

ICDP Workshop on Deep Drilling of Lake Chad

Covering almost 8% of the continent, Lake Chad Basin is the largest endorheic drainage basin in Africa ($2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$) and among the largest intracontinental basins on Earth. With its lacustrine sediment fill of ~700 m extending back to 10 Ma and its location at the interface of the African dry and moist tropics, it provides the unique opportunity to trace back changes in moisture variability and associated changes in environmental conditions. The discovery of several hominin remains associated with a rich fauna makes Lake Chad Basin one of the cradles of humankind. The famous hominins, *Australopithecus bahrelghazali* and *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, demonstrate that human origins were not restricted to the East African Rift Valley strengthening the ongoing debate about environmental causes as trigger of human evolution. Moreover, the lake was potentially the source of a major fresh-water flux to the Mediterranean during the Mio-Pliocene, influencing not only the immediate environmental conditions of this enclosed sea, but also controlling the vigour of Mediterranean-Atlantic exchange and consequently the impact of Mediterranean outflow on North Atlantic thermohaline circulation and global climate.

We plan to gather an international group to define drilling strategies and scientific avenues for a coring project in the Chad Basin. This ICDP-funded workshop will be held in Aix-en-Provence, France from 21 to 23rd September 2016. The agenda of the workshop will include a review of existing data and interpretations, as well as discussions of objectives and goals of a deep drilling project, scientific collaboration and responsibilities, potential drill sites, as well as operations, logistics, funding and permitting.

We invite interested Earth and environmental scientists to apply via a form available at: <http://chadrill.icdp-online.org>. The deadline for applications is 1st July 2016. Participants will be selected according to expertise and priority for ICDP member countries. Selected participants will be informed by mid July 2016.

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