



International Conference on the Cambrian Explosion and Extinctions

November 1st–6th, 2026, Nanjing and Xiangxi, China



中国科学院南京地质古生物研究所
Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Science



古生物学与油气地层应用全国重点实验室
State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and Stratigraphy

First Circular



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Cambrian Period represents a critical time interval in the evolutionary history of the Earth-life system, which was characterized by the explosive radiation of animal phyla and subsequent extinctions of biodiversity in a fluctuating environmental background. The co-evolution of life and environment in the early history of the animal world during the Cambrian holds profound significance for addressing the global changes in the deep time and at present.

During the Cambrian, [the Xiangxi area in western Hunan Province, China](#), was in a deep-water transitional zone from the outer continental shelf to the continental slope of the Yangtze Block, far away from the shallow-water platform environments. This distinctive slope-facies depositional setting makes the Xiangxi area a key region for studying the stratigraphic record, biological evolution, and environmental changes in the Cambrian. Two Cambrian Global Boundary Stratotype Sections and Points (GSSPs)—those of the Guzhangian Stage and the Furongian Series/Paibian Stage—have been established in the Xiangxi area and as the major components of the Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark. More recently, the exceptionally preserved Huayuan biota from the Cambrian Stage 4 was discovered from the Huayuan County of Xiangxi, revealing a highly diverse ecosystem dominated by soft-bodied animals following the first Phanerozoic mass extinction—the Sinsk event.





The Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS) was founded in 1951, with its root in the former Palaeontological Section, Institute of Geology (Academia Sinica) and in the Paleontological Group of the Geological Survey of China. The founding director of NIGPAS was Prof. Li Siguang (J. S. Lee), a distinguished geologist and palaeontologist. NIGPAS conducts basic and applied research in palaeontology (invertebrate palaeontology and palaeobotany) and stratigraphy and is the only Chinese institution that specializes in these fields. The institute currently focuses on the origin and evolution of life on earth, evolutionary palaeontology, biostratigraphy and chronostratigraphy, systematic palaeontology, palaeoecology, palaeogeography and palaeoclimatology, molecular palaeobiology, geobiology, coevolution of life and environment, and applied palaeontology and stratigraphy.

To promote multidisciplinary research on the Cambrian Explosion and Extinctions, and to strengthen collaborations and communications among researchers worldwide, we are pleased to invite colleagues and students from all relevant research fields to attend the “[International Conference on the Cambrian Explosion and Extinctions](#)”, which will be held in Nanjing and Xiangxi, China from [November 1st to 6th, 2026](#) in memory of the 75th anniversary of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS).



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

November 1st – 6th, 2026

Date	Place	Schedule
November 1 st	Nanjing, Jiangsu	Registration and welcome reception
November 2 nd		Opening ceremony and plenary session
November 3 rd	Travel to Xiangxi from Nanjing	
November 4 th	Xiangxi, Hunan	Field excursion to the Cambrian Huayuan Biota fossil site, the Cambrian strata, and the Furongian/Paibian GSSP
November 5 th		Scientific sessions
November 6 th		Field excursion to the fossil site of the Silurian Chongqing Biota
November 7 th		Departure

CONFERENCE VENUES

Nanjing, Jiangsu, China: **NIGPAS**—Opening ceremony and plenary session

Xiangxi, Hunan, China: **Crowne Plaza Xiangxi**—Scientific sessions

Field excursion: Cambrian of Huayuan County, Hunan; Silurian of Xiushan County, Chongqing

ACCOMMODATIONS

We arrange your accommodation per your registration.

Nanjing: **Holiday Inn Nanjing Xuanwu Lake**, 199 Longpan Road, Nanjing City

Xiangxi: **Crowne Plaza Xiangxi**, 7 Wulingshan Avenue, Jishou City

REGISTRATION

No registration fees will apply. Please fill out and return the conference reply slip.

The conference check-in desk will be in the hotel lobby at Nanjing.



PRESENTATIONS

Each keynote talk will be allocated 25 minutes, and regular talk will be allocated 20 or 15 minutes, including Q&A. Please provide slides in PowerPoint (.pptx) or PDF file format (.pdf) ideally in aspect ratio 16:9.

TRANSPORTATION

Nanjing: Flights—Nanjing Lukou International Airport (NKG) (45 min); High-speed trains—Nanjing South Railway Station (25 min), Nanjing Railway Station (15 min).

Xiangxi: Flights—Xiangxi Biancheng Airport (DXJ), Xiangxi (50 min); Hehua International Airport (DYG), Zhangjiajie (2 hr 20 min); Tongren Fenghuang Airport (TEN), Tongren (55 min); High-speed trains—Jishou East Railway Station, Jishou (20 min).

ORGANIZERS

State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and Stratigraphy, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, CAS (SKLPS, NIGPAS)

Chengjiang Palaeontological Station (CPS)

People's Government of the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture

People's Government of the Huayuan County

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chair: Prof. Maoyan Zhu (NIGPAS), myzhu@nigpas.ac.cn

Executive Chair: Dr. Han Zeng (NIGPAS), hzenz@nigpas.ac.cn

Secretariat: Dr. Cuo Luo (NIGPAS), cluo@nigpas.ac.cn; Dr. Haijing Sun (NIGPAS), hjsun@nigpas.ac.cn; Dr. Bing Pan (NIGPAS), bpan@nigpas.ac.cn

Conference Reply Slip

First name		Last name	
Title		Gender	
Affiliation			
Citizenship			
E-mail		Phone number (for contact in China)	
Date of arrival†		Date of departure	
Place of arrival	☐ Nanjing ☐ Xiangxi	Place of departure‡	☐ Nanjing ☐ Xiangxi
Accompanying guests			
Hotel rooms required			
Diet	☐ Normal ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Please specify on the right		
Title of presentation			
Authors of presentation			
Field excursion	☐ Cambrian Huayuan Biota, strata and Paibian GSSP of Huayuan County, Hunan ☐ Silurian Chongqing Biota and strata of Xiushan County, Chongqing		
Visa	☐ Unnecessary ☐ Required	Invitation letter	☐ Unnecessary ☐ Required
Passport ID*		Date of birth*	
Other requirements			

†You may visit NIGPAS before the conference in late October.

‡There are daily flights between Xiangxi and Beijing and flights between Zhangjiajie and major Chinese cities.

*If necessary, please provide your passport ID and date of birth if you need a visa or an invitation letter.