

The 8th International Congress on the Jurassic System Shehong of Suining, Sichuan Province, China

Shehong of Suining near Chengdu was the location of the **8th International Congress on the Jurassic System** held from **August, 2nd to 22nd, 2010**. Sichuan, the home of the giant panda and Chinese dragons, is a splendid land in SW China below the Tibetan Plateau. This province is famous for its historical, cultural, as well as geoscientific resources, including five UNESCO World Culture and Natural Heritage sites. Suining, a city with profound cultural relics, such as the Lingquan Temple of the Sui Dynasty, the Guangde Temple of the Tang Dynasty, and the hometown of Guanying Buddha, is important for stratotypes of the Upper Jurassic “Suining-“ and “Penglai” formations. Shehong, administratively attached to Suining City, with a population of over one million inhabitants is close to three major cities including Chengdu, Chongqing and Mianyang. It is the hometown of Chen Zi’ang, a famous poet of the Tang Dynasty. The Shehong National Geopark of Jurassic Petrified Forest is located nearby. All the Congress sessions were arranged in the Fuluowan Hotel in Shehong, a beautiful lake-side hotel surrounded by Upper Jurassic outcrops along the Fujiang River.

The Jurassic Congress was initiated by the **International Union of Geological Sciences**, and by the **Jurassic Branch of the International Commission on Stratigraphy** and funded by UNESCO. It was the first time the event has been held in the Asia-Pacific region. The *“marine and non-marine Jurassic System”* was the central theme of the Congress. A variety of scientific sessions and programs were arranged, including marine and non-marine Jurassic boundaries and stratotypes; biostratigraphy, sequence stratigraphy, isotopic stratigraphy, magnetostratigraphy, cyclostratigraphy of the Jurassic; biodiversity and evolution of Jurassic life; depositional facies, paleo-geography, paleo-environment and ecosystem reconstructions; Jurassic paleo-climate and paleo-atmospheric CO₂ circulation; major Jurassic bio- and geo-events, their causes and mechanics; mineral and energy (oil, gas and coal) resources of Jurassic deposits; roles of Jurassic geoparks and museums in geo-heritage protection and public education. Jurassic strata are widely developed in China, especially in the Sichuan Basin. In recent years, Chinese Jurassic scholars have made significant achievements, greatly promoted the geoscience research and attracted international Jurassic specialists.

The **8th International Jurassic Congress** was co-organized by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS, Department of Land and Resources of Sichuan Province, Municipal Governments of Suining City and Shehong County of Sichuan Province, being sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Land and Resources of the PRC, and the Sichuan Provincial People’s Government. Support was given by the International Union of Geoscience Programme and co-hosted by the National Natural Science Foundation of Land and Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Sichuan Provincial People’s Government. Thirty three countries from around the world participated with 137 foreign guests and 93 domestic scholars. A report on the General Assembly was published by the People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency and more than thirty other major Chinese media agencies.

The Congress was opened on the morning of August 9th. The opening ceremony was attended by the Sichuan Province governor JIANG JUFENG, the mayor of Suining Hu Chang, the President of the Organizing Committee Professor JINGENG SHA, the President of the International Commission on Jurassic Stratigraphy JOZSEF PALFY, the Deputy director of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS — WANG XIANGDONG, and Professor ANTHONY HALLAM from the University of Birmingham, who addressed their talks to the Assembly. During five-day meetings, new world-wide discoveries and progress in Jurassic stratigraphy, paleontology, sedimentology, geochemistry, geophysics, coal and petroleum geology, isotope geology, major geological paleo-geographic, paleo-climatic and paleo-environmental events, carbon cycle, mineral and energy resources and geological parks and museums and other aspects were discussed.



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