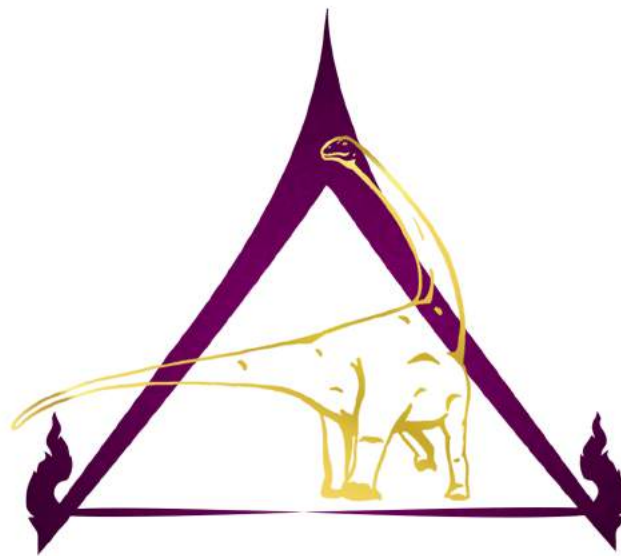


Second Circular

From Gondwana to Laurasia

The 6th International Palaeontological Congress



IPC 6
THAILAND

Monday 7th – Friday 11th

November, 2022

Khon Kaen,

Northeast Thailand



Summary:

Where? Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand

When? Monday 7th – Friday 11th, November 2022

Lead organiser; Palaeontological Research and Education Centre,
Mahasarakham University

Introduction

After Sydney in 2002, Beijing in 2006, London in 2010, Mendoza in 2014 and Paris in 2018, Thailand will host the next International Palaeontological Congress in November 2022. Our country is ready and prepared to receive all palaeontologists in Khon Kaen, for the conference and in all the kingdom's territories for the fieldtrips.

Due to its origins as two terranes in Gondwana in the Palaeozoic, their fusion with Laurasia in the Triassic and the development of the Sundaic biota in the Neogene, Thailand is a land of great geological and palaeontological diversity – hence our theme 'From Gondwana to Laurasia'.

Khon Kaen province is near the centre of palaeontological activity in Thailand and is home to important museums and palaeontological sites. Nearby Khon Kaen, are flourishing palaeontological schools, museums and sites in Nakhon Ratchasima (Khorat), Mahasarakham and Kalasin managed by the Department of Mineral Resources and by universities.

Events in Khon Kaen and fieldtrips to the far corners of the kingdom will allow participants to enjoy palaeontological journeys combined with unique and exotic gastronomic, artistic and historical adventures.

Experienced conference organisers are drawn from staff of the Department of Mineral Resources, universities and museums. The lead organization is the Palaeontological Research and Education Centre at Mahasarakham University in close co-ordination with the following:

- Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham (MSU)
- Royal Thai Department of Mineral Resources (DMR)
- Geological Society of Thailand (GST)

Co-organisers

- Chiang Mai University (CMU)
- Chulalongkorn University (CU)
- Khon Kaen University (KKU)
- Mahidol University (MU)
- Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University (NRRU)
- Suranaree University of Technology (SUT)





Organising Committee

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Komsorn Laoprasert: General Secretary

Hathaihip Thassanapak: Co-General Secretary

Darunee Saisuttichai: Museum-trip Supervisor

Suvapak Imsamut: Fieldtrip Leader

Clive Burrett: Editing

Haiyan Tong: International coordination

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VENUE

The 6th IPC will be held in Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand. The conference will be based at the centrally located Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid Hotel and Convention Centre (an Accor hotel) (pullman.accor.com/-/Kaen_Raja/Pullman_Khon). The Pullman hotel is easily accessible and is a 10 minute drive from the airport, railway station and bus stations. The venue is 0.7 km from the Central Plaza shopping complex (see p.6). The Pullman Hotel provides a free shuttle service to/from the airport. Delegates staying elsewhere will be met at the airport.

The convention centre has 15 meeting rooms with a maximum capacity of 1800 delegates and a maximum banquet capacity of 950. The venue has 5 equipped meeting rooms seating 30, 5 rooms seating 50, and individual rooms seating 170, 400, 500, 600 and 1800 persons.

SPONSORS

We will approach international companies asking for sponsorship. It is possible that sponsorship will be obtained from major Thai companies such as Siam City Cement PLC and the petroleum company PTTEP.

WEBSITE

Our website is at <https://ipc6.msu.ac.th>





Pullman Khon Kaen Raja Orchid



Avani Hotel and Convention Centre



Khon Kaen Convention and Exhibition Centre

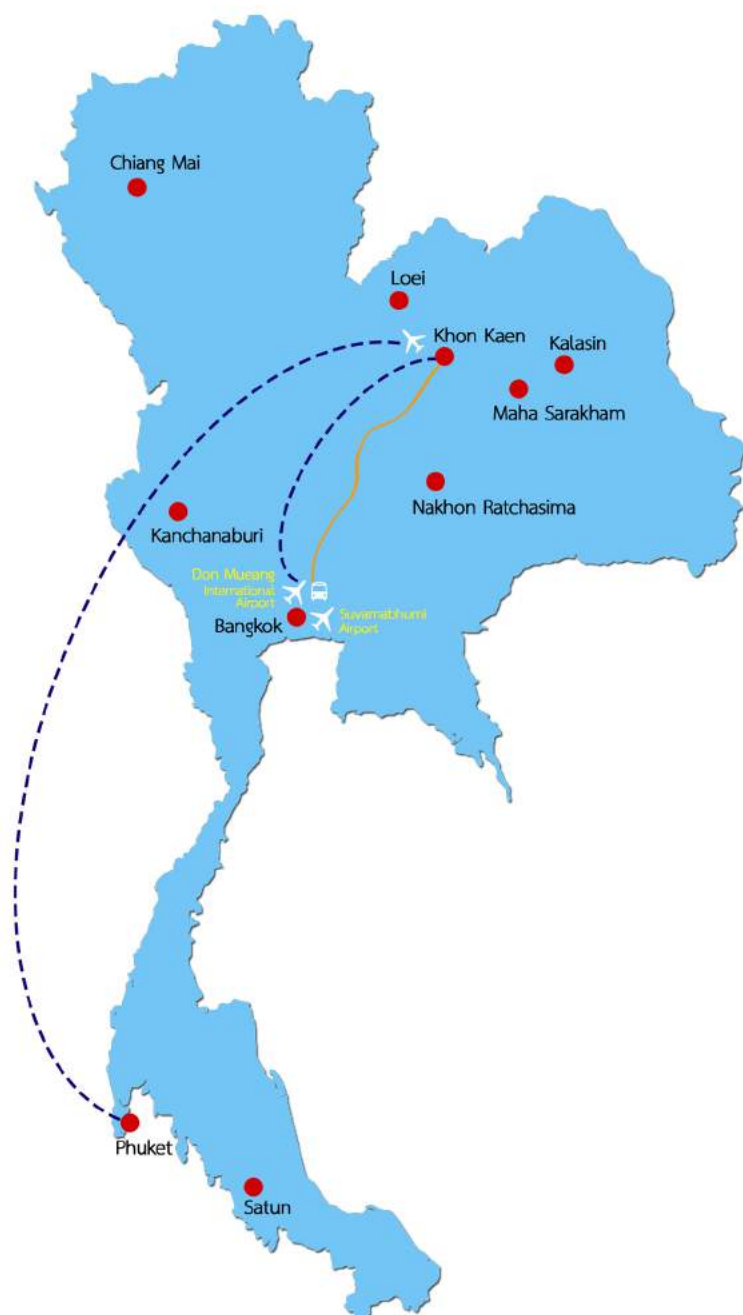


Khon Kaen City

Khon Kaen (see map on p.5) is a large city in Khon Kaen province in the central–northern part of the Khorat Plateau in the northeast of Thailand – an area known as Isan (or Isaan or Isarn), which contains about 23 million people or 33% of Thailand’s population.

Khon Kaen is about 700 km by road northeast of Bangkok and can be accessed from Bangkok by airline (<1 hour), coach/bus, taxi (7 hours) or train (7–8 hours).

Khon Kaen Airport has many direct flights per day from all three airports near Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi, Don Muang and U–Tapao) as well as to/from major centres such as Phuket, Hatyai and Chiangmai. Domestic one–way flights (in December 2020) start at US \$30 from Bangkok and US \$41 from Phuket. International flights will, hopefully, be operating to a considerably enlarged Khon Kaen International Airport in 2021. Because Thailand is a major tourist destination, relatively cheap international flights may be available to Bangkok, Phuket and Chiangmai airports and also, by the time of the congress, to Khon Kaen. However, because of the current (2021) pandemic, flights are currently limited but we hope they will be back to normal by November 2022.



Khon Kaen has numerous hotels ranging from 5 stars to backpacker accommodation with many within walking distance of the conference venue (Pullman Hotel). If this application is accepted we will negotiate with the Pullman Hotel and nearby hotels for block booking at reduced rates. As early November is before the high tourist season, very reasonable rates should be available. Many houses and apartments are also available for rent through Airbnb and other websites.

A selection of room rates in nearby hotels (Dec 2019)

Venue: Pullman Hotel (5 stars) US \$60

Avani Hotel (5 stars, ≈2 km from venue), US \$45

Kosa Hotel and shopping mall (3 stars, 200 m from venue), US \$25

Charoen Thani Hotel, (4 stars, 300 m from venue), US \$32

Glacier Hotel (4 stars, 200 m from venue), US \$32

VWish Hotel (4 stars, 800 m from venue), US \$44

SF Biz Hotel (4 stars, 300 m from venue), US \$17

Chaipat Hotel (4 stars, 550 m from venue), US \$12

Khon Kaen has a vibrant nightlife. There are many restaurants and bars, often with live entertainment, serving Thai, Isaan and foreign food, mostly at reasonable prices. Wine is very expensive and not generally available.

November is one of the driest months in Khon Kaen and, although possible, very little rain is expected during the congress. Daytime temperatures will average about 30 degrees Celsius. Khon Kaen is generally a safe city with very little crime. However, the roads are unsafe and hiring motorbikes is not recommended. Car hire is available but an international driving permit plus driving licence from your resident country is necessary. Driving is on the left of the road. Insect repellent and sunscreen are highly recommended. Travel insurance is strongly recommended for all delegates. We hope that travel and other restrictions imposed during the 2020–2021 pandemic will not apply.





ศูนย์ศึกษาวิจัยและพิพิธภัณฑ์ไดโนเสาร์



by November 2022, but full, certified Covid 19 vaccination will probably still be mandatory for international travellers.

Khon Kaen is close to important Mesozoic vertebrate fossil localities within the Khorat Group terrestrial sandstones and vertebrate and plant fossils in Neogene–Quaternary fluvial sands. Within easy driving distance are excellent fossil localities in tropical Carboniferous to Permian marine platform limestones and fossiliferous Silurian to Carboniferous marine to freshwater sediments in the Loei Foldbelt.

Khon Kaen is home to the Phu Wiang Fossil Research Centre and Dinosaur Museum. Other important nearby museums and palaeontological collections in Isaan, are at the Sirindhorn Dinosaur Museum in Kalasin province and the Palaeontological Research and Education Centre at Mahasarakham University (Mahasarakham province).

To the south of Khon Kaen, Nakhon Ratchasima is a good place to examine fossils. The Fossil Wood Museum belonging to Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University is the best fossil wood research institute in Thailand. Staff at the museum include a dinosaur research group and experts in other fields of palaeontology such as Neogene mammals and plants. The Ban Tha Chang sandpits together constitute one of the best sites for Mio–





History of Palaeontology in Thailand (previously Siam)

One of the first fossils to be described in mainland South East Asia was an upper Permian *Dicynodon* cranium in the Siamese (Thai) vassal state of northern Laos when that area had just been annexed by France (Counillon, 1896). The first dinosaurs were found in the 1930s just across the border in Savannakhet province (also previously Siamese territory) in Laos by the French geologist Josué–Heilman Hoffet. Fossils were collected in Thailand in the early part of the 20th Century. For instance, the British palaeontologist Cowper Reed described Carboniferous invertebrates from southern Thailand in 1920 and fusulinids were described by Carl Dunbar on material collected by the famous Alpine geologists A. Heim and H. Hirschi in 1939. Many invertebrate and plant specimens were collected and described by Japanese palaeontologists from 1941 onwards and many results later published in the multi-volume work *Geology and Palaeontology of South East Asia*. However, it was not until the 1980s that teams of European, American, Japanese, Chinese, New Zealand and Australian palaeontologists with Thai colleagues collected stratigraphically and palaeoenvironmentally controlled plant, invertebrate and vertebrate specimens from all corners of the kingdom. Since then a large number of important discoveries have been made and significant papers published on Thai dinosaurs, turtles, fish, primates, mammals, conodonts, radiolarians, palynomorphs, foraminiferans, ostracods, cephalopods, brachiopods, bryozoans, gastropods, sponges, bivalves, microbialites, plants, pollen and corals. The work continues with younger generations of Thai palaeontologists generating important papers on a wide variety of taxa and making frequent new and important discoveries.

National and local Thai governments have recognized the importance of palaeontology to education and tourism by funding museums in many provinces and encouraging the establishment of national and UNESCO recognized geoparks, often with fossils being prominently featured. The first UNESCO recognized Geopark in Thailand was recently established in the southern province of Satun based mainly on its rich history of Palaeozoic invertebrates, microbialitic limestones and Quaternary vertebrate fossils. Other geoparks are being established near Khon Kaen in Phetchabun Province (Permian invertebrates and plants and Neogene fish and rhinocerotids) and Nakhon Ratchasima Province (Khorat), (Neogene vertebrates and plants and Mesozoic dinosaurs).



SYMPOSIA

We now have 30 symposia which include special sessions of IGCP and other international projects.

- Fossil hunting in the Far East: the history of palaeontological collecting in eastern Asia
- Bridging palaeontological and geological collections: the indissoluble complementarity
- Digitizing palaeontological collections
- Digital palaeontology: new insights into the evolution of the organisms through multi-disciplinarity
- Palaeontological heritage, geoparks and geotourism
- Palaeoenvironments in palaeontology: methods, tools and limits
- Devonian palaeoenvironments and mass extinctions
- Permo–Triassic mass extinction and recovery
- Infaunal feedbacks during mass extinctions and their aftermaths
- Ichnology: from ichnotaxonomy, the ichnofacies paradigm to applications in paleoenvironmental reconstructions from marine to continental environments
- Dinosaur ichnology comes of age: the geo–heritage value of the tetrapod trace fossil record
- Advances in vertebrate palaeohistology
- Evolution and extinction of giants: the palaeobiology of very large organisms
- The appearance and loss of flight in paravians
- Workshop on the International Research Network Palaeobiodiversity in South–east Asia
- Tropical palaeobiology
- From Pangana to the break–up of Gondwana–biogeography and vertebrate biodiversity throughout the Mesozoic
- Late Neogene–Quaternary continental ecosystems, zoogeography, and biotic exchange across the Asia–Pacific
- Understanding Asian Cenozoic landscape and climate evolution
- The evolution of forest ecosystems: dead trees and the stories they tell
- The origin and rise of a land flora: from Laurentia to Gondwana and back again
- Palaeobiogeography of the Western and Eastern Tethys – migration routes and palaeoceanography
- Fish evolution through the Mesozoic and Cenozoic: anatomy, phylogeny, ecology, biogeography
- Palaeozoic fishes and the first tetrapods: evolution, biogeography and past environments
- Recent advances on metazoan diversifications from Early Palaeozoic Lagerstätten





SYMPOSIA

- Freedom to Breathe: integrating the evolution of animals and their environments during the early Palaeozoic (including IGCP 668 and 735 projects)
- Fungi in the fossil record
- Insights into Ediacaran life
- Life on the shelf
- The 4th Asian Ostracod Meeting (AOM4)
- From platforms to reefs – faunas and floras from the Archean to the Recent (including IGCP 700)
- Open Session

PUBLICATIONS

Abstracts and extended abstracts will be published in the proceedings and full refereed papers may be published in national and international journals subject to discussion with journal editors. Special edited volumes published by societies are also being negotiated.





FIELD EXCURSIONS

Location of the different fieldtrips will be:

1. Visits to examine palaeontological collections at the 4 museums in Isaan (Khorat, Phu Wiang (Khon Kaen), Sirindhorn (Kalasin) and Mahasarakham, NE Thailand (5 days).
2. Fossiliferous Silurian to Permian of the Loei Foldbelt, NE Thailand (3 days).
3. Fossiliferous Carboniferous–Permian marine carbonates and Permian and Neogene freshwater sediments of the Phetchabun proposed geopark and Saraburi, Central Thailand (3 days).
4. Neogene vertebrates and plants at Ban Tha Chang, near Khorat in the Khorat Geopark, NE Thailand (2 days).
5. Mesozoic vertebrate sites of the Khorat Plateau, NE Thailand (5 days).
6. Satun Geopark Cambrian to Carboniferous fossiliferous sequences, Southern Thailand (6 days).
7. Phuket to Ko Phi Phi. Carboniferous to Permian glacialmarine to temperate sediments and invertebrate fossils of Gondwana, Southern Thailand (6 days).
8. Plants of the Cenozoic of NE and N. Thailand – from Khorat to Tak (5 days).

Other fieldtrips may also be organized.

REGISTRATION

Registration is due by 1st April 2022 and will include welcoming ice breaker, abstract volume, morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

Conference dinner is separate and will cost about 50 Euros.

Payment may be made by credit card or by bank transfer.

Full registration	360 Euro	students 200 Euro
Early registration	260 Euro	students 150 Euro
Very early registration	200 Euro	students 100 Euro
Late registration (from 1 st April 2022– 31 st August 2022)	460 Euro	
Last minute registration (1 st September 2022 – 31 st October 2022)	560 Euro	

STUDENT AND DELEGATE SUPPORT

Some funds are available to support attendance by advanced students and delegates from developing countries and more funding will be requested from sponsors.





ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

An accompanying program will be organized as visits to local archaeological and cultural sites such as the Khon Kaen National Museum. Khon Kaen is close to the important archaeological site of Phimai Historical Park – a well maintained Khmer Angkorian temple complex built in the 11th to 12th Century CE. Visits will also be arranged to see silk production and traditional Thai arts and crafts.



