



The first joint international conference of IGCP 588 / INQUA Coastal and Marine Processes Commission in Hong Kong

30 November 2010 (Mon) – 4 December 2010 (Friday)
University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

FIRST CIRCULAR

(Updated information can be obtained from <http://www.hku.hk/science/igcp588/>)

Introduction

The IGCP 588, “*Preparing for coastal change: A detailed process-response framework for coastal change at different timescales*”, builds on a long tradition of IGCP projects that have focused on the role that sea level has had on shaping coastal environments. This new project aims to integrate contemporary processes, impacts and responses of coastal environments to changes in sea level and extreme events, with an overarching focus on human influences and reactions to coastal processes. The project will include further examination of past and present coastal dynamics and evolution, with the additional emphasis on predictive modelling of the coastal response to changing climates, anthropogenic impacts and natural hazards. We hope to bring together researchers assessing coastal dynamics and vulnerability at timescales from minutes to millennia that are immediately relevant to a variety of stakeholders interested in the future of coastal communities globally. Leaders of the project are Adam Switzer (Earth Observatory of Singapore), Craig Sloss (Queensland University of Technology, Australia), Benjamin Horton (University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.) and Yongqiang Zong (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China).

Venue & dates

Established in 1911, The [University of Hong Kong](http://www.hku.hk/) (HKU) is Hong Kong's oldest university. It provides a modern tertiary education for students, and incorporated the Hong Kong College of Medicine, which had been teaching western medical science since 1887. With a student population of over 20,000 and some 1,000 internationally recruited academic staff in 2004, HKU is a prestigious English language university and one of the top research universities in Asia Pacific

region, nurturing well-rounded graduates with a global perspective and life-long learning capabilities. The HKU [Department of Earth Sciences](#) was established in 1995 and is the only department of its kind in Hong Kong.

Important dates:

Deadline for abstract submission	1 September 2010
Notification of selection of abstracts for oral/poster presentation	15 September 2010
End of discounted rate for registration	15 October 2010
Deadline for submission of full papers for <i>special issues</i>	To be announced at the meeting

Abstracts:

Participants are requested to submit an abstract in English within 1 A4 page no later than 30 September 2010 by email to Dr Yongqiang Zong, Department of Earth Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China (email: igcp588@hku.hk). The abstract should include title, authors' names (capitalized family names), institutions and addresses, main body of abstracts, and the email address of the presenting author. The abstracts are preferred to be typed at 1.5 spaced in 11 point size, Times New Roman font, with 2.5 cm margins all around.

Proposed Scientific Program

Suggested schedule:

Monday 30 Nov. *Evening – Ice Breaker*
 Tuesday 1 Dec. *Scientific sessions – working group meeting in the evening*
 Wednesday 2 Dec. *Scientific sessions – social programs in the evening*
 Thursday 3 Dec. *Fieldtrip to Mai Po wetland followed by conference dinner*
 Friday 4 Dec. *Fieldtrip to Lantau Island.*

Scientific sessions:

Presentations will be organized according the following four themes.

- Catastrophic events : Tsunami/storms
- Sea-level and coastal changes
- Human adaptation to sea-level change
- Research methods

Conference Field Trips:

[Mai Po wetlands \(mangroves, wetland management\)](#)

Mai Po wetlands and the neighbouring Inner Deep Bay in the northwestern corner of Hong Kong is known as a haven for migratory birds and mangrove forests. Mai Po is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and 1,500 ha of wetlands around Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay are a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Over the past decades, however, much of the wetlands have been converted to *Gei Wei* which is the sustainable ancient Chinese way of shrimp and fish farming, common in the Pearl River delta. *Gei* stands for man-made earth embankment, and *Wei*, man-made enclosure for farming and aquaculture.

[Lantau Island \(viewing the coastline from a mountain top\)](#)

This trip is organized for those who are fit to climb the Sunset Peak (from 300m up to 900m). From the top of the peak, you will have a great view to the north – the second tidal channel into the Pearl River estuary, west – the mouth of the Pearl River estuary, and south – the South China Sea. We will then walk down to a coastal wetland where you can see sediment overwashed by large typhoons and microfossil evidence of a typhoon in 1963.

Proposed Social Program

Ice-breaker – Monday night

To help kick start the new IGCP588 project and fuel discussion from the very start and ease delegates past the cultural shock on arrival into our city, an ice-breaker reception is planned for the Monday evening. This will be held at the conference venue, HKU campus.

Exploring Hong Kong Night – Wednesday night:

Local organizers will provide further details of the possible activities and guide participants to the venues.

Option One: to experience Hong Kong's horse racing at Happy Valley and no betting is required.

Option Two: to see the light show in the Victoria Harbour. The show is spectacular and highly recommended.

No other formal guest program will be planned. However, a visit to the website of the Hong Kong Tourism Board at <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/> can provide plenty of ideas for accompanying guests.

Conference dinner – Lamma Island Seafood Dinner – Thursday night:

Lying just a half-hour ferry ride from Central, Lamma – the third largest of Hong Kong's islands – offers a great escape from the city. There are no cars on the island and few buildings are over three-storey high. Trails meander along hills and coastline. This island is home to some of the Hong Kong's most popular seafood restaurants. Dinner will be arranged there to give participants a chance of tasting Hong Kong's excellent seafood cuisine (options will be available for vegetarians and people allergic to seafood).

Registration

Registration Fees:

	Early Bird (before 15 Oct. 2010)	Normal Rate (after 15 Oct. 2010)
Professionals	HK\$2300	HK\$2800
Students	HK\$1500	HK\$1800
Accompanying persons (Ice-breaker party and seafood dinner)	HK\$550	HK\$650

The registration fees cover:

- Full workshop registration
- Ice-breaker event on the Monday evening
- Printed program and conference abstracts
- Lunches and refreshments during the scientific sessions
- Conference seafood dinner on Lamma Island
- Fieldtrips to Mai Po wetlands and Lantau Island

Registration forms:

Please find the forms from <http://www.hku.hk/science/igcp588/>

Payment methods:

1. By bank draft

Payable to 'The University of Hong Kong'. Please fax the draft or email a scanned copy of the draft directly to Dr Y Zong (00-852-25176912 or igcp588@hku.hk).

2. By internet or bank transfer to:

Beneficiary Name: The University of Hong Kong

Account No: 004-002-222834-001

Bank: The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd.

Address: 1 Queen's Raod, Central, Hong Kong

SWIFT Code: HSBC HK HH HKH

Please fax or email a copy of payment transfer record to Dr Y Zong (00-852-25176912 or igcp588@hku.hk).

3. By credit card:

Complete the credit card payment part of the registration form (from <http://www.hku.hk/science/igcp588/>) and, fax or email the form to Dr Y Zong (00-852-25176912 or igcp588@hku.hk).

Support for attendees from developing nations:

Support will be available through IGCP, INQUA or other programs to assist delegates from developing nations. Those who wish to apply for such assistance should submit his or her abstracts together with a letter explaining the reasons for such support to Dr Yongqiang Zong (email: igcp588@hku.hk) and the deadline for such request is **30 June 2010**.

Travel/Accommodation information: Hong Kong

Travel:

Hong Kong is the hub of Southeast Asia and the gateway to China. Its international airport is one of the busiest and most efficient in the world. There are direct flights to more than over 130 cities all over the world, including cities in Europe (Frankfurt, London, Helsinki, Paris, etc), North America (Vancouver, Toronto, Chicago, New York *direct*, San Franscico and Los Angeles), Asia (Most cities) and Oceania (Auckland and all Australian state capitals except Tasmania). The transit from the airport to most parts of the city takes less than an hour.

As airlines commonly offer air ticket/hotel packages many delegates may prefer to use these – we strongly recommend that if you do this you choose a hotel on the western side of Hong Kong Island so that you will be able to travel to and from the conference venue easily.

Once arriving in Hong Kong, the local public transport system is very efficient and cheap. There are many choices, including express train, buses, minibus, taxi, and so on. The venue is situated in the relative heart of the city, and is well connected by public transport. A number of bus routes have stops at the University. The conference venue is commonly referred to as '**Hong Kong U**' and taxi drivers should be asked to drop you off at the main entrance (Eastern Gate) along **Bonham Road**.

Accommodation:

Special conference accommodation rates will be arranged with the local accommodation houses including the **Ramada Hong Kong Hotel**, **Island Pacific Hotel** and **Courtyard by Marriott** that are all close to the conference venue (these hotels are only a few blocks down the hill from HKU) for the convenience of our participants. A number of "Superior Twin" rooms will be pre-reserved at preferential rates for the meeting but prior booking and payment will be essential and will be on a first-come-first-served basis. The special rate will be available for bookings up to **15 October 2010** after which the prevailing rate will apply. These rooms represent good value in Hong Kong and will cost approximately HK\$650 room alone or HK\$750 for a room and two breakfasts.

Another possibility for some delegates especially students is that they may wish to stay at the Mt. Davis Youth Hostel – it is located to the west of campus and has a spectacular view – the downside is that taxis do not like to go up the access road and it is a bit of a hike to get to the venue.

Visas for Hong Kong:

Participants are advised to check if they need a [visa into Hong Kong](#). Visitors from most countries can enter Hong Kong without a visa for periods of seven days to six months, depending on nationality. Visitors from many nations including Mainland China and Taiwan are required to have a visa. Check with any Chinese embassy or consulate for the latest status. For those requiring a visa, please allow ample time for visa processing. An official invitation letter for visa application will be sent to those who request it.

Letter for invitation:

On request, the Conference Secretary will be happy to send a personal invitation for participation in the conference. It should be understood that such an invitation is only to help participants to raise travel funds in their own countries or to obtain the visa. Such an invitation will not be a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide financial support.

Climate:

Hong Kong has a subtropical monsoonal climate. The weather in Hong Kong in the November/December is often very pleasant, with temperatures of 20~24°C. Casual attire is acceptable and recommended almost everywhere.