



International Union for Quaternary Research

President:

Prof. John J. Clague
Professor and CRC Chair
Department of Earth Sciences
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Canada
Phone: 1-604-291-4924
Fax: 1-604-291-4198
E-mail: jclague@sfu.ca

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Professor Zhang Hongren
President, IUGS
64 Funei Dajie
Beijing 100812
China

Secretary General:

Prof. Pete Coxon,
Department of Geography
Museum Building,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2, Ireland.
Phone: 353 1 6081213
Fax: + 353 1 6713397
E-mail: pcoxon@tcd.ie

Dear Zhang Hongren:

Professor James Ogg has notified me that ICS has recommended to the IUGS Executive Bureau that the "Quaternary" be established as a Period/System in the International Geological Time Scale. It further recommends that the base of the Quaternary, as well as the Pleistocene Series, be changed to coincide with the base of the Gelasian stage (ca. 2.6 Ma). The base of the Gelasian marks a dramatic change in continental environments and the ocean-climate system.

Treasurer:

Prof. Allan Chivas
School of Earth and Environmental
Sciences
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522
Australia

The recommended changes will resolve a long-standing issue in international stratigraphy that, in recent years, has strained relations within the geological community. The changes also clarify the status of the Neogene (the system/period below the Quaternary) and allow the definition of formal stages within the Pleistocene.

Vice-Presidents:

Prof. An Zhisheng
Institute of Earth Environment
CAS
10 Fenghui South Road
Xi'an High Tech Zone
Xi'an, 710075
China

I am writing to state that the recommendations proposed by ICS are fully endorsed by the INQUA Executive Committee and by the vast majority of Quaternary researchers and research associations around the world, including those in Europe and North America. We are pleased to have reached a compromise that is acceptable to both ICS and INQUA.

Dr D Margaret Avery
Cenozoic Studies
Iziko Museums of Cape Town
PO Box 61
Cape Town 8000
South Africa

INQUA, like ICS, hopes that the full suite of changes outlined in the ICS resolution will be established simultaneously, thus finally resolving all aspects of this matter. It would be timely if IUGS would vote on the ICS recommendations prior to the INQUA Congress in Cairns, Australia, in July-August 2007. We would welcome the attendance of to an ICS officer at the XVIIth INQUA Congress to officially announce the decision and outline the background.

Prof. Jan A. Piotrowski
Department of Earth Sciences
University of Aarhus
C.F. Mollers Alle 120
DK-8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Dr. Denis-Didier Rousseau
DR CNRS
Paleoenvironnements
Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution
(UMR CNRS 5554)
Université Montpellier II - pl. E.
Bataillon, case postale 61
34095 Montpellier cedex 05
France

Sincerely,

John Clague, President INQUA

cc. Felix Gradstein, Chairman ICS
James G. Ogg, Secretary General ICS
Stanley Finney, Vice Chairman ICS
Peter Coxon, Secretary General INQUA
Peter Bobrowsky, Secretary General IUGS