

# Gondwana to Asia: Fourth International Symposium

Fukuoka, Japan, November 8–10, 2007

The international symposium as titled above was held in Fukuoka, Japan from 8 to 10 November 2007. It was supported by seven organizations such as Kyushu University, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, IGCP 512, etc. The same symposium was held by the International Association for Gondwana Research in collaboration with Gondwana-related scientific projects in Chouchong, South Korea (2004), Beijing (2005), and Hong Kong (2006).

The 105 participants at the symposium came from 22 countries or regions including Japan (68 scientists), South Korea (5), India and Australia (4 each), Vietnam (3), Chinese Taipei, Pakistan, USA, and France (2 each), China, Norway, Holland, UK, Sri Lanka, Russia, Egypt, Germany, Thailand, Brazil, Malaysia, South Africa, and Mongolia (1 each). (Foreigners working in Japan are here counted as Japanese).

According to the abstract volume, the presentations included 39 orals and 58 posters.

The venue of the symposium was the Nishijin Plaza of Kyushu University, located in the northwestern part of Fukuoka City near Hakata Bay. The symposium hotel, KKR Hakata Hotel, was inexpensive and convenient, as is located at the city center from which the symposium bus escorted participants to the venue each morning. In the evening the participants could reach the hotel by walking through the brilliantly lit streets, catching a taxi, or using the subway. The logistics of the symposium were convenient and presented no problems. Below is a general summary of the symposium.

In the evening of 8 November, the ice breaker started at 17:30, with about forty people present. Old friends and colleagues who participated in IGCP 236, 288, 368, 411, 440, and 512 were happy to have got together again after some time. We exchanged information on the present, past and future scientific fruits and programs, and greatly enjoyed the gatherings.

On 9 November, the first session 'Beyond Gondwana' (Conveners: S.A. Wilde and M. Santosh) started with four keynote talks as follows: 'Archean metamorphism and tectonics: latest news and views' by M. Brawn; 'Multiple cross-sections through the Archean crust, West Greenland; implications for crustal growth mechanisms' by B.F. Windley; 'The ultimate precursor to Gondwana: How and when did the earliest crust form?' by S. Wilde; and 'Supercontinents, thermal anomalies and fluid flux in the Proterozoic Earth' by M. Santosh. These were followed by seven talks by M.N. Balasubramaniam, M. Jayananda et al., T.R.K.

Chetty, S.W. Kim et al., T.V. Tri et al., T. Khan et al., and T. Kanwack.

In the afternoon, the second session was 'Birth of Gondwana' (Conveners: A. Collins and K. Shiraishi). It included the following two keynote talks: 'Structure and kinematic evolution of a possible Pan-African suture zone in Sri Lanka' by K.V.W. Kehelpannala; and 'Australian Neoproterozoic tectonics in a global framework' by A. Collins. The next program included five talks by M. Satish-Kumar et al., G.H. Grantham et al., R.A. Fuck et al., T. Tsunogae & M. Santosh, and M. Yoshida & B. N. Upreti. The poster session was held during two tea breaks and at the lunch time.

In the evening of the 9th, the annual meeting of IAGR was held after the scientific presentations. After the conclusion of the meeting, the participants shifted to a cruise on Hakata Bay to join the symposium banquet, at which, there was an IAGR special meeting where the first IAGR award for the best paper of the year in Gondwana Research was delivered. Ben Goscombe, David Gray and Martin Hand, co-authors of the best paper, received the medal of 2006 Gondwana Research. The citation, the medal and one-year free subscription to *Gondwana Research* were presented to the senior author by Professor Brian Windley, President of IAGR.

In the morning of the 10th, B. Goscombe delivered a special prize address 'Determining crustal architecture using integrated terrane analysis: Example from the Eastern Nepal Himalaya', which was followed by the third session, 'After Gondwana' (Conveners: Y. Osanai, B.F. Windley, T.N. Nam and N.X. Khien). Three keynote talks included the following: 'Gold metallogeny and Asian continental growth' by R.J. Goldfarb and C.J.R. Hart; 'Origin of metamorphic terranes in the Central Asia orogenic belt: Precambrian basement or deep crustal roots of Palaeozoic arc system?' by A. Kröner et al.; and 'Lower crustal processes of Trans-Vietnam orogenic belt and its northern extension: Evidence for Permo-Triassic collision metamorphism in Eastern Asia' by Y. Osanai et al. Next presentations in this session included twelve talks by C. Lepvier, T. Hirajima & D. Nakamura, T. Usuki et al., H. Jeon et al., N. Tsuchiya et al., I.V. Kemkin, K. Hisada et al., V. Lanwongsa et al., W. Su et al., A.A. Ghani & N. Singh, L.D. Setijadji et al., and C. Lepvier et al. In the afternoon all posters were displayed and the poster session during the lunch hour was crowded and busy.

The fourth session 'Gondwana metallogeny' (Conveners: R.J. Goldfarb and Y. Watanabe) opened after the tea break at 4



Ben Goscombe receives the medal from the IAGR President, Brian Windley.

p.m. A keynote talk 'Sn–W–In–REE metallogeny in Southeast China' by Y. Watanabe and X. Li was followed by four talks by N. M. Trung & T. Itaya, S. Egashira et al., T. Tanaka et al., and K. Watanabe.

The Symposium's major topic 'Gondwana to Asia' had three successive sessions dealing with the Archean crusts that formed cores of Gondwanaland to the post-Gondwana dispersion. Topics dealt with the whole Gondwanan continent, but many of the presentations focused on Asia. The majority of the presentations including keynote talks were based on original data and/or ideas and high-level research and attracted considerable interest. Presentations from southeastern and eastern Asia, mainly from Vietnam and China, provided new insights from Gondwanan fragments in that part of the globe. The next symposium scheduled to be held in Hanoi in November 2008 is anxiously awaited.

Foreign participants totaled 42% of the whole and were thus distinctly multinational and of a high level academically. With the volume to be published in the near future as an outcome of the conference, the symposium will undoubtedly contribute much to the advancement of Gondwanaland geoscience.

Several foreign participants acknowledged financial support from the symposium. That given by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and other organizations was greatly appreciated.

On the evening of the 10th, a dinner party was held in the city center, and about twenty people enjoyed the Hakata night. A three-day field trip through Kyushu island began on the 11th. (Editor's note: Report of the excursion is placed online *Episodes* website <http://www.episodes.org>).

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