

**FIRST CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**West African Quaternary Research Association (WAQUA)**



WEST AFRICAN QUATERNARY RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION (WAQUA)  
L ASSOCIATION DES ETUDES QUATERNAIRES DE  
L AFRIQUE DE L OUEST (AEQAO)



**INQUA**  
International Union for Quaternary Research

**Fourth WAQUA International Conference**

**University of Social Sciences and Management of BAMAKO**

**Republic of MALI**

**October 27 – 31, 2014.**

**THEME:** Quaternary Fluvio-lacustrine environments and human settlement in West Africa

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 2009, the West African Quaternary Research Association (WAQUA) was created at the international conference of Ibadan (Nigeria) on the impulse of Dr Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi. As the sub-regional branch of International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), WAQUA aim to promote collaboration and synergy among Quaternary Paleoscientists (Geologists, archaeologists, geographers, botanists, ecologists, paleontologists and anthropologists) of West Africa. Since its creation, WAQUA has so far organized three international conferences: Ibadan (Nigeria) in 2009, Cotonou (Benin) in 2010 and Accra (Ghana) in 2012. Those conferences enabled West African Quaternary Paleoscientists to share the results on their investigations. Two years after the last conference, WAQUA is planning to gather again Quaternary Paleoscientists of West Africa plus those from Chad, Cameroon, and Central African Republic in its fourth international conference in Bamako (Mali) between October 27-31, 2014 to discuss, share their results and visions on an important topic: "Quaternary Fluvio-lacustrine environments and Human settlements in West Africa". Home of African third and fifth most important rivers (Niger and Senegal Rivers) plus numerous less important rivers (Gambia, Volta, Comoe Rivers) and the many lakes (lakes Chad, Bosumtwi, lakes of the Niger Inland delta), West Africa quaternary ecological and geomorphological landscapes and human settlement is highly related to these water-providing facilities. These systems provide as well food through agriculture, herding and fishing as waterways. It is necessary to note that many species originated from these systems (i.e. the African rice: *oryza glaberrima*) and since the late Pleistocene, through the Holocene period and historical times human have settled along lacustrine and fluvial complexes. The discovery of *Homo Asselar* in the fossil valley of the Tilemsi in the southern Sahara, the birth and development of West African most powerful empires and kingdom in the valleys of these rivers (Ghana, Mali and Songhay empires, Segou, Macina, Kanem-Bornu, Benin and Ife kingdoms) attest the importance of the systems to human settlement.

Numerous fluvial and lacustrine deposits testify the presence of such river systems, current and past. Such deposits contain important proxies that can be used to decipher the complex paleoclimates, paleohydrological regimes and paleoecological assemblages as well as species of the regions.

## **SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**

The Conference includes invited review presentations, contributed papers in thematic sessions based on the themes of the five working groups. The Conference subthemes include:

- Fluvio-lacustrine sediments and their paleoclimate and paleoecological significance in West Africa.
- Past and contemporary human settlements in relations to Fluvio-lacustrine systems
- Paleoecological evidences from Fluvio-lacustrine deposits
- Current environmental issues arising on the use of Fluvio-lacustrine systems
- The methods of research of Quaternary Fluvio-lacustrine complexes in West Africa.

## **CONFERENCE FORMAT AND LANGUAGE**

The official languages for the Conference are French and English with simultaneous translation during the plenary and some of the parallel sessions. There will be Keynote addresses, 20-minute paper presentations, followed by a 15-minute discussion and 60-minute facilitated general discussion at the end of each session. At least one day workshop will be set apart for members of the four working groups to get together and discuss and present deliverables so far on their respective projects. Poster sessions will be organized with flexibility to allow participants learn as much from the presenters in an environment as “market place”. There will also be ample space for exhibition by various organizations. A workday will be dedicated to a training session on quaternary research methods. Another workday will be dedicated to field excursion

## **TENTATIVE DEADLINES**

First Announcement: Call for Abstracts and submission of Abstracts	• March 2014
Deadline for submission of Abstracts	• July 31, 2014
Acceptance of Abstracts	• August 15, 2014
Deadline for Registration and Return of Completed Participant Forms	• August 20, 2014
Conference	• October 27– 31, 2014

## **REGISTRATION**

The conference is open to everyone, especially Paleoscientists and Scientists working in the area of fluvial and lacustrine environments, current Human settlements and the dynamics of human settlements during the Quaternary particularly in West Africa, as well as Archeologists, botanists and Paleobotanists, Environmental Scientists and policy makers. About 80 participants are expected at the conference. It is thus opened to geographers,

geologists, biologists, historians, archaeologists, ecologists and environmental scientists. Young scientists' participation is highly encouraged.

### **Registration fees**

<b>Categories of participants</b>	<b>Rates</b>
Participants from Europe, USA, Canada, Australia etc.	US\$ 200.00
African participants from non-ECOWAS countries	US\$ 100.00
Participants from West Africa (ECOWAS)	US\$ 50.00

*These fees will cater for the conference package, lunches and teas during the conference.*

### **SPONSORSHIP**

Subject to availability of sufficient funding, the Local Organizers may sponsor the participation of some key contributors to Quaternary Scientists and Participants from the West African sub-region on quality and relevance of abstract to the Conference theme. All applicants for sponsorship must be citizens of an ECOWAS member nation with an accepted abstract for oral presentation. Application for sponsorship should be addressed to the Local Organizers along with completed registration form and abstract. Preference will be given to applicants from ECOWAS member nations at this stage.

### **SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT**

Abstracts will be accepted for oral or poster presentation. Please indicate preference when submitting. Abstracts are to be submitted by email as attached file (in MS Word format) to the Local Organizers using the email addresses:

[ndjjacques@icloud.com](mailto:ndjjacques@icloud.com), [izumike1970@gmail.com](mailto:izumike1970@gmail.com), [yafid2@yahoo.fr](mailto:yafid2@yahoo.fr),

### **FORMAT**

The Abstract is limited to 250 words without figures, tables and references. Top, Bottom, Left and Right Margins should 25 mm.

***Title:*** Upper and Lower Case; Left justified, Times New Roman Font: 14 pt. bold  
Contributors Names: Upper and Lower Case; Left justified First Name first and Surname last. Times New Roman Font: 11 pt.

***Affiliation:*** Upper and Lower Case; Left justified; Times New Roman Font 10 pt.  
Numbered superscripts should be used to indicate affiliation of each co-author. Email address can be in parenthesis at the end of the corresponding contributor's affiliation.

***Main Text:*** Single-spaced text, Times New Roman 10 pt. font and no section headings

## **CONFERENCE VENUE**

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference will be held at the University of Social Sciences and Management of BAMAKO, Republic of MALI. Further information about the exact venue of the conference will be communicated in the second circular. Please watch out.

## **ACCOMODATION**

The University of Social Sciences and Management of BAMAKO (Venue of the conference) is easily accessible by taxicabs, cyclists to many of the hotels that are affordable. Please indicate (using the No. of the listed Hotel below) your preference for accommodation in the attached registration form for reservation. Please state the price range. In most cases VAT and service charges are included. We offer to make reservation for Hotel rooms on request.

S/No.	HOTEL	PRICE RANGE (FCFA)
1	CRES	13000
2	Auberges	13 000- 15 000
3	Hotels	25 000- 35 000

## **TRAVEL SERVICE**

The Local Organizers will arrange travel service from Bamako Senou International Airport to Hotel and/or Registration Desk. Please inform on exact arrival and departure dates to the Organizers as soon as you fixed your travel schedule.

## **VISAS**

Most overseas participants will require traveling visa to enter Mali. Participants are strongly advised to ask for entry visa requirements to Mali at the nearest Malian Embassy or Consulate in their Capital City. Participants from member countries of the ECOWAS may not require entry visa but they are advised to get detailed information for entry into Mali from Mali Embassy in their country. Should there be need for an official invitation letter for the application of entry visa, please send email to the Local Organizers: Dr N'dji dit Jacques DEMBELE ([ndjjjacques@icloud.com](mailto:ndjjjacques@icloud.com)), Dr. Daouda Keita ([keitadaou@gmail.com](mailto:keitadaou@gmail.com)), Dr. Boulaye Keita ([keitaboulaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:keitaboulaye@yahoo.fr)) with indication of your personal details which include: Full Names (as in your passport), gender, birthday, nationality, passport number, profession, affiliation, mailing address, phone and/or fax numbers and email address. The official invitation letter will be sent as soon as possible.

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Président : Prof. Doulaye Konate	Mali
Vice-Président: Dr. Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi	Nigeria
Reporter : Dr. N'dji dit Jacques Dembélé	Mali
MEMBERS	
Dr Ibouraima Yabi	Bénin
Prof. Famagan Oule Konate	Mali
Prof. Euloge Ogouwalé	Benin
Dr. Sowah Laryea	Ghana
Dr. Catherine V. Nnamani	Nigeria
Dr. Pauline Da Costa	Togo
Dr. Margaret Avery	South Africa
Dr. Wang Jie Tao	China
Prof. Luke Anike	Nigeria
Dr. Lizzy Okoro	Nigeria
Dr. Daouda Keita	Mali
Prof. Nkiru Meludu	Nigeria
Pr. Clifford Ollier	Australie
Pr. Michel Rasse	France
Pr. Samba Diallo	Mali
Dr. Gbenga Boboye	Nigeria
Pr Aziz Ballouche	France
Dr Klena Sanogo	Mali
Pr Antoine K Millongo	Burkina Faso

## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (LOC)

**President:** Dr. Daouda Keita, USSGB/FHG keitadaou@gmail.com

**1<sup>er</sup> Vice-President:** Dr. N'dji dit Jacques DEMBELE, USSGB/ FHG ndjijacques@icloud.com

**2<sup>e</sup> Vice-President:** Dr. Boulaye Keita USSGB/FHGkeitaboulaye@yahoo.fr

**Members:** Dr. Nema Guindo USSGB/FHG nemasamuel@yahoo.fr

Dr. Fatoumata Maiga USSGB/FHG fsamba2004@yahoo.fr

Dr. Moussa Toure ENSUP/BAMAKO

Dr. Kadiatou Coulibaly USSG Bbabycbly@yahoo.fr

Dr. Boubacar Amadou Diallo ENSUP

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP**

**WAQUA 2014 CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname, other names and Title

Institutional Affiliation:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I will/will not attend the WAQUA 2014 Conference, University of Social Sciences and  
Management of Bamako, Mali

I will reserve accommodation (state the Hotel and price range)

\_\_\_\_\_

I intend to/ not to present paper on topic:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please complete and return this form to any of the following: [ndjijacques@icloud.com](mailto:ndjijacques@icloud.com),  
[keitadaou@gmail.com](mailto:keitadaou@gmail.com), [yafid2@yahoo.fr](mailto:yafid2@yahoo.fr)