

harangues and invite colleagues to reply to his discussion points.

The deadline for submission to Issue 69 is 31th July, 2020. Manuscripts and figures can be submitted via email address (yczhang@nigpas.ac.cn) as attachments. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION!

To format the manuscripts, please follow the TEMPLATE

Notes from the SPS Chair

Shuzhong Shen

First of all, I would congratulate the newly-elected executive committee of the Permian Subcommittee on Stratigraphy. Lucia Angiolini has been elected as the chair, Mike Stephenson as the vice-chair and Yichun Zhang has been nominated as the SPS secretary. We thank Charles Henderson for the chair of the nominating committee to organize this new election. The new SPS executive committee will take the position after the 36th International Geological Congress in March, 2020, in New Delhi, India. I am sure the new committee under the leadership of Lucia Angiolini will move the Permian GSSP work and timescale refinement forward efficiently. Both the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) hope all Subcommissions finish the GSSP work as soon as possible.

The official paper on the GSSP for the base of the Sakmarian Stage is currently under revision after a first round of review. I hope the paper can be published shortly on Episodes. We still have two GSSPs to be defined in the Permian. The Kungurian-base and Artinskian-base GSSPs are the priority for the next steps of SPS. However, controversy is still present in terms of the index species to define the base of the Artinskian Stage. The Mechtelino Quarry section has been greatly improved recently following the recent online publication on the Kungurian Stage by Chernykh et al. (2019, Palaeoworld, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palwor.2019.05.012>). More data are available for this section which becomes much better as the candidate of the Kungurian-base GSSP.

Unfortunately, the Lopingian-base GSSP will be flooded this year probably permanently because a dam for a power station is being built in the downstream of the Hongshui River in Guangxi Province. The Ministry of Water Resources of China supported the Chinese team and some measures were taken to save the GSSP section. Our team tried very hard to find a new section as the replacement or supplementary section for the Lopingian-base GSSP. Great progresses have been made during 2019 (see a report by Shen et al. in this issue).

Two very important meetings were held during last year. The ICS official congress STRATI 2019 was held in July in Milano. It was a great honor for me to be awarded the ICS Medal. I am the first Chinese scientist to win such a great honor in ICS. In addition, the 19th International Congress on Carboniferous and Permian was held in late July-early August in Cologne, Germany. We thank the organizing committee led by Prof. Hans-Georg Herbig to have done a great work for this congress. Two SPS business meetings were held during Strati 2019 and

ICCP 2019 as well, 12 SPS voting members and about 20 other colleagues attended the two meetings. I reported the progresses of the Permian GSSPs and we had a lot of discussions on the future work of SPS, in particular, the Guadalupian GSSPs in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas. A few papers on these GSSPs will be published soon.

Today is the eve of the Chinese Spring Festival, I wish you all the best for the Year of the Rat. Happy Year of the Rat!

SUBCOMMISSION ON PERMIAN STRATIGRAPHY ANNUAL REPORT 2019

1. TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY and NAME OF REPORTER

International Subcommittee on Permian Stratigraphy (SPS)

Submitted by:

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2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES, AND FIT WITHIN IUGS SCIENCE POLICY

Subcommission Objectives: The Subcommittee's primary objective is to define the series and stages of the Permian by means of internationally agreed GSSPs and establish a high-resolution temporal framework based on multidisciplinary (biostratigraphical, geochronologic, chemostratigraphical, magnetostratigraphical etc.) approaches, and to provide the international forum for scientific discussion and interchange on all aspects of the Permian, but specifically on refined intercontinental and regional correlations.

Fit within IUGS Science Policy: The objectives of the Subcommittee involve two main aspects of IUGS policy: 1) The development of an internationally agreed chronostratigraphic scale with units defined by GSSPs where appropriate and related to a hierarchy of units to maximize relative time resolution within the Permian System; and 2, establishment of framework and systems to encourage international collaboration in understanding the evolution of the Earth and life during the Permian Period.

3. ORGANISATION - interface with other international projects / groups

3a. Current Officers and Nominated Officers for 2020-2024 period:

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4. EXTENT OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL/GLOBAL SUPPORT FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN IUGS

I am currently discussing with the Scientific committee of the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) Big Science Program of IUGS to try to get supplementary funding to support an international program for ICS to complete an official numerical multidisciplinary timeline using all possible correlatable data, which can be also updated instantly.

5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019 (including any relevant publications arising from ICS working groups)

- The official paper for the ratified GSSP of the base-Sakmarian has been submitted to Episodes and it has been reviewed. The revised version will be submitted shortly.
- General proposals for the bases of the Artinskian and Kungurian stages have been prepared.
- A Special Issue has been published (Shen and Rong, 2019. Integrative Stratigraphy and Timescale of China: Science in China Series D: Earth Sciences, 62(1):1-348). One issue of Permophiles (Issue 67, SPS Newsletters) was published.

6. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IN 2019

We supported two voting members and two young scholars to attend the Strati 2019 and ICCP 2019 and held two SPS business meetings respectively during the International Carboniferous and Permian Congress 2019 and Strati 2019. The total expendi-

ture is much more than the amount (US\$4500) supported from ICS.

7. SUMMARY OF INCOME IN 2019

\$4500 from ICS.

8. BUDGET REQUESTED FROM ICS IN 2020***

We will apply for 5000US\$ from ICS for SPS activities in 2020. This will be mainly for: 1) SPS Chair Shuzhong Shen to attend the 36th International Geological Congress (2-8 March, New Delhi, India); 2) Shuzhong Shen attends the Executive Committee Meeting of IUGS held in South Korea in January; and 3) possible expenditure (~\$ 500) for the activities to finish the two remaining GSSP work.

9. WORKPLAN, CRITICAL MILESTONES, ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR:

- We hope to complete the remaining two GSSPs (base of Artinskian and base of Kungurian) in the next year.

10. KEY OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2024

- Establishing the Artinskian and Kungurian GSSPs
- Completing research into the replacement GSSP section of the base-Lopingian
- Propose and assist the ICS Chair to organize the working group under the Deep-time Digital Earth Big Science Program to establish the numerical multidisciplinary timeline. Try to get financial support from DDE program.

APPENDIX [Names and Addresses of Current Officers and Voting Members)

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