

Editorial

The International Congress on Stratigraphy – STRATI 2013 follows the decision to internationalize the STRATI conferences previously organized by the French Committee of Stratigraphy, the last one of which was held in Paris in 2010. Thus, the Congress possesses both the momentum gained from an established conference event and the excitement of being the first International Congress on Stratigraphy. It is being held under the auspices of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (IUGS), and it is envisaged that this first Congress will lead to others being held in the future.

Stratigraphy is a geoscience speciality that involves numerous researchers and practising worldwide and has many applications, with growing importance in scientific, technological, economic, and environmental fields. The Organizing Committee welcomes all interested parties to this event and intends to hold a congress of high scientific quality in a friendly and professional environment.

The Congress has been organized within the Department of Earth Sciences and the Research Centre in Geological Science and Engineering from the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa where, from the very outset, it has developed research in the Meso-Cenozoic stratigraphic units field. The overall theme, "At the cutting edge of Stratigraphy", reflects the recent advances in research in the field of Stratigraphy, new methodologies, applications for industry, and needs for society in general.

It includes a vast programme comprising twenty-four sessions covering three main themes: A – Principles and methods, B – Regional Stratigraphy, and C – Applied Stratigraphy. It correspond to a first proposal developed by the Organizing and Scientific Committees, with the input of the Honorary President of the Congress, the Chairman of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS/IUGS) and some colleagues from the French Committee of Stratigraphy (CFS). The scientific sessions will be coordinated by world-famous specialists.

The scientific programme also includes three plenary sessions, one for each of the main themes.

About three hundred abstracts were presented to the Congress and they have been assessed by a broad international scientific committee that included the Coordinators of the different sections of the Congress. This work was valuable for improving the scientific quality of the accepted papers. Unfortunately the difficulties that affect many of our countries prevent the participation of some colleagues with accepted communications (oral and poster).

The Congress participants belong to more than forty countries on four continents (only the Oceania is not represented) which shows the interest aroused by the realization of this Congress; in the accepted two hundred and eighty communications (oral and poster) are represented more than eight hundred authors.

The progress of scientific knowledge in this area is remarkable and the increasingly important interaction of stratigraphy with other areas of the Geosciences. The volume published under STRATI 2013 with texts about the "state of the art" on the various topics discussed in the Congress, and authored by members of our Scientific Committee, show that the diversity of methods used in studies of nature and the stratigraphic advancement of such knowledge in recent years, already go beyond our planet.

The Organizing Committee is honored by the presence of such a vast and competent scientific community and thanks all for your participation. Particular thanks are due to colleagues who participated in the organization of the Congress and whose support was essential for the high scientific quality of the communications that will be presented; this is a particular reference to the Honorary President Jacques Rey, the President of the International Commission on Stratigraphy Stanley Finney, the colleagues from the French Committee on Stratigraphy, the members of the Scientific Committee, the guest lecturers and the Coordinators of the field-trips.

Lisboa, June 2nd 2013

The Organizing Committee