometric methods such as radiocarbon dating, luminescence, electron-spin resonance, uranium series, noble-gas isotope dating and others. However, there is a vast untapped potential for integrated reconstruction, combining results from archives and proxies that are connected and can be highly synergetic. The session aims to initiate new interdisciplinary exchange and discussions, and to encourage future integrative research, crossing disciplinary boundaries.

6. Information on Joint Meeting of the Commissions on Paleopedology and Soil Geography 2011 at Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, S Germany

Program overview

Thursday, July 28: Arrival of participants,
19⁰⁰ - 21⁰⁰ barbecue
Friday, July 29: Oral and poster symposia
Saturday, July 30: Oral and poster symposia
Evening: Social event
Sunday, July 31: Field trip Swabian Alb
Monday, August 1: Field trip Black Forest



We are looking forward to welcome you in the Castle of Hohenheim!

Daniela Sauer

Reinhold Jahn

Karl Stahr

Paleopedology Chair

Soil Geography Chair

Division 1 Chair

More information will be available from mid November at:
<https://ppsg2011.uni-hohenheim.de>

7. First International Field Summer School on Paleopedology for young scholars “Paleosols as a depository of data on past environments”, August 3-7, 2010, Western Siberia, Russia

The school was organized by the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk. The Institute is well known for its more than 20 years expertise in paleogeographic reconstructions for continental Eurasia based on the study of paleosols, with a special focus on humus substances (pedohumus method). The Commission on Paleopedology of IUSS and Dokuchaev Soil Science Society were active in the organization of the conference.

The school was held around a small village Volodarka, 250 km south of Novosibirsk and 100 km south of Barnaul, on the bank of river Ob. This is a part of an extensive loess plateau famous for its loess-paleosol sequences with a detailed record of lower, middle and upper Pleistocene. Due to combination of tectonic activity and erosion cycles a set of buried, surface and exhumed paleosols can be observed in river exposures up to 50 m high.



Paleosols of three interglacial periods in buried (left) and exhumed bedding (right) in exposure of river Ob, corresponding to OIS 11 (lower horizon), OIS 9 (middle horizon), OIS 7 (upper horizon).

Paleopedology is experiencing such rapid development that latest approaches, methods and ideas are not presented in usual lecture courses. The main intention of the school was thus to teach young scholars recent advances and field techniques in paleosol studies.

45 participants were senior undergraduate and post-graduate students from different parts of Russia (Novosibirsk, Ulan-Ude, Sverdlovsk, Moscow), Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Training included lectures, field excursions, and master classes. Lectures were given by experts in paleopedology on general aspects of paleopedology and Quaternary stratigraphy (Alexander Makeev, Moscow), classification of paleosols (Irina Fedeneva, Novosibirsk), records of the former environment in paleosols (Alexander Alexandrovski, Moscow), catenary sequences of paleosols (Svetlana Sycheva, Moscow) and comparative studies of humus in surface and buried Chernozems (Igor Ivanov,

Puschino). Few lectures were devoted to new techniques of paleosol studies: microbiomorphic analysis (Alexandra Golyeva, Moscow), pedohumus method (Maria Dergacheva, Novosibirsk), paleomagnetism (Zinaida Gnibidenko, Novosibirsk), isotopic study of organic substances (Wolfgang Zech, Germany).

A special session was organized for students' presentations. Each student presented results of own studies of buried and surface paleosols in different regions (Western Siberia, Tuva, Urals, Baikal area, Russian Plain, Central Mexico and others). Students were awarded by books relevant for palaeo-environmental studies.

During the field part of the school students examined loess-paleosol sequences of river Ob exposures. Master classes, presented by lecturers (Alexandrovski, Golyeva, Dergacheva, Ivanov, Makeev) focused on the field study of buried and exhumed paleosols (morphology, field interpretation, sampling for different analyses, etc.). A separate master class was given on field research of paleosol sequences of ancient erosion landforms (Sycheva).

At the end of the summer school participants enjoyed a trip to Teletskoye Lake – one of the most famous beauties of the Altai Mountains.



Summer school participants in front of exposure showing an ancient gully with a loess-paleosol sequence.

All participants (both students and lecturers) admit that the first school on paleopedology was successful. The next school is scheduled for August, 2011.

Students wishing to attend are advised to contact Maria Dergacheva (mid555@yandex.com).

Maria Dergacheva

Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk

and

Alexander Makeev

Institute of ecological soil science, Moscow State University

8. Second International Geochronology Summer School, September 5-10, 2010, Switzerland: Dating anthropogenic and natural changes in a fragile alpine environment

The Second Geochronology Summer School took place on 5 – 10th of September 2010 in Klosters, Switzerland (well known for its winter sport activities). This summer school was organised by the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL (H. Gärtner, P. Cherubini, K.F. Kaiser), the University of Zürich (M. Egli, D. Brandová) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH (S. Ivy). The Klosters – Davos – Albula pass area (photo below) is rich in geomorphic features that provide a perfect insight into landscape evolution during the Pleistocene and Holocene. This area is also susceptible to natural hazards such as avalanches, rock fall, landslides and debris flows. All these aspects were topics during outdoor excursions.



Klosters – Davos – Albula pass area.

Participants from all over the world

21 participants from all over the world enjoyed an informative course within an intact nature. The programme had multifaceted topics that were presented both in the lecture room and in the field.

The programme included:

- **Dating techniques**
numerical methods (radiocarbon, exposure dating using cosmogenic nuclides, OSL, etc.); dendrochronology, ice-core chronologies; relative methods such as soil development, weathering rinds, Schmidt-hammer technique
- **Reconstruction of environmental parameters**
using dendroecology, stable isotopes, paleopedology, geoarchaeology etc.
- **Climate and landscape history**
combined use of various dating techniques and archaeology to analyse the structure of pre-historic settlements
- **Reconstructing geomorphic processes**
avalanches, mud flows, land slides, rock fall, forest fires, charcoal identification and dating

Several topics were covered by invited speakers from Italy (E. Costantini: Paleopedology), Germany (E. Eckmeier: Geoarchaeology), the United States (D. Dahms: Geochronology of the Rocky Mountains) and Switzerland (F. Preusser: OSL; M. Hoelzle: Dating in glaciology, I. Hajdas: Radiocarbon dating, K. Hanselmann: Alpine ecology; C. Burga: Palynology). In addition to lectures presented during the day, all participants presented their own research topics in special evening lectures. This practice led to very informative and fruitful discussions among the participants.



Participants of the Second Geochronology Summer School 2010.

Outlook

The Third International Geochronology Summer School will take place in 2011.

The organising committee is looking forward to welcoming again a group of prospective young scientists from all over the world.

Geochronology Summer School 2011:

The Summer School is open to young researchers worldwide (PhD students & Post-Docs). Online info and registration: <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/geochronology>

Topics: Dating techniques, climate and landscape history, reconstructing geomorphic processes

Registration fee: 880 CHF (Deadline for applications: April 30th, 2011)

Participation is competitive & will be limited to a max. of 20. The registration fee includes full accommodation (room sharing; double room) breakfast, lunch and diner, excursion and teaching material.

Markus Egli

and

Holger Gärtner

Department of Geography, University of Zürich

Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL

8. Papers presented at the 19th WCSS 2010 in Brisbane

Session D1.2: Modelling soil formation in time and space

(Joint session of Paleopedology and Pedometrics Commissions; Conveners: E.A.C. Costantini, B. Minasny)

Keynote:

Modelling soil formation along a loess toposequence

Peter Finke

Department of Geology and Soil Science, Faculty of Science, Ghent University, Ghent, 9000 Belgium

Combining quantitative (palaeo-)pedological, palaeo-environmental studies and modelling – an important step on the way to predict soil reactions to environmental change

Daniela Sauer^A, Peter A. Finke^B, Isabelle Schüllli-Maurer^A, Ragnhild Sperstad^C, Rolf Sørensen^D, Helge I. Høeg^E and Karl Stahr^A

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^E*Gloppåsen 10, N-3261 Larvik, Norway*

Rates and variability of hillslope erosion in steepland catchments in the Oregon Coast Range, Pacific Northwest, USA

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^B*Department of Geological Sciences, University of Oregon, USA*

Long-term soil landscape modelling in a Mediterranean agricultural environment

R. Ciampalini, S. Follain and Y. Le Bissonais

UMR – LISAH, Laboratoire d'étude des Interactions Sol - Agrosystème - Hydrosystème, INRA – IRD, SupAgro Montpellier, Bat. 24 - 2 place Viala - 34060 MONTPELLIER Cedex 1 – France

Shale weathering rates across a continental-scale climosequence

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^E*Faculty of Geology, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, USA*

^F*Student of Geology, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, USA*

Soil reactions to extreme environmental stress: lessons from the past records

Nicolas Fedoroff^A, Marie-Agnès Courty^B, Zhengang Guo^C and Mathieu Rue^D

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^B*UMR 7194. IPHES, University Rovira i Virgil, Tarragona, Spain*

^C*Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS 19, Beijing, China*

^D*SARL Paléotime, Villard-de-Lans, France*

Directed variability of paleosols properties in short chronosequences studied by the statistical approach (a case-study of kurgans in Orenburg region, Russia)

Olga S. Khokhlova^A and Julia L. Meshalkina^A

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^B*Soil Science Department, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Leninskyje Gory, Moscow, 119991, Russia*

Landscape - Soilscape Evolution Modelling: LAPSUS

M.P.W. Sonneveld^A, A.J.A.M. Temme^A, J.M. Schoorl^A, L. Claessens^{A,B}, W. Viveen^A, J.E.M. Baartman^A, J.P. Lesschen^C and W. van Gorp^A

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^C*Alterra, Wageningen UR, Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Genesis and composition of paleosols and calcretes in a plio-pleistocene delta fan of the Costa Blanca (SE Spain)

Stephen Wagner^A, Norbert Günster^B, Armin Skowronek^A

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Session 1.6.1: Impact of aeolian sediments on pedogenesis

(Commission 1.6: Paleopedology; Conveners: P. Jacobs, R. MacEwan)

Keynote:

Impact of aeolian sediments on pedogenesis – examples from the fringe area of the Saharan desert

Reinhold Jahn

Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences – Soil Sciences, University of Halle, Germany

Sydney gets a dusting, but what's in it?

Stephen Cattle

Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, The University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

Quantifying the soil- and ecosystem-rejuvenating effects of loess in a high leaching environment, West Coast, New Zealand

Andre Eger, Peter C. Almond and Leo M. Condon

Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Lincoln University, P.O. Box 84, Canterbury, New Zealand

What is the effect of loess on soil catena evolution in the Midwestern United States?

Peter M. Jacobs^A, Joseph A. Mason^B, and Paul R. Hanson^C

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Chronosequence of postglacial soil paleocatenas in the dune area of the Torun Basin (Northern Poland)

Michał Jankowski

Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland

Spherites in yellow brown Kandosols in south Western Australia

Geoff Kew and Bob Gilkes

School of Earth and Environment, University of Western Australia

Soil morphological characteristics of prairie mounds in the forested region of south-central United States

Brad Lee^A and Brian Carter^B

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Glacial dust in soils of Pennsylvania, USA: Evidence for an eolian component of fragipan horizons

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Geographic relevance of Late Pleistocene and Middle Holocene aeolian deposits in Central Tuscany (Italy)

S.Priori and E. A. C. Costantini

AC.R.A.-A.B.P., Research Center of Agrobiologia and Pedology, Firenze, Italy

Loess, bioturbation, fire, and pedogenesis in a boreal forest – grassland mosaic, Yukon Territory, Canada

Paul T. Sanborn^A and A.J. Timothy Jull^B

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^B*NSF-Arizona AMS Facility, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA*

Micromorphology of a welded paleosol in the Dillondale loess, Charwell Basin, South Island, New Zealand

Carol Smith, Matthew Hughes, Peter Almond and Philip Tonkin

Department of Soil and Physical Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural and life Sciences, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, New Zealand

Geomorphic controls of biological soil crust distribution, Mojave Desert (USA)

Amanda Williams^A, Brenda Buck^B, Debbie Soukup^C, Douglas Merkler^D

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^D*Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, USDA, Las Vegas Field Office, USA*

Session 1.6.2: Soils in limestone environments

(Commission 1.6: Paleopedology; Conveners: R. MacEwan, D. Hunter)

Keynote:

Clay minerals as indicators of the soil substrate origin of Rendzinas (Rendzic Leptosols) from the Malopolska Upland (S Poland)

Zbigniew Zagórski

Division of Soil Science, Department of Soil Environmental Sciences, Warsaw University of Life Sciences-SGGW, Nowoursynowska 159, 02-776 Warszawa, Poland

The exokarstic soil record of past environmental changes: Regional expressions

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Importance of subsurface soil pockets for plant growth in a karst environment

Héctor Estrada-Medina^A, Robert Graham^B, Mike Allen^C, Wes Tuttle^D, Juan José Jiménez-Osornio^A

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^C*Center for Conservation Biology. University of California-Riverside, USA*

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Aeolian salinization of soils on the piedmont plain of Eastern Tian Shan (Lake Ebinur area, China)

Mariya V. Konyushkova^A, Jilili Abuduwaili^B and Ivan P. Aidarov^C

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Genesis of calcic concentrations in Arguidolls of the Argentinian Pampa

Alsu M. Kuznetsova^A, O.S. Khokhlova^B and M. Osterrieth^C

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^C*Institute of Coastal and Quaternary Geology, Mar del Plata, National University, Argentina*

We are happy to see that so many members of the Paleopedology Commission are willing to organize meetings, summer schools and field workshops in the forthcoming years. Thanks to their efforts, we can look forward to a number of interesting events in very different landscapes, including central Europe, USA and Russia.

Another major issue for the next future will be to bring paleopedology back into INQUA. Due to structural changes, this will be possible only by proposing a focus group. We are going to work on this task in the forthcoming months, and we would be happy to see many of you at the INQUA congress in Bern, which may hopefully be the starting point for our re-integration in INQUA.

Sincerely,

Daniela Sauer, Sergey Sedov and Alexander Makeev

Commission officers