

Annual Meeting '87 of IGCP Project 198 "Evolution of the Northern Margin of Tethys"

The Annual Meeting of IGCP Project 198 took place from 3 to 8 August 1987 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The meeting was organized by the Geological Institute of the Georgian Academy of Sciences.

The aim of Project 198 is to compile a set of paleogeographical maps illustrating the evolution of the Northern margin of Tethys from the meridian of Lion (France) on the west to the Caucasus and the Transcaucasian area to the east. The following moments in the evolution of the Tethyan realm have been selected: the end of the Anisian, Norian, Pliensbachian, Callovian, Tithonian, Barremian, Albian, Coniacian, Paleocene, Eocene and Oligocene. An additional map for the Badenian is also included.

At the Tbilisi Meeting the Georgian colleagues presented a set of paleogeographic maps for the area of the Caucasus, the Transcaucasus and Crimea. The meeting discussed in detail the progress of work on the assembled maps. It has been pointed out that there are still many controversial problems concerning the western parts of Tethys while for the eastern areas some of the participating countries have not yet presented the respective materials (for instance Roumania). All this seriously hampers the editorial work on the assembled paleogeographic maps.

The progress of work of the tectonic group has been also discussed. The participants encounter likewise many problems mainly due to the fact that the available material is still not sufficient.

Few materials have been presented also to the paleobiogeographic working group. For this reason the experts could not compile preliminary versions of paleobiogeographic maps based on complex fauna, i. e. a reliable base for the paleogeographic maps.

The Meeting decided to take respective steps to extend the dead line of the Project until 1989 in view to complete the research.

The research on Project 198 will be reflected in a volume in which all authors, who not agree with the general concepts incorporated in the paleogeographic maps, will comment on the respective controversial problems. At the Tbilisi Meeting A. Nairn presented a preliminary volume with the so far available materials. The final version of this volume will be published by the Geological Department of the University of South Carolina and the Geological Institute "D. Stur" in Bratislava under the editorship of A. Nairn, J. Dercourt and M. Rakus. The results of the research on Project 198 "Evolution of the Northern Margin of Tethys" will be presented at the 28th Geological Congress in Washington, 1989 and the 14th CBGA Congress in Sofia in the same year.

Delegations of the following countries took part in the Tbilisi Meeting: Austria — A. Tolman; Bulgaria — P. Tchoumatchenco, Z. Ivanov, D. Tronkov; Czechoslovakia — M. Rakus, M. Misik, R. Mock, A. Biely, J. Pevni, J. Polak, C. Tomek, Nemcok, J. Mello; France — J. Dercourt, L.-E. Ricou; Hungary — A. Vörös, J. Kazmek; Poland — J. Lefeld; Roumania — M. Sandulescu. The host country has been represented by S. Adamia, M. Lordkipanidze, G. Zachariadze, V. Kazmin (Moscow) and others.

Two geological excursions have been organized. The first — to Locki Massif and its sedimentary cover and the other — a traverse across Greater Caucasus along the Voенно-Gruzinski road. The geological guidance, very competent, was accomplished by a team under the management of prof. S. Adamia, prof. M. Lordkipanidze and others colleagues.

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