



Conference report

International Association for Gondwana Research (IAGR) 2015 annual convention and 12th international symposium on Gondwana to Asia: A report

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ABSTRACT

International Association for Gondwana Research (IAGR) 2015 Annual Convention and 12th International Symposium on Gondwana to Asia were held at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, during October 21–23, 2015.

The 2015 Annual Convention of the International Association for Gondwana Research (IAGR) and 12th international symposium on Gondwana to Asia were held at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, during October 21–23, 2015. The organizing team was led by Prof. Toshiaki Tsunogae the University of Tsukuba. The conference was attended by 95 participants, and included earth scientists from China (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan), Japan, Algeria, Korea, Russia, India, Turkey, USA, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (Fig. 1).

The conference started on October 22 with a welcome address from Prof. M. Santosh, IAGR Secretary General, and an Inaugural address from Prof. Hayashi Ken-Ichiro, Head of the Department of Earth Evolution Sciences, University of Tsukuba. The president of IAGR, Prof. Guochun Zhao from the University of Hong Kong chaired. The 2015 conference addressed a wide range of topics related to supercontinent tectonics in general and Gondwana–Asia in particular. The conference was scientifically subdivided into four technical sessions: 1) Gondwana amalgamation and supercontinent tectonics; 2) convergent margin tectonics and geophysics; 3) continental constructions in Central and East Asia; and 4) magmatism and metallogeny. The posters were organized into the same four categories, and were available for viewing at lunchtime and later afternoon after oral sessions.

Each oral session had one or more keynote presentations. The keynote speakers in the session on Gondwana amalgamation and supercontinent tectonics included Prof. M. Santosh, who talked about the ultra-hot Gondwana crust; Prof. Joseph G. Meert from University of Florida, USA, who provided a wide-ranging keynote talk on links be-

tween biological, geophysical and tectonic transitions during the assembly of Gondwana; and Prof. Stephen Johnston from University of Alberta, Canada, who spoke about Variscan oroclines and their implications for the paleogeography of Gondwana and Pangea.

Prof. Yunpeng Dong, from Northwest University, China, and Prof. Dapeng Zhao from Tohoku University, Japan, presented the keynote talks for the session on Convergent margin tectonics and geophysics. Prof. Dong talked about the tectonic architecture and multiple orogenies of the Qinling Orogenic Belt of Central China, while Prof. Zhao discussed seismic topography and mantle dynamics, and speculated on the origin of intracontinental magmatism, including the Changbai volcano.

Two keynote speakers, Dr. Inna Safonova from Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, Siberia Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Wenjiao Xiao from Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, gave their talks in the session of Continental constructions in Central and East Asia. Dr. Safonova discussed a new approach, based on ocean plate stratigraphy, petrology and geochemistry, for recognition of OIB and MORB basaltic rocks in accretionary complexes. Dr. Xiao presented recent research in the Iranian plateau, with emphasis on the accretionary and collisional tectonics of SW Iran, and on the difficulties in determining the timing of continental collision within orogens.

The final session, on Magmatism and metallogeny, included a keynote talk by Prof. Shengrong Li from China University of Geosciences (Beijing). Dr. Li's topic was the Jiaodong type gold deposits and how they constitute a metallogenic response to craton destruction. In association with the metallogenic session, Dr. Richard Goldfarb from Geological Survey of USA (USGS) talked about Carlin-type gold deposits and the difficulty in recognizing them in China.

There were about 56 posters subdivided between the four different sessions. During lunchtime and later afternoon, after the oral sessions,

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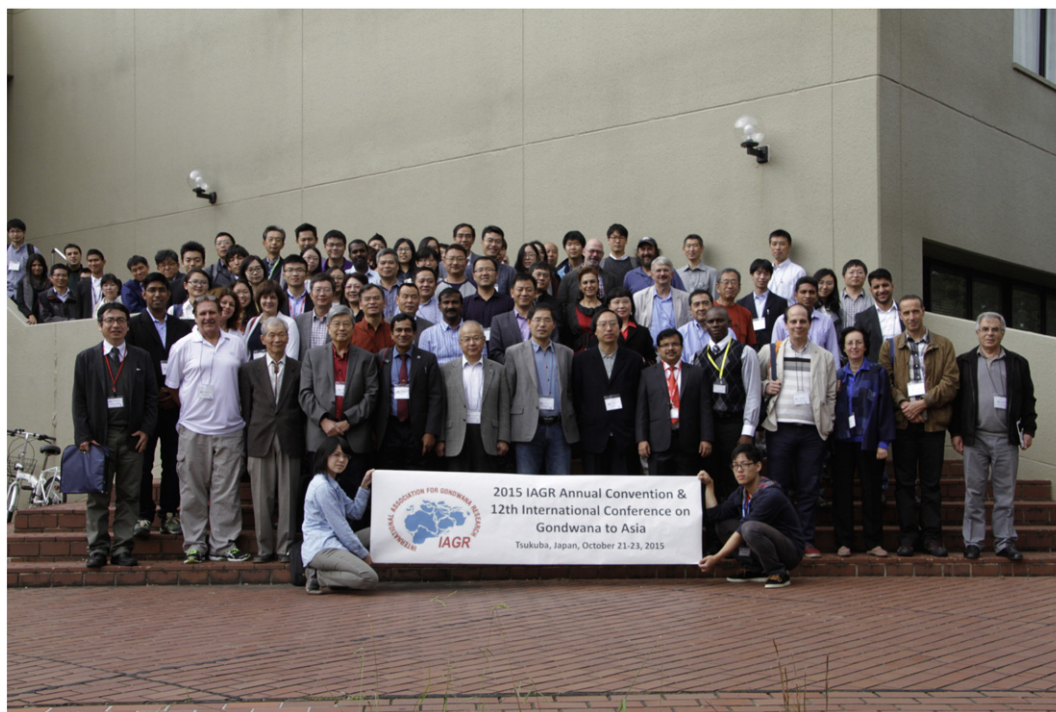


Fig. 1. Group photo in front the main audience hall of the University of Tsukuba, Japan.

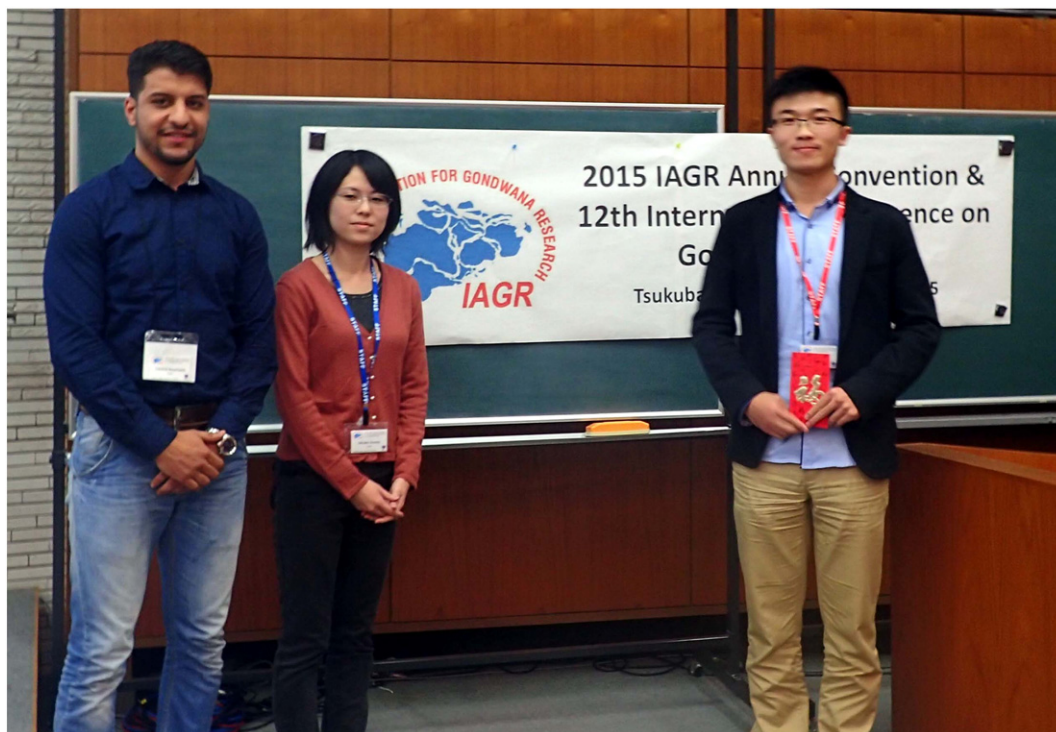


Fig. 2. Mr. Li Tang (right) from China University of Geosciences (Beijing), Miss Minako Iinuma (middle) from the University of Tsukuba, and Mr. Zakaria Boukhalfa (left) from Astrophysics Astronomy and Geophysics Research Center, Algeria, who won the best poster award.

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