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09) ICSL XI: The Mar Chiquita symposium

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Topic:

Topic author: aoren

Subject: 09) ICSL XI: The Mar Chiquita symposium

Posted on: 11 Jan 2011 21:14:34

Message:

First of all I want to congratulate Enrique and Erio for setting up the nice web site for the Mar Chiquita meeting. It looks promising, and I am looking forward to an exciting symposium.

I also just saw Newsletter # 1. Enrique and Erio, how many addressees received this newsletter? Were all attendees of the Salt Lake City and earlier symposia included, as well as all others registered as members of the ISSLR?

A few comments on the web site:

I think the organizers should urgently add information on abstract submission, format of the abstracts, deadlines etc. Tours and social events are important, but the first priority is still the science. The success of the meeting primarily depends on the scientific content. When will abstract submission be opened and what will be the deadline for submission, so that the program committee can start its work?

How many participants do the organizers expect to see in Mar Chiquita - and how many do they expect to come from outside South America?

The web site may also provide some information about the Bill Williams award to be given at the symposium to the presenters of the best student lecture and student poster. This will give another incentive to students to register and submit abstracts. Regarding the Bill Williams award, I was pleased to see how well the two awardees selected in Salt Lake City have been doing in the past years. Brian Schubert and Stefania Maniatsi have each published no less than 5-6 papers in quality journals in 2009-2010. Stefania also attended the Aral Sea meeting in St. Petersburg in 2009. I hope that these bright young scientists will also come to Mar Chiquita and remain active in our society.

Two other questions relating to the Mar Chiquita event:

- Will there be (wireless?) internet access at the congress venue? Highly important!
- Do the organizers intend to publish the meeting proceedings? If so, information should also be posted as soon as possible on the congress web site, and if relevant, deadlines and guidelines for submission of manuscripts should be given.

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 11 Jan 2011 22:47:18

Message:

Enrique and Erio, It may be a good idea to contact (in Spanish!) the Spanish "Asociaciyn Cultural

de Amigos de las Salinas de Interior" - see <http://salinas.castillalamancha.es/Quienes.htm> and <http://www.salinadeinterior.org/>

The contact there is Katia Hueso, Presidente.

E-Mail: katia@silente.net

E-Mail: [salinas@castillalamancha.es](mailto:salinascastillalamancha.es)

These people may be interested in participating in the Mar Chiquita symposium.

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 12 Jan 2011 03:56:54

Message:

Dear all,

I couldn't come to this symposium. In this time I'll have expedition to Aral.

Yours,

Nick Aladin

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 13 Jan 2011 12:51:26

Message:

I know of seven (maybe nine) people going to Mar Chiquita from Australia. This is an improvement from recent symposia. I agree that we need the the scientific information ASAP.

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 19 Jan 2011 00:48:20

Message:

Dear all,

Now I can come to this symposium. Expedition to Aral will be later.

Yours,

Nick Aladin

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 19 Jan 2011 11:14:42

Message:

I just saw that the web site of the Mar Chiquita symposium now gives some information on the format of the abstracts and the size of poster boards etc. Thanks, Enrique and friends, for posting this. A few essentials are still missing, however:

1. The deadline for abstract submission - very important! Only after the abstract submission is closed will it be possible to get an overview of the science expected at the meeting and to think about an attractive program of oral presentations.
2. The way abstracts should be submitted (e-mail address of Enrique? Or will there be an online submission option?).
3. (especially important if abstracts are submitted as a Word file to an e-mail address): a sample abstract to show the desired format of the document. I know that providing a sample document does not always mean that authors will follow the instructions (according to my experience they often don't!), but if the organizers aim for a uniform format in the book of abstracts, they can probably save some time by requesting authors to submit the documents in the format planned for the book of abstracts.

If the local organizers will need help editing and formatting abstracts, I am always prepared to assist. I am quite experienced in this kind of work.

Reply author: erio_curto

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 05:34:39

Message:

Dear Aharon, many thanks for your help.

By mistake deadline for abstracts submission was in the HOME tag only.

We just made all the suggested changes, including the sample abstract.

We hope that everything is OK now.

Enrique and Erio

Reply author: erio_curto

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 06:36:57

Message:

Scientific program:

With regards to the scientific program, we have a few questions to the board:

1. We have already two plenary speakers confirmed connected with the Mar Chiquita region. It would be ideal to have other speakers from other regions of the world. We would very honored if members of the board would accept to be one of them. Also suggestions about other potential candidates be appreciated.

2. With regards to workshops, latin american scientists dedicated to salt lakes are very few. Therefore it is very difficult to get enough participants for specific topics. We are working with at least one summarizing current research activities in the neotropics as the only feasible alternative. Therefore we are open to suggestions about workshops.

3. One possible alternative is to have a workshop focused on the Dead Sea-Mar Chiquita connection. That could include a presentation on present situation and future scenarios of Dead Sea (useful for Mar Chiquita locals to understand water appropriation threats), as well as sustainable tourism promotion and management in both lakes. We are sure that this subject will attract interest from local authorities and the business sector.

Enrique and Erio

Reply author: erio_curto

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 06:51:40

Message:

Additional information and questions:

* Total number of e-mail addresses that receive the newsletters is: 1916

* We expect to have a better idea about the number of participants in a couple of weeks, as we are now starting to receive confirmation of assistance.

* Please send us detailed information about the Bill Williams Award to be included in the web page.

* We confirm that wireless internet service will be available at the conference venue.

* We could offer publication of the meeting proceedings by the National Academy of Sciences of Argentina. However we have two questions to the board:

1. At the moment we have no clear idea of the number of papers to be presented at the meeting, therefore we would need a clearer picture before approaching the Academy.
 2. It would be easier for an on-line (not printed) publication. In this case, we will need a Publications Committee willing to help us with reviewing and editing manuscripts.
-

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 08:24:23

Message:

(in reply to the message:

Dear Aharon, many thanks for your help. By mistake deadline for abstracts submission was in the HOME tag only

We just made all the suggested changes, including the sample abstract. We hope that everything is OK now.

I am currently absent from my office and I will have more time to look at the congress web site in a week from now when I will be back in Jerusalem. When everything is OK and it is clear how abstracts should be submitted, I will start working on the abstracts for two or three presentations (oral or posters, as may be decided by the program committee) that I want to give in Mar Chiquita).

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 08:34:02

Message:

In reply to the message posted re. Scientific program:

1. We have already two plenary speakers confirmed ... We would very honored if members of the board would accept to be one of them.

I gladly accept, and I think I will have a nice idea for such a talk. I plan to present three abstracts to the meeting, all of them connected to historical subjects related to salt lakes. One is a more general talk (good for a plenary lecture, to my opinion), one is a (non-microbiological) talk on the Dead Sea (could be in one of the sessions of contributed talks), and one (also a historical, non-microbiological topic) I probably prefer to present as a poster. Within 2-3 weeks you will have the abstracts and you will be better able to judge what I plan to present in Argentina.

3. One possible alternative is to have a workshop focused on the Dead Sea-Mar Chiquita connection. That could include a presentation on present situation and future scenarios of Dead Sea ...

I probably do not plan to give such a talk for "political" reasons. That decision is not yet final, but at the present time it is probably best for me not to give a presentation on this important topic.

as well as sustainable tourism promotion and management in both lakes.

I am sure that Mr. Dov Litvinoff, mayor of the Tamar Regional Council, will present the tourism aspects of the Dead Sea. As I wrote above, I myself plan to come with a talk that highlights some unknown aspects of historical exploration of the Dead Sea.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 08:39:41

Message:

In reply to the message on Additional information and questions:

* Total number of e-mail addresses that receive the newsletters is: 1916

Sounds excellent!

* Please send us detailed information about the Bill Williams Award to be included in the web page.

I am currently traveling abroad and I can provide you the information in a week from now, when I will be back in my office. Bob Jellison or Brian Timms will sure be able to send you information sooner.

* We confirm that wireless internet service will be available at the conference venue.

Perfect - that is very important!

* We could offer publication of the meeting proceedings by the National Academy of Sciences of Argentina. However we have two questions to the board:

1. At the moment we have no clear idea of the number of papers to be presented at the meeting, therefore we would need a clearer picture before approaching the Academy.
2. It would be easier for an on-line (not printed) publication. In this case, we will need a Publications Committee willing to help us with reviewing and editing manuscripts.

I am always willing to help. It was a pleasure working on the Salt Lake City proceedings volume (and the resulting book is very nice), and when the organizers will find a proper framework for publication, I will be glad to assist.

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 23:44:19

Message:

I support Aharon giving a plenary talk as he outlines. I am available if needed for a publications committee and review of papers. In my own case I am intending only submitting a long abstract on a review of brine shrimps in Australia, instead of a full blown paper.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 22 Jan 2011 00:29:28

Message:

Brian, as thanks for your support for me giving a plenary talk, I will surprise you with a few aspects relating to Australia.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 22 Jan 2011 00:35:46

Message:

Enrique and Erio, I had a new look at the symposium web site. The guidelines for abstract submission are clear. Maybe it be better that the tab, instead of "Scientific prgram" should read "Abstract submission". A link to the scientific program should follow much later, after you will have a preliminary program to show.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 15 Apr 2011 21:28:45

Message:

The ISSLR has in the past approved to grant up to five travel grants of US \$ 500 each to enable students from outside Argentina to attend the Mar Chiquita symposium.

There have only been three applications from outside Argenina - all from Bolivia, and two of these

can be approved; the third does not qualify.

The meeting organizers have requested to open the option to apply for these travel grants also for Argentinian students. Wayne specifically requested funding for an Argentinian lady, and now I have another request from Enrique to support another Argentinian student.

In view of the very few travel support requests from students from other countries, can we approve such grants to Argentinians as well?

Another related issue: if one of these grantees will be found worthy of the Bill Williams Prize, can we give one person both a travel grant and the prize money?

Reply author: mcoleman

Replied on: 15 Apr 2011 23:03:46

Message:

I see no reason to exclude internal travel from a travel grant - I think perhaps the board should favour people who have to travel a distance ie a significant cost. Perhaps we could consider less money for internal travel (more grants) and maybe internal travel costs should be justified ie someone should not make a profit from the grant by having a trivial cost to travel. The money is there help students attend the meeting.

Do we have to advertise that the grants are available for internal travel?

I think that the travel and Williams grants are separate and therefore one could be a recipient of both.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 15 Apr 2011 23:10:21

Message:

Dear Mark, thanks for these comments. There is no need to advertise that the grants will be available to Argentinians as well. At the time we approved five travel grants, two will now go to Bolivians, we have already two good candidates from Argentina recommended by Enrique and by Wayne, and I have no doubt that Enrique will be pleased to recommend one more Argentinian student.

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 16 Apr 2011 05:35:03

Message:

I agree that there is no reason not to include internal travel. However, it should be based partially on funding needs, i.e. does the student have other funds or is it for very short travel distances. The travel funds are used not just for travel but for registration, too, so in that capacity as long as the students are qualified, I don't think it is important where they come from.

The travel grants and the Bill Williams funds are two different awards and if someone qualifies for both great!

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 22 Apr 2011 22:11:40

Message:

The issue of the ISSLR travel grants is still not closed. I just received the following letter from Enrique and Erio:

Dear Aharon:

Jorge Coronel, from Bolivia, inform us that he will not come to Mar Chiquita despite the ISSLR grant (see your e-mail below), because he is unable to afford the extra expenses required to

attend the Conference. We, as local organizers, had offered him extra support: an extra grant of US\$ 100 plus not charging his registration as student (US\$ 120).

Taking into consideration that two awarded grants will not be used (Elena Escobar and Jorge Coronel) we would like you to consider to support two more Argentine potential candidates (see attached the corresponding information). Unfortunately the CVs are only in Spanish. If you wish, I can ask them for an English CV.

Kind regards...

Enrique Bucher

Erio Curto

This means that currently we have two grant approved - Ariel Gustavo Cabreira and Jesus Nazareno Pinto Ledesma, while we have made five available.

I have looked at the documents sent to support the application of the two new Argentinian candidates - German Kopprio and Romina Betiana Daga, and my conclusions are as follows:

German Kopprio - is a Ph.D. student, has submitted two abstracts, and to my opinion we can approve an ISSLR travel grant for him. If anyone would like to see the documents, please let me know, and I will forward them to you. If by April 30 I will not have received any objections, I will notify Mr. Kopprio that the ISSLR will support his travel with the sum of \$ 500.

Romina Daga - highly problematic to my opinion, as she is no longer a student. She finished her Ph.D. in 2009, and has finished a post-doctoral period in April 2010. I understand that currently she is employed as a researcher in a nuclear energy research institute and works on neutron activation analysis, and her travel to the meeting will not be financially supported by her employer. I do not find any evidence in the documents supplied that her current interests have anything to do with salt lakes. As our travel grants are intended to stimulate young scientists toward a career in the field of limnology and salt lake studies etc. to promote the goals of the society, Dr. Daga does to my opinion not qualify for a travel grant. She has submitted an abstract about her earlier Ph.D. work (which needs proofreading, so that at least there will be no typos in the abstract title). Comments are welcome, and if anyone would like to see the CV of Dr. Daga, I will send it to you. Unless I will hear other opinions from you until April 30, I will notify the organizers that the ISSLR will not financially support the travel of Dr. Daga.

The fact that we have made five travel grants available does not mean that we have to issue all these grants. If there are not sufficient students who qualify for these travel grants, to my opinion we should keep the money and use it for better purposes. Comments are welcome.

Aharon

Reply author: mcoleman

Replied on: 22 Apr 2011 23:52:57

Message:

We dont have to give five grants if there are not five suitable people.

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 23 Apr 2011 09:51:21

Message:

I agree with both Aharon and Mike. We should only award grants to students who are qualified and we need not place all five awards this time around. Maybe for the next meeting we could award 7 grants, but we certainly should not use the money if there aren't suitable grantees.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 30 Apr 2011 07:04:40

Message:

As there were no objections to give a travel grant to Mr. German Kopprio, the final list of

grantees is as follows:

- Ariel Gustabo Cabreira
- Jesus Nazareno Pinto Ledesma
- German Kopprio

Each will receive a travel grant of US\$ 500.

We thus will distribute three travel grants only and not five as originally planned, as no more suitable candidates had applied for these grants. I do not intend to consider any additional requests for travel grants on short notice.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 15 May 2011 04:56:45

Message:

The Mar Chiquita symposium is over, and I had a marvelous time there. It was a wonderful meeting, good science, excellent local organization, and a great atmosphere. At the closing session yesterday I have thanked Enrique and Erio for the great job they did, and on behalf of those board members who were not with us in Argentina I repeat my thanks on the board forum.

We will soon organize elections of a new board. We already have 12 nominees for 11 positions to be filled, and I announced that further nominations will be accepted until the end of this month. We thus have sufficient enthusiastic colleagues who are willing to contribute to the society in the coming three years. There is also no lack of interest to organize the next symposium in three years. No less than three bids were presented and informally discussed at Mar Chiquita: China, Israel and Australia. The Australian option (Perth in February 2015) was found unattractive, so that a decision will have to be made between the China and the Israel option, no later than the end of January 2012, by the newly to be elected board.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 14 Sep 2011 04:08:42

Message:

We still have not made a decision about the possible publication of the proceedings of the Mar Chiquita symposium. I just received the following information from Enrique, after his attempts to interest the Argentina Academy of Sciences and local journals have failed:

Dear Aharon

Printing prices keep changing rapidly here (even in US dollars) because of high inflation.

Printers are therefore reluctant to give written estimates beyond 2 weeks validity.

At present, their estimates are around 8-9 thousand US dollars

Best regards

Enrique

This is a lot of money - about one third of our finances. it is not clear how much of this can be recovered from sales. Moreover, the longer time that passes since the meeting, the more difficult will it become to obtain manuscripts from the speakers within a reasonable time.

Will the Mar Chiquita symposium become known as the first ISSLR meeting that did not publish proceedings? A pity - note that the 1981 papers in Hydrobiologia are still valuable today!

Comments are welcome. Note that I will be traveling in the period Sept. 15-22 and will have limited e-mail access during that time.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 14 Sep 2011 04:09:38

Message:

We still have not made a decision about the possible publication of the proceedings of the Mar Chiquita symposium. I just received the following information from Enrique, after his attempts to interest the Argentina Academy of Sciences and local journals have failed:

Dear Aharon

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Best regards

Enrique

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Will the Mar Chiquita symposium become known as the first ISSLR meeting that did not publish proceedings? A pity - note that the 1981 papers in Hydrobiologia are still valuable today!

Comments are welcome. Note that I will be traveling in the period Sept. 15-22 and will have limited e-mail access during that time.

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 14 Sep 2011 11:52:54

Message:

Some societies are just doing a cd with the authors providing camera ready copy. Is that a possible and cheaper alternative?

ISSLR Forums : <http://www.isslr.org/forums/>

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