

Société Géologique de France - French National Committee of the International Geoscience Program – Annual Report 2017

The role of the SGF-IGGP is to:

- Encourage submissions of new French-led proposals to the IGCP Scientific Board;
- identify amongst the approved IGCP projects those that are of potential interest to the French scientific community in order to encourage French colleagues to be involved and hopefully coordinate French activities with respect to those IGCPs;
- provide feedback on French geoscience issues and priorities to IGGP and UNESCO;
- be the official voice of France to the IGGP, as well as representing the latter to French geoscientists;
- allow French geoscience to be effective in interactions with UNESCO and other organizations worldwide.

The Vice-President for Foreign Affairs of the Société Géologique de France chairs the SGF-IGGP.

Current membership is as follows:

- François Baudin (Chair)
- Taniel Danelian (in charge of IGCP Projects)
- Patrick De Wever (in charge of Geopark and Geoheritage Projects)

2017 Activities report

French scientists have been particularly active in four (4) IGCP projects, which are all part of the IGCP theme ‘Global Change and the Evolution of Life: Evidence from the geological record’.

(1) Project n° 630 “Permian-Triassic climatic and environmental extremes and biotic response”

The IGCP 630 is a follow-up project of IGCP 572 “Restoration of marine ecosystems following the Permian – Triassic mass-extinction: lessons for the Present” (2008-2013). Dr. Marie-Béatrice Forel, who has been recently recruited as Micropaleontology curator at the Natural History Museum of Paris and a close collaborator of the French co-leader of this project, Dr. Sylvie Crasquin (Research Center on Paleobiodiversity and Paleoenvironments), was able to participate to the 5th international conference of IGCP 630 organized on October 8 – 14, 2017, in the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, in Yerevan (Armenia).

(2) Project n° 652 “Reading geologic time in Paleozoic sedimentary rocks”

Eleven (11) French participants have already officially declared their interest in this project, which was only approved in early 2017; they come from several French universities/research institutes, such as the ones in Lille, Lyon, Montpellier, Toulouse and Paris-Saclay (LSCE). This IGCP project is frequently advertised through the circles of both the French Paleozoic Group and the French Sedimentologists’ Association.

Some of the French participants to the IGCP 652 met during a specific meeting organized on April 26th, 2017, during the annual meeting of the European Geological Union (EGU), entitled “*the need for Integrated Stratigraphy – Recent advances in cyclostratigraphy, astrochronology, radioisotopic dating and age modelling*”.

The French co-leader of this project, Dr. Elise Nardin (University of Toulouse), organized a special session during the International Meeting of Sedimentology (IMS), held in her home town on October 10 – 12, 2017. The session was entitled “*Time calibration of paleoclimatic and paleoceanographic events*” and gathered over 70 participants.

(3) Project n° 653 “The onset of the Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event”

Eight (8) French researchers and two (2) PhD students participate officially to this global project launched in 2016, with over 200 scientists; French participants come from the Universities of Lille, Lyon, Toulouse and Marseille.

The French leader of this project, Dr. Thomas Servais (Evolution-Ecology-Paleontology, University of Lille) was able to participate at the main educational and training activity of the year, which was a two-day workshop at Nanjing, China in May 2017. The workshop was attended by over 50 students from different Chinese Universities.

Thomas Servais was also able to attend the annual meeting of Project 653 in Yichang (China) on October 8 to 12, 2017. The meeting was entitled “*Filling the gap between the Cambrian Explosion and the GOBE*” and gathered over 60 participants from about 20 countries.

(4) Project n° 655 “Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event: Impact on Marine Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems”

Prof. Emanuela Mattioli (University of Lyon) is the French co-leader of this recently approved project (February 2017); she was able to participate to the 1st international meeting of the project, held last October at the University of Jaén (Spain). Following the workshop of October 4th and 5th she was able to take part to the fieldtrip organized afterwards and visit several interesting sections of Pliensbachian – Toarcian sedimentary sequences of the External Subbetic.

– Two new IGCP applications that involve French co-leaders were submitted for evaluation in 2017. These are entitled as follows:

* “*Improved regional seismotectonic map in Africa: a key component for the seismic hazard and risk assessment (SEISMOSHAF)*”

* “*World Map of the Orogens*”

A letter, endorsing and supporting the proposal, was provided by the SGF-IGCP.

Respectfully submitted by:

François Baudin and Taniel Danelian

Chair and Vice-Chair, SGF-IGCP

25th January 2018