

REPORT IGCP 610 Working Group 8 "Paleogeography and Paleoenvironment."

Field school (Master class) for young researchers "Complex study of Quaternary deposits of the Caspian region," Russia, the Republic of Kalmykia, on May 20-30, 2014.

Organizers: Prof. T. Yanina, Prof. V. Yanko, Dr. E. Badyukova

The Field School (Master class) "Complex Study of Quaternary Deposits of the Caspian Region" was carried out by IGCP 610 Working Group 8 "Paleogeography and Paleoenvironment." The main goal of the Field School was to train young researchers from developing countries in advanced methodology and state-of-the-art interpretation of field data exemplified by the classic geological sequences of the Caspian region (Fig. 1, 2).



Prof. T. Yanina, Dr. E. Badyukova, Prof. A. Svitoch with young researchers D. Yalmata (Profs. A. Svitoch and T. Yanina with Khomchenko and G. Oschepkov near village Tundutovo).

The Field School was carried out by the Laboratory of Recent Deposits and Paleogeography of the Geographical Faculty at Moscow M. V. Lomonosov University under the supervision of its Head and Co-Leader of IGCP 610 Prof. Tamara Yanina.

The staff of the Laboratory is represented by an interdisciplinary team of scientists working in various fields of Quaternary geology.

Initially the Field School was planned for the end of August 2014, but it was urgently pushed forward to an earlier period (May) due to climatic forecasts that predicted an excessively hot summer. To work in such weather conditions in Kalmykia would represent a risk to the health of participants.

Teachers of the Master class: Prof. A. Svitoch (description of the sections, lithological and facies methods, complex paleogeographical interpretation of sections); Prof. T. Yanina (macrofaunistic and microfaunistic methods, popular lectures); Dr. Badyukova (geomorphological method); Prof. N. Bolikhovskaya (palynological methods, analyses of loess and soil formation); Prof. V. Bolshakov (magnetic and paleomagnetic analyses, geochronological methods).

Participants - 20 young researchers (Moscow State University, Institute of Geography and Institute of Oceanology of Academy of Sciences)

In addition, popular discussions about the history of the Caspian Sea were conducted in the College of the village Malye Derbety. Students of the college and other young people from Kalmykia were involved in the research.

Information on the event and expressions of gratitude to the director of the College, Dr. N. Dundukov for assistance was sent to the newspaper of Kalmykia.