



INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION  
ON  
STRATIGRAPHY



## *Prague 2010 - ICS Workshop*

### **The GSSP Concept**

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

30 May – 3 June 2010

**Sponsors:** International Commission on Stratigraphy; International Union of Geological Sciences; Faculty of Science, Charles University; Czech Geological Society; Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic; Stratigraphic Committee of the Czech Republic;

**Organizing Committee:** Stan Finney (Chair – ICS), Shanchi Peng (Vice-chair – ICS), Paul Bown (Secretary – ICS), Petr Kraft (Director – Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Charles University, Prague), Dr. Petr Storch (Institute of Geology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

**Participants:** Members of the full commission of ICS (ICS executive officers and chairs of all subcommissions) and the ICS webmaster are expected to attend. Vice-chairs and secretaries of all subcommissions are encouraged to attend. All other members of subcommissions and additional members of the stratigraphic community with significant contributions to make are also welcome.

**Objectives:** The goals of the workshop are expressed in the list of agenda items. The primary focus is on the success of the GSSP process. Discussion will include examples of successes and their broader implications, but also problems that have arisen will be discussed with suggestions for best addressing them. Preparing GSSP proposals, leading ICS subcommissions, resolving differences in usage of stratigraphic nomenclature and classifications, revising ICS statutes, setting ICS standards are additional topics that will receive considerable attention. If possible, recommendations will be made on some of these issues and formal votes may be taken on them by the ICS full commission.

**Format of Workshop:** No abstracts will be submitted; no publications will be produced directly from the workshop. The format will be open discussions in both full meetings of all participants and smaller groups focusing on specific agenda items. Of course, we will recruit specific presentations that lead or open discussions, and we will consider requests of participants to make specific presentations, but these will be accepted and organized solely for promotion of the agenda. Focused group discussions on agenda items should result, in most instances, in recommendations to the ICS full commission on the closing day of the workshop and possibly formal votes on them. In addition, discussion launched on the other topic are expected to carry over the next two years with consideration again at the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC in Brisbane, Australia in 2012.

**Agenda Items:**

1. The GSSP Concept: its success, its shortcomings, problems that have arisen, difficult boundary issues remaining.
2. The exemplary GSSP proposal – essential components, definition and correlation; how best to present a GSSP proposal.
3. Leadership of ICS subcommissions: ensuring progress on GSSPs; addressing difficult boundaries; managing conflicts, rivalries, and difficult personalities. (restricted to subcommission chairs)
4. New subcommission initiatives.
5. Future of ICS and its role in IUGS.
6. Dual versus single stratigraphic classification of geologic time and time-rock units.
7. Dual usage of “Stage”.
8. Integration of varied stratigraphic records and calibrated ages with the International Chronostratigraphic Chart.
9. Ma versus m.y.
10. Revisions to ICS statutes.
11. Collaboration with national stratigraphic committees.
12. The ICS website and educational products and outreach.
13. Suggestions for additional items are welcome.

**Program:**

- 30 May Welcoming Reception (evening)
- 31 May Opening, Review of ICS and Subcommission matters (morning);  
Discussion groups address agenda items (afternoon)
- 1 June Discussion groups address agenda items (morning);  
Discussion groups report to full meeting (afternoon);  
ICS Commission considers recommendations of discussion groups (evening)
- 2 June Field Excursion (base Devonian GSSP at Klonk and other localities);  
Walking tour of Old Town, Prague (evening)
- 3 June Full meeting for final discussion of workshop recommendations and  
votes, if appropriate; directives for further deliberations (morning);  
Free afternoon;  
Workshop Dinner (evening)

**Venue:** Lecture rooms at Charles University

**Lodging:** University Host House, student housing, and nearby hotels