

REPORT

from the 14th International Ichnofabric Workshop
in Taipei, Taiwan



IIWXIV

APRIL 29–MAY 7, 2017 TAIWAN

The 14th International Ichnofabric Workshop (IIWXIV) was held from April 29th to May 7th in Taipei (Taiwan), and was organized in collaboration National Taiwan Museum who offered us the use of their meeting facilities at the “White Palace” for free. The workshop was attended by 38 participants from 16 countries in South America, North America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Thanks to the generous support from SEPM, IAS, the local geological society and some scientific companies we were able to offer all student participants at least fee waiver support, and in some cases also travel support.



List of supported student participants

- Ery Arifullah, Department of Geology, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia-1
- Justin N. Brundin, Dept. of Geosciences & Geography, Auburn University, USA-2
- Ruo-Ying Fan, School of Earth Sciences, China University of Geosciences, China-3
- Romy Ari, Setiaji, Department of Geology, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia-4
- Yu-Chen Charlie Zheng, University of Saskatchewan, Canada-5

Field Trips

The workshop was a great success with 44 presentations, including three keynote presentations by Andreas Wetzel (Switzerland, President of the Ichnological Association), Gabriela Mángano (Canada, Treasurer of the Ichnological Association), and Renata Netto (Brazil, Professor at Unisinos University). The workshop included an intra-workshop field trip to exquisite trace fossil localities at the NE Coast of Taiwan, and five-day post-workshop field trip to visit geologically significant sites around Taiwan such as the Lichi Mélange, the Wushanding mud-volcanoes, and the Taroko marble gorge. Of particular importance to the workshop participants were the first stop on the first day and the last stop on the last day. The first stop of the field trip was at the CPC Corporations core repository in Miaoli where the participants had the opportunity to observe core material collected from different parts of the world as a part of CPC Corporation’s petroleum exploration endeavors. On the last day, we spent the whole afternoon exploring the late Miocene-Pliocene outcrops of the Bitoujiao Geopark where the participants could study trace fossils and sedimentary structures deposited in an intertidal to subtidal environment. These “working” stops are invaluable as they give the participants the opportunity to discuss and test different hypothesis and approaches in a real-life situation.



Sedimentological societies promotion

On the last day of the workshop an open session to discuss the future of the Ichnofabric Workshop and better integration with sedimentological societies such as SEPM was held. During this session, SEPM treasurer Gabriela Mángano introduced SEPM and in particular the benefits of student memberships: online access to journals, travel grants, discounted registration fees for meetings, and the possibility to obtain SEPM publications at a discounted price. And, this all at the exceptionally low price of 15 USD/Year. An informal poll among the participants revealed that about a dozen were members of SEPM, and that about the same number of participants were members of IAS, although several participants were actually members of both societies. It was furthermore decided that the next International Ichnofabric Workshop should be organized in 2019 in Alabama, USA, by Prof. Andrew K. Rindsberg of the University of West Alabama.



Workshop discussions



SEPM treasurer Gabriela Mángano



Post-workshop field trip



Sponsorship acknowledgement banner

All in all, the workshop was very fruitful and well-received by the participants and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to SEPM and other sponsors and collaborators who made this workshop possible!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Ludvig Löwemark *Ludvig Löwemark*
National Taiwan University