

Czech IGCP National Committee: from history to presence

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Introduction to history of the Czech IGCP National Committee:

The foundation of International Geological Correlation Programs was a joint venture between IUGS and UNESCO. The idea to create IGCP was suggested at a joint IUGS - UNESCO Meeting in October 1967 in Prague with the final approval in 1972. The first meeting of the Board of IGCP took part in May 1973 in Paris. Prof. J. Petránek was one of first fifteen board members. The 1974 was probably the most successful year in the Czech history related to IGCP, because 5 from 27 accepted projects were submitted by the Czechoslovak experts: V. Zoubek (IGCP 22 - Precambrian in younger fold belts, 1974 - 1980), M. Kužvart (IGCP 23 - Genesis of kaolins, 1974 - 1980), V. Šibrava (IGCP 24 - Quaternary glaciations in the Northern Hemisphere, 1974 - 1982), J. Senes (IGCP 25 - Stratigraphic correlation of the Tethys-Paratethys Neogene, 1974 - 1982) and M. Štemprok (IGCP 26 - Mineralisation associated with acid magmatism, 1974 - 1980). In 1980's two other IGCP Projects were initiated by the Czechoslovak scientists: M. Rakus (IGCP 198 - Evolution of the northern margin of the Tethys, 1983 - 1987) and J. Pašava (IGCP 254 - Metalliferous black shales, 1987 - 1992).

Next IGCP Projects co-ordinated by the Czechoslovak and later Czech scientists (since 1990 two independent - Czech and Slovak IGCP NCs were established) were not as numerous as during pioneer times of IGCP but they are very significant in conditions of rapidly increased competition. Nevertheless Czech research teams are still actively involved in IGCP projects.

From 1973 to 1993 the Czechoslovak IGCP National Committee was legally affiliated to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1994 the Czech IGCP NC was newly affiliated to the Czech Geological Society.

Chairmen of the Czechoslovak and Czech IGCP National Committee:

1973-1980: K. Beneš, Academy of Sciences (Czechoslovak Academy of Science).

1980-1989: V. Bucha, Academy of Sciences (Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences).

1990-1993: M. Kužvart, Faculty of Science, Charles University.

1994-to date: J. Pašava, Czech Geological Survey.

Czech scientists on international IGCP scene:

1968-1976: J. Petránek - Associated Secretary General IUGS, member of the first IGCP Board

1974-1975: A. Dudek - Member, IGCP Scientific Committee.

1981-1990: V. Šibrava - Director, Div. of Earth Sciences, UNESCO Paris.

1987-1992: A. Dudek - Member, IGCP Board.

1991-1999: V. Babuška - IGCP Secretary, UNESCO, Paris.

2001-2005: P. Jakeš - Member, IGCP Scientific Board.

The IGCP projects with project (co-)leaders from the Czech Republic (since 1990 onwards):

IGCP 357: Organics and Mineral Deposits (1993-1997) – J. Pašava.

IGCP 405: Anthropogenic Impact on Weathering Processes (1996-2000) – P. Sulovský, J. Zeman.

IGCP 428: Climate and Boreholes (1998-2002) – V. Čermák.

IGCP 429: Organics in Major Environmental Issues (1998-2002) – J. Pašava, J. Jeník.

IGCP 469: Variscan terrestrial Biotas and Palaeoenvironments (2003-2007) – S. Opluštil.

IGCP 497: The Rheic Ocean (2004-2008) – P. Kraft.

IGCP 580: Magnetic susceptibility (2009-2013) – J. Hladil, L. Koptíková.

IGCP 575: Pennsylvanian terrestrial habitats and biotas of Southeastern Euroamerica (2010-2014) – S. Opluštil.

IGCP 594: Impact of mining to environment in Africa (2011-2015) - B. Kříbek

Literatura: www.gli.cas.cz/igcp/