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Achievements of IGCP 350 "Cretaceous Environmental Change in East and South Asia": summary

HAKUYU OKADA

Oyo Corporation Kyushu Office, 2-21-36 Ijiri Minami-ku, Fukuoka 811-1302 Japan

Abstract: The IGCP 350 activity (1993–1997; OET: 1998) has been successfully achieved by participation of more than 200 scientists from 23 countries. Major achievements of the activity are summarized regarding international meetings, publications, and scientific results on stratigraphy and correlation, plume-related events, biological, physical, and chemical aspects of environmental change, climate environments, and natural resources.

INTRODUCTION

The activity of IGCP 350 "Cretaceous Environmental Change in East and South Asia" (1993-1997; on-extended-term 1998) has successfully come to the goal with participation of 23 countries and more than 200 scientists. This project, launched in 1993 as a successor to IGCP Project 245 "Nonmarine Cretaceous Correlations" (1986-1991; Co-leaders: N.J. Mateer and Chen Pei-ji), has aimed to better understand environmental and biological changes in eastern and southern Asia (including southeastern Asia) during the Cretaceous Period by coordinated interand multi-disciplinary research in sedimentology, paleontology, geochemistry, tectonics and geophysics. In order to confirm synchroneity of environmental change events, the integrated study of bio-, litho-, magneto-, and chemostratigraphy has been encouraged. For this purpose, the approaches from tectonics, sedimentation, stratigraphic correlation, biotic analysis, igneous activity and resources were adopted.

The project has also attempted to link the Tethyan, proto-Pacific and Boreal realms (Okada, 1995a). In addition, the project has encouraged all the efforts to collect event-like features that may have been related to large-scale igneous activity during the Cretaceous (Okada, 1995b).

In order to facilitate the organization of the project, regional coordinators have been designated for several important regions. Thus, plenty of fruitful results have been achieved as summarized below. I am afraid many important papers are not

included in this summary, but it is solely on my own responsibility.

RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES

Participating countries and the working groups

23 countries have participated in the activity of IGCP 350. They are Afghanistan, Australia*, Bhutan, Canada, China*, France, India*, Indonesia*, Japan*, Korea*, Malaysia*, Mongolia*, Myanmar, New Zealand*, Pakistan*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines*, Russia*, Spain*, Thailand*, U.K., U.S.A. and Viet Nam*. The national working groups have been established in the countries with asterisk listed above.

2. International Meetings

Seven international meetings were held as follows:

- 1) 1st Meeting for the Regional Coordinators in Fukuoka, Japan (Nov. 3–8, 1993)
 Convened by Prof. H. Okada (Kyushu Univ.)
- 2nd Meeting (Symposium) in Taegu, Korea (Aug. 24–29, 1994)
 Convened by Prof. K.H. Chang (Kyungpook Natl. Univ.)
- 3) 3rd Meeting (Symposium) in Quezon City, Philippines (May 7-14, 1995)
 Convened by Prof. P.J. Militante-Matias (Univ. Philippines)
- 4) 4th Meeting (Symposium) in Beijing, China (Aug. 3–8, 1996)

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Convened by Prof. Chen Pei-ji (Nanjing Inst. Geol. Palaeont., Academia Sinica)

- 5) 5th Meeting (Field Meeting) in Jabalpur-Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad), India (Dec. 8-16, 1997)
 - Convened by Prof. A. Sahni (Panjab Univ.), Prof. S.K. Tandon (Univ. Delhi) and Prof. M.P. Singh (Lucknow Univ.)
- 6) 6th Meeting (Symposium) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Aug. 19-21, 1998) Convened by Dr. R.M. Banda (Geol. Surv. Malaysia)
- Special Field Meeting in Thailand (Aug. 22-26, 1998)
 Convened by Dr. A. Meesook (Department of Mineral Resources, Thailand)

3. Publications

Major publications of IGCP 350 are listed below:

(1) Eleven newsletters

1) Newsletter 1 (12p., May, 1993), 2) Newsletter 2 (33p., March, 1994), 3) Newsletter 3 (32p., November, 1994), 4) Newsletter 4 (38p., June, 1995), 5) Newsletter 5 (33p., December, 1995), 6) Newsletter 6 (42p., June, 1996), 7) Newsletter 7 (41p., December, 1996), 8) Newsletter 8 (37p., June, 1997), 9) Newsletter 9 (31p., December, 1997), 10) Newsletter 10 (45p., June, 1998), and 11) Newsletter 11 (48p., October, 1998).

(2) Three special issues

- Okada, H. and Mateer, N.J. (Eds.), 1994. The Cretaceous System in East and South Asia. Research Summary 1994. Newsletter Special Issue IGCP 350, No. 1, Kyushu Univ., 68p.
- Okada, H. and Mateer, N.J. (Eds.), 1995. The Cretaceous System in East and South Asia. Research Summary 1994. Newsletter Special Issue IGCP 350, No. 2, Kyushu Univ., 69p.
- Okada, H. and Mateer, N.J. (Eds.), 1996. The Cretaceous System in East and South Asia. Research Summary 1994. Newsletter Special Issue IGCP 350, No. 3, Kyushu Univ., 24p.

(3) Four abstracts books of the international meetings

The 1st (Fukuoka, Japan, 1993), 2nd (Taegu, Korea, 1994), 3rd (Quezon City, Philippines, 1995) and 4th Meetings (Beijing, China, 1996).

(4) Seven guidebooks for field excursions

The 1st ((Fukuoka, Japan, 1993), 2nd (Taegu, Korea, 1994), 3rd (Quezon City, Philippines, 1995) and 4th (Beijing, China, 1996), 5th (Jabalpur-Ahmedabad, India, 1997) and 6th Meetings (Kuching, Sarawak, 1998) and Special

Field Trip (Khorat Plateau in Thailand (1998).

(5) Three proceedings

- 1) Chang, K.H. and Park, S.O. (Eds.), 1995. Environmental and tectonic history of East and South Asia with emphasis on Cretaceous correlation (IGCP 350). Proc. 15th Intern. Symp. Kyungpook Natl. Univ., Taegu, Korea, 434p.
- 2) Militante-Matias, P.J. (Ed.), 1997. International Geological Correlation Program (IGCP) Project 350 "Cretaceous Environmental Change in East and South Asia". Third Intern. Symp., Univ. Philippines, Quezon City, May 7–14, 1995, Jour. Geol. Soc. Philippines, 52(3–4), 99–296.
- 3) Okada, H., Leereveld, H., Chen, P.J. and Mateer, N.J. (Eds.), (in press). Cretaceous global events and correlation. PalaeoPalaeoPalaeo, special issue.

(6) Five special publications

- Sahni, A. (Ed.), 1996. Cretaceous stratigraphy and palaeoenvironments. Contribution to the International Geological Correlation Programme 350. Mem. Geol. Soc. India, 37, x + 433p.
- Matsukawa, M., Hirano, H. and Okada, H. (Eds.), 1995. Cretaceous environmental change and correlation. *Jour. Geol. Soc. Japan*, 101(1), 1-85.
- Okada, H., Hirano, H., Matsukawa, M. and Kiminami, K. (Ed.), 1997. Cretaceous Environmental Change in East and South Asia (IGCP 350) — Contributions from Japan. Mem. Geol. Soc. Japan, 48, 1-188.
- Okada, H. and Sakai, T. (Eds.), (in press).
 Cretaceous tectonic events in the border region between the Asian continent and the proto-Pacific. The Island Arc, special issue.
- Kirillova, G.L. (Ed.), 1997. Cretaceous Environmental Change in East and South Asia (IGCP 350) — Contributions from Russia. Tikhookeanskaya Geologiya, 16(6), 1-160 (in Russian).

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Major scientific achievements of the activity of IGCP 350 from 1993 to 1997 are summarized below.

1. Stratigraphy and correlation

(1) Establishment of standard biostratigraphy, magneto-stratigraphy and chemo-stratigraphy

The biostratigraphic study was most active in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam. In Japan, Toshimitsu and others have contributed much to the establishment and integration of mega-, micro- and magnetostratigraphy of the Upper Cretaceous (Toshimitsu et al., 1995; Toshimitsu and Kikawa, 1997). Foraminiferan biostratigraphy (Militante-Matias, 1995), radiolarian biostratigraphy (Matsuoka, 1995a, b; Takahashi and Ishii, 1995; Kemkin et al., 1997), and conchostracan biostratigraphy (Chen, 1994) are important.

(2) Correlation between marine and nonmarine stratigraphy

Much progress has been made in China (Chen and Chang, 1994; Chen, 1996), Japan (Matsukawa *et al.*, 1997a, b) and Russia (Markevich and Kovalov, 1997).

(3) Correlation between the proto-Pacific, Tethyan and Boreal realms

Great efforts have been made in China (Wan et al., 1997), Japan (Toshimitsu et al., 1995), India, New Zealand (Crampton, 1995), Pakistan (Sheikh and Naseem, in press), Russia (Sey and Kalacheva, in press), and Spain (Lamolda and Mao, in press).

(4) J-K boundary

Intensive studies have been made by Matsuoka (1995a, b) and Konovalov and Konovalova (1997).

(5) Cenomanian-Turonian boundary

Good advancement has been made by Hirano and Takagi (1995), Arai and Hirano (1996), Hirano and Fukuju (1997), Hirano et al. (1997), Lamolda and Gorostidi (1996), Lamolda and Mao (in press), and Paul et al. (in press).

(6) Santonian-Campanian boundary

Japanese workers (Toshimitsu and Kikawa, 1997) have made a contribution to this problem.

(7) K-T boundary

The K-T boundary problem has been discussed by Bajpai (1996) as regards the iridium anomaly and on the influence of the Deccan volcanic activity on contemporary biota.

2. Plume-related events

Relationship between basin development and plume magmatic events has been discussed by Yano and Wu (1995, 1997) and Okada (in press) as to the large igneous province during the Cretaceous at the East Asian continental margin. Okada (in press) insists that the large igneous rocks in the Early Cretaceous were not related to the subduction

of oceanic plates but to the plume activity, because there was no clear subduction at that time.

3. Biological aspects of environmental change

(1) Taphonomic study of dinosaur habitats

Many interesting studies have been carried out by Khosla and Sahni (1995), Jerzykiewicz (1995, 1996, 1998), Lim *et al.* (1995), Srinivasan (1996), Matsukawa *et al.* (1997b), Buffetaut and Suteethorn (in press), Khosla (in press), Lockley and Matsukawa (in press).

(2) Vegetation, phytogeography and climatological environments

Markevich and Bugdayeva (1997), Ohana and Kimura (1995), Takahashi (1995), Wu (1995), and Golozoubov *et al.* (in press) have discussed this problem in interesting ways.

(3) Bio-diversity analysis

Many interesting studies have been carried out by Chen (1994, 1996) on conchostracans and Lin (1994) on molluscs, Takahashi (1995) and Sun and Dilcher (1996) on angiosperms, Kimura and Ohana (1997) on plants, Yabumoto (1994) on nonmarine fish, and Lin (1994) and Zhang (1996) on insects.

(4) Paleogeography based on faunal data

Japanese and Russian scientists have made some paleogeographic approaches (Kirillova *et al.*, 1997, in press; Matsukawa *et al.*, 1997a).

(5) Origin of primitive birds

A very important work has been made by Chen (1998).

(6) Origin of angiosperms

Sun and Dilcher (1996) has clarified the site of origin of angiosperms. It is very interesting that the sites of both the angiosperms and the primitive birds are overlapped with each other.

4. Physical aspects of environmental change

(1) Genetic environments of red beds

A nice review of the origin of red beds has been made by Miki and Nakamuta (1997).

(2) Chromian spinels and their tectonic implication

Timing of suturing of Cretaceous basins has been clarified by the study of detrital chromian spinels in Japan (Hisada *et al.*, 1995; Hisada *et al.*, 1997a, 1997b; Asiedu *et al.*, 1997).

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(3) Tectonic environments of basin development, especially in relation to strikeslip fault movements

Large scale tectonic features characteristic of the East Asia continental margin have been studied with many important results by Otoh and Yamakita (1995), Jafar (1996), Okada (1996), Banda and Ambun (1997), Dong *et al.* (1997) and Sakai and Okada (1997a).

(4) Sequence stratigraphy and sea-level change

Interesting data of sequence stratigraphy have been presented in Japan by Ando (1997), Ito and Matsukawa (1997), Okada (1997a) and Yagishita (1997).

(5) Provenance and depositional environments

Mohabey (1996), Mohabey and Udhoji (1996), Tandon et al. (1995), Chang and Park (1995), Prasad and Khajuria (1996), Kwon and Yu (1997), Okada (1997b), Suzuki and Asiedu (1995), Suzuki et al. (1997), and Likht (1997) have presented nice data.

(6) Magmatism

Filatova (1995), Yumul (1995), Kinoshita (1997), and Utkin (1997) have added new data on the nature of magmatism, among whom Filatova (1995) presented informative data on the North Korean volcanic rocks.

(7) Ridge subduction

Kiminami *et al.* (1994) and Kinoshita (1995, 1997) have shown the relation between the oblique subduction of ridges and the migration of magmatism.

5. Chemical aspects of environmental change

(1) Isotopic composition and environments

Bhattacharya et al. (1997), Ghosh et al. (1995) and Lee (in press) have presented isotopic data in relation to chemical environments.

(2) Oceanic anoxic events (OAE 1 and OAE 2)

Remarkable achievements on the oceanic anoxic events have been made by Hirano and Takagi (1995), Arai and Hirano (1996), Hirano and Fukuju (1997), and Hirano *et al.* (in press).

(3) Chemical features

Some chemical features of sediments have been shown by Ishiga *et al.* (1997) and Kumon *et al.* (1997).

6. Climate environments

(1) Sedimentological aspect

Paik and Lee (1995) have presented a sedimentological environment of red-bed deposition.

(2) Faunal aspect

Kaiho (1998) has discussed climatic environments through foraminiferal analysis.

(3) Floral aspect

Spicer et al. (1996) and Golozoubov et al. (in press) have made a good summary of climatic environments based on vegetation characteristics.

7. Natural resources

(1) Petroleum

Potentiality of Cretaceous petroleum and gas resources in Pakistan has been discussed by Seikh and Naseem (in press).

(2) Uranium deposits

D'Cruz *et al.* (1996) have discussed the genesis of sandstone-type uranium mineralization.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

IGCP 350 has achieved great deal of study results as summarized above along the pre-designed lines. The most important are the establishment of correlation of many geological events by means of various methods and the recognition of the cessation of subduction at the East Asian continental margin in the Early Cretaceous. The latter fact suggests that the intense igneous activity in the Early Cretaceous may have been due to the plume activity. Environmental features of the regions covered by IGCP 350 have been assessed on many sides, which will separately be published in the final volume of IGCP 350.

I very much hope that the regional study in Southeast Asia and Russian Far East will develop more in the near future, which are the key areas between the Tethys and proto-Pacific and between the proto-Pacific and Boreal.

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