



United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization



## IGCP 521

Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor during the last 30 ky: sea level change and human adaptation

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2005-2009

## 2005 Meeting Report



Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey  
October 8-15, 2005

### Organizers:

Kadir Has University  
Avalon Institute of Applied Science  
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University  
Istanbul University  
International Society of Environmental  
Micropaleontology, Microbiology and Meiobenthology

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## 2005 Meeting Report

*IGCP 521 Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor during last 30 ky: Sea level change and human adaptation*

October 8-15, 2005, Istanbul, Turkey

The inaugural meeting of the IGCP Project 521 was hosted by Kadir Has University, a beautiful modern institution on the shore of Istanbul's Golden Horn. The conference provided a forum for the global community of scientists (82 scientists from 18 countries; 71% from developing countries) and explored the avenues of collaboration to discover the linkages between sea-level change, coastal evolution, and human adaptation in a variety of settings, ranging from tectonically active (e.g., Caucasian coast, Sea of Marmara) to stable (e.g., Manych Depression) areas as well as areas of temperate (e.g., north-western coast of the Black Sea) to sub-tropical (e.g., Israeli coast) climate. Scientists from four continents were present at the meeting with Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine having the most participants. The Abstract Volume for the first meeting on the Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor (BSMC) contained 82 extended abstracts (225 pages) written by 167 scientists from 19 countries.



In keeping with the tradition of IGCP meetings, the conference began with a three-day fieldtrip led by prominent Turkish geologists and archaeologists, including one of the conference leaders, Yücel Yılmaz, as well as Mehmet Özdoğan, Erdinç Yiğtibaş, and Doğan Perinçek, among others. The participants had an opportunity to examine a number of fantastic structural and geomorphological elements along the Sea of Marmara, as well as a number of archaeological sites spanning several millennia of human adaptation to a changing coastal landscape. The trip included a ferry ride and overnight stay in Çanakkale along the south shore of the sea. One of the field trip stops was the world-famous city of Troy, where a superb discussion of the regions paleogeography and settlement patterns were discussed by several specialists in their field.



The technical program began with an overview of the IGCP Project 521 co-leader Valentina Yanko-Hombach, who presented the current state of knowledge on the BSMC evolution and the potential for future research. Over the next three days, it was followed by a number of technical sessions with a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary topics:

- Geology, geophysics, hydrology and sustainable development
- Sedimentology, geomorphology, and geochemistry
- Paleontology and biostratigraphy
- Palynology
- Tectonics
- Paleoclimatic Implications
- Archaeology and history
- Climate and sea-level modeling
- Geo-information systems and data elaboration



Keynote addresses were delivered by N. Panin (GeoEcoMar, Romania) on the controversy surrounding the Black Sea development since the Last Glacial Maximum, P. Mudie (Geological Survey of Canada) on palynological evidence of natural and anthropogenic changes in the BSMC, A. Chivas (University of Wollongong, Australia) on the palaeochemistry of isolation basins, Y. Yilmaz (Kadir Has University, Turkey) on the morphotectonic development of the Bosphorus channel, M. Özdoğan (Istanbul

University, Turkey) on the cultural interaction and environmental conditions of the BSMC, and V. Pushkar on application of mathematical modeling to global sea-level reconstruction over the past 30,000 years.



Twenty-two poster presentations complemented the technical sessions and provided the opportunity for researchers to discuss their findings with colleagues from around the world. The posters were displayed in a renovated part of the university, which sits atop of fantastic exhibit of excavated Roman-period baths over Byzantine foundation.



The technical program concluded with a sound-table panel of the IGCP Project 521 Potentials and Challenges. The reports of regional collaborators spanned all physiographic elements of the BSMC, including Manych-Kerch Gateway; Caucasian north-western, western, and southern Black Sea; Marmara Gateway, and the Aegean Coast. This panel was followed by reports of Working Group Coordinators focusing on: Paleontology and biostratigraphy; palunology; sedimentology and mineralogy; geochemistry; structural geology and active tectonics; archaeology, and radiocarbon chronology.



The meeting concluded with a wonderful movie introduction of the next year's conference in Odessa, Ukraine presented by Olena Smyntyna (President of the Conference).



The conference organizers, Valentina Yanko-Hombach (Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Canada), Yücel Yilmaz (Rector, Kadir Has University), Oya Algan (Istanbul University) and Tuncay Taymaz (Kadir Has University), deserve heartfelt congratulations on putting together an excellent meeting, which stimulated much discussion and interaction. This was a fitting start for a promising multidisciplinary project.



Conference Proceedings will be published in a Special Volume of Quaternary International. For more information on IGCP Project 521, please contact Prof. Valentina Yanko-Hombach ([valyan@avalon-institute.org](mailto:valyan@avalon-institute.org)) or visit <http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP/>.

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