



THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

International Geoscience Programme Project 679

23–27 November 2026

Khon Kaen and Kalasin, Thailand

FIRST CIRCULAR

*“Linkage of Cretaceous solid Earth dynamics, greenhouse climate,
and ecosystem responses on land and in the oceans of Asia”*

CRETACEOUS EARTH DYNAMICS AND CLIMATE IN ASIA



INVITATION AND AIMS

We cordially invite you to participate in the 7th International Symposium of IGCP 679, to be held from 23 to 27 November 2026 in Khon Kaen and Kalasin, Thailand. The Cretaceous represents the most recent major greenhouse interval of the Phanerozoic, characterized by elevated atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and substantially higher global sea levels than today. IGCP Project 679 aims to investigate the processes and mechanisms responsible for rapid climatic and environmental change under Cretaceous greenhouse conditions, together with the evolutionary responses of terrestrial and marine ecosystems across Asia and its surrounding oceans.

The scientific programme will focus on three principal themes:

- High-resolution Cretaceous geological records from marine and terrestrial successions in Asia;
- Cretaceous climate and environmental change; and
- Links among major geological events, rapid climatic and environmental changes, and biodiversity evolution under greenhouse conditions.

The symposium will provide an international forum for presenting and discussing recent research on Cretaceous ecosystems and palaeoclimate in the Asia–Pacific region. It will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first dinosaur discovery in Thailand, made in Khon Kaen in 1976. This discovery marked the beginning of vertebrate palaeontological research in Thailand and encouraged five decades of continued investigation and important fossil discoveries.

To reflect the significance of this anniversary, a three-day post-symposium field excursion will visit the Khon Kaen Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and Kalasin Geopark in northeastern Thailand. Participants will examine Cretaceous non-marine deposits of the Khorat Group and visit important fossil localities preserving diverse terrestrial vertebrate assemblages, including an exceptionally complete dinosaur skeleton from Southeast Asia.

ORGANIZATION

Host Institution and Organizer

Department of Mineral Resources, Thailand

Co-organizer

Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP)

Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

EXECUTIVES AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Committee of the 7th International Symposium of IGCP 679

Name	Position / Affiliation	Role
Mr. Yongyuth Nakaviroj	Director General, Department of Mineral Resources	Honorary Chairman
Mr. Suvapak Imsamut	Deputy Director General, Department of Mineral Resources	Chairman
Mr. Preecha Saithong	Deputy Director General, Department of Mineral Resources	Co-Chairman
Mr. Yongzheng Ma	Director, CCOP Technical Secretariat	Co-Chairman
Ms. Orn-uma Summart	Director, Mineral Resources Regional Office 2	Technical Secretariat
Ms. Darunee Jenjai	Acting Director, Geological Resource Conservation and Management Division	
Dr. Darunee Saisuthichai	Director, Geological Survey Division	
Mr. Somsak Wathanaprida	Director, Fossil Protection Division	

Academic Committee

Prof. Jun Wang, Director, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Prof. Bo Wang, Vice Director, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Dr. Nares Sattayarak, Senior Expert, Geological Society of Thailand

Dr. Pradit Nulay, Senior Geologist, Mineral Resources Regional Office 2, Department of Mineral Resources

IGCP 679 Project Leaders

Prof. Gang Li, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Prof. Takashi Hasegawa, Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science, Kanazawa University, Japan

Prof. Dae Kyo Cheong, Department of Geology, College of Natural Sciences, Kangwon National University, Republic of Korea

Prof. Vandana Prasad, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, India

Organizing Committee Secretariat

Dr. Phornphen Chanthasit, Director, Sirindhorn Museum, Department of Mineral Resources

Dr. Namphon Khampilang, Senior Geologist, Mineral Resources Regional Office 2, Department of Mineral Resources

Dr. Xin Li, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

GENERAL INFORMATION

Preliminary Schedule

Date	Programme
Sunday, 22 November 2026	Arrival of participants
Monday, 23 November 2026	Opening ceremony, scientific sessions, and welcome dinner
Tuesday, 24 November 2026	Scientific sessions, business meeting, and social event (Loy Krathong Festival)
Wednesday–Friday, 25–27 November 2026	Post-symposium field excursion: Khon Kaen Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and Kalasin Geopark
Saturday, 28 November 2026	Departure of participants

Venue

The symposium and scientific sessions will be held at the official symposium hotel in Khon Kaen City, northeastern Thailand. The hotel is conveniently located for access to the city centre and Khon Kaen International Airport.

Post-Symposium Field Excursion

Day 1 — Wednesday, 25 November 2026

Depart from Khon Kaen. Visit the Phu Wiang Dinosaur Museum and Phu Wiang National Park within the Khon Kaen Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, followed by a community welcome dinner.

Day 2 — Thursday, 26 November 2026

Observe key geomorphological features of the Khon Kaen Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, then travel to Kalasin Geopark to visit important fossil localities.

Day 3 — Friday, 27 November 2026

Examine the Cretaceous red-bed succession of Kalasin Geopark, followed by a cultural visit and return to Khon Kaen.

Language of the Symposium

The official language of the symposium is English.

Accommodation and Rates

A block of rooms will be reserved for symposium participants at the official symposium hotel. Participants are responsible for making and paying for their own reservations unless otherwise stated. Details of the official symposium hotel, including room rates and reservation instructions, will be provided in the Second Circular.

Registration fees

Event	Includes	Fee per person
Technical sessions	Admission, abstract volume, refreshments, lunches, welcome dinner, and other social events	Regular participant: US\$350 Student: US\$200 Accompanying member: US\$150
Post-symposium field excursion	Excursion guidebook, accommodation, meals, refreshments, and transportation during the excursion	Regular participant: US\$300 Student: US\$200 Accompanying member: US\$150

Registration and Payment Procedures

Registration is confirmed only after the Organizing Committee has received both the completed Registration Form and full payment. All fees are quoted in United States dollars (USD).

Payment methods

Payment may be made by international bank transfer in USD to the symposium account. Any intermediary-bank, receiving-bank, or remittance charges must be paid by the participant so that the full invoiced amount is received by the organizer.

For participants paying in Thai baht (THB), the amount payable will be calculated using the organizer's designated exchange rate on the date the payment instruction is issued. The THB amount stated on that instruction will remain valid for the specified payment period. Any exchange-rate difference or bank charge arising after payment is the responsibility of the participant.

Invoice and receipt

A pro forma invoice will be issued after the Registration Form has been received. An official receipt will be issued after payment has been verified. The participant must provide the exact name, address, tax identification number (if applicable), and any other billing information required for the invoice and receipt. Participants must provide the exact name, address, tax identification number (if applicable), and any other billing information required for the invoice and receipt by completing the Additional Information section of the Registration Form. Requests to amend financial documents after issuance may be subject to administrative limitations.

Participants should e-mail a copy of the bank-transfer confirmation to the Organizing Committee Secretariat. Payment is not considered complete until the funds are credited to the symposium account.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Participants wishing to give an oral or poster presentation must submit an abstract in English. Abstracts must not exceed two A4 pages, including figures, tables, and references, and should be prepared using single-line spacing.

Each abstract must include:

Title

Author name(s)

Author affiliation(s), including the e-mail address of the corresponding author

Main text

References cited

Submission: Please submit the abstract in Microsoft Word format to both Dr. Phornphen Chanthasit (aom025@gmail.com) and Dr. Namphon Khampilang (knamphon@gmail.com).

Abstract submission deadline: 15 October 2026

INVITATION LETTERS AND VISA INFORMATION

Entry requirements depend on the traveller's nationality, passport type, purpose of visit, and intended length of stay. Participants are responsible for checking the current requirements with the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate-General responsible for their place of residence. Where applicable, applications may be submitted through the official Thailand e-Visa website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.thaievisa.go.th).

Participants who require an official invitation letter should indicate this on the Registration Form and provide their full name exactly as shown in the passport, date and place of birth, passport number, issue and expiry dates, institutional affiliation, and planned travel dates. Invitation letters will normally be issued only after registration information has been reviewed. An invitation letter does not constitute a guarantee that a visa will be granted and does not imply financial support from the organizers.

All non-Thai nationals entering Thailand should also check the current Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) requirements before travel. The official TDAC system is available at tdac.immigration.go.th. Immigration and entry requirements may change; participants should verify the latest information shortly before departure.

TRANSPORTATION

Khon Kaen is served by Khon Kaen International Airport (airport code: KKC), with domestic connections to Bangkok and selected destinations. Participants travelling internationally will normally connect through Bangkok before continuing to Khon Kaen. Flight schedules may change, and participants should make their own reservations directly with an airline or travel agent.

Transport between Khon Kaen International Airport and the official symposium hotel is available by airport taxi, app-based car service, or pre-arranged hotel transfer. Details of any official airport pick-up service, meeting point, operating hours, and charges will be provided in the Final Circular. Participants requesting organized transfer should provide their flight number, arrival date and time, and mobile contact details by 15 November 2026.

Transportation during the post-symposium field excursion is included in the excursion fee. Participants are responsible for travel to Khon Kaen before the symposium and onward or return travel after the programme.

WEATHER AND RECOMMENDED CLOTHING

November is generally part of the cool, relatively dry season in northeastern Thailand. In Khon Kaen, daytime temperatures are commonly around 28–32°C, while mornings and evenings may be cooler, approximately 18–23°C. Conditions can vary, and occasional rain is possible.

Light, breathable clothing is recommended for the symposium. Participants joining the field excursion should bring comfortable walking shoes with good grip, sun protection, a hat, insect repellent, a reusable water bottle, and a light jacket or rain layer.

CURRENCY AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai baht (THB). Foreign currency can be exchanged at international airports, banks, and licensed exchange counters. ATMs are widely available in Khon Kaen; however, withdrawal and foreign-transaction fees may apply. Major credit cards are accepted at many hotels, restaurants, and shopping centres, but cash is recommended for local markets, small shops, and some field-excursion stops.

Participants should check the exchange rate and card-use conditions with their bank before travel. Personal expenses, minibar charges, laundry, telephone calls, travel insurance, visa fees, and any services not expressly included in the registration or excursion fee are the responsibility of the participant.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing by e-mail to the Organizing Committee Secretariat. The date on which the written cancellation is received will determine the applicable refund.

- Cancellations received on or before 15 October 2026: refund of the amount paid, less bank charges and a 10% administrative fee.
- Cancellations received from 16 to 31 October 2026: 50% refund, less bank charges.
- Cancellations received on or after 1 November 2026, or non-attendance: no refund.

Refunds will be made using the original payment method where practicable and may take several weeks to process. Participants may nominate a substitute participant from the same organization at no additional charge, subject to written notice and approval by the Organizing Committee.

The organizers reserve the right to modify the programme, field itinerary, venue, or schedule when circumstances require. If the symposium is cancelled by the organizers, registration and excursion fees received will be refunded; however, the organizers will not be responsible for airfare, accommodation, visa costs, travel insurance, currency losses, or other personal expenses. Participants are strongly advised to obtain appropriate travel and cancellation insurance.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
15 August 2026	Distribution of First Circular
15 September 2026	Distribution of Second Circular
30 September 2026	Deadline for Registration and Payment
15 October 2026	Deadline for abstract submission
30 October 2026	Distribution of Final Circular

CONTACTS

For symposium enquiries and submission of the Registration Form, please contact the Organizing Committee Secretariat:

Dr. Phornphen Chanthasit Sirindhorn Museum, Kalasin 46140, Thailand E-mail: aom025@gmail.com	Dr. Namphon Khampilang Mineral Resources Regional Office 2, Department of Mineral Resources E-mail: knamphon@gmail.com
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REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and return it no later than 30 September 2026 to both Dr. Phornphen Chanthasit (aom025@gmail.com) and Dr. Namphon Khampilang (knamphon@gmail.com).

A. Participant Information

First name(s) _____
Surname / Family name _____
Title / Position _____
Nationality _____
Organization _____
Organization address _____
City / Postal code / Country _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

B. Presentation

☐ Oral presentation ☐ Poster presentation ☐ No presentation

Presentation title _____

C. Participation

☐ Symposium — Regular participant ☐ Symposium — Student ☐ Post-symposium field excursion

For student registration, proof of current student status may be requested.

D. Invitation Letter / Visa Information

Complete this section only if you require an official invitation letter for a visa application.

Date of birth _____
Country of birth _____
Place of birth _____
Passport number _____
Date of issue _____
Date of expiry _____
Planned date of arrival in Thailand _____
Planned date of departure from Thailand _____

REGISTRATION FORM — CONTINUED

E. Additional Information

Dietary requirements: ☐ None ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other: _____

Accessibility or other special requirements:

Billing name / Organization _____

Billing address _____

Tax identification number (if applicable) _____

Preferred payment currency: ☐ USD ☐ THB

Airport transfer requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Arrival flight / Date / Time _____

Departure flight / Date / Time _____

Accommodation required at official hotel: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please retain a copy of the completed form for your records.