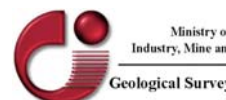
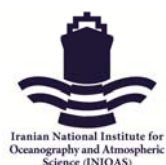
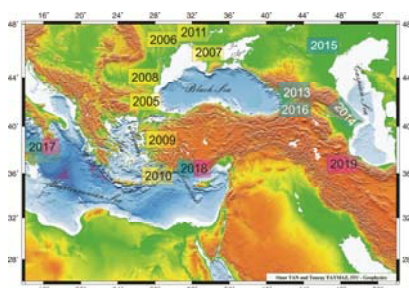


The Third Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS, Tehran and Guilan Province, I.R. Iran, 11-18 October 2019



First Circular

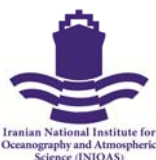
Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science
Geological Survey of Iran, I.R. Iran, Tehran 11-18 October, 2019



INQUA Focus Group
SACCOM: 1709F “Ponto-
Caspian Stratigraphy and
Geochronology (POCAS)”

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HOMBACH (Canada,
Ukraine)
Tamara YANINA (Russia)
Secretary:
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(Turkmenistan)

ORGANIZERS:



Research
Institute of
Cultural Heritage
& Tourism
(RICHT)



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AIMS AND SCOPE

The INQUA IFC (International Focus Group) POCAS continues a series of projects (UNESCO-IUGS-IGCP 521, 610; INQUA 501 - <http://avalon-institute.ca/projects/>) devoted to the Environmental Change and Human Response in the Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean Corridor (CORRIDOR) during the Quaternary. The CORRIDOR is considered as a single geographic entity (Fig. 1).

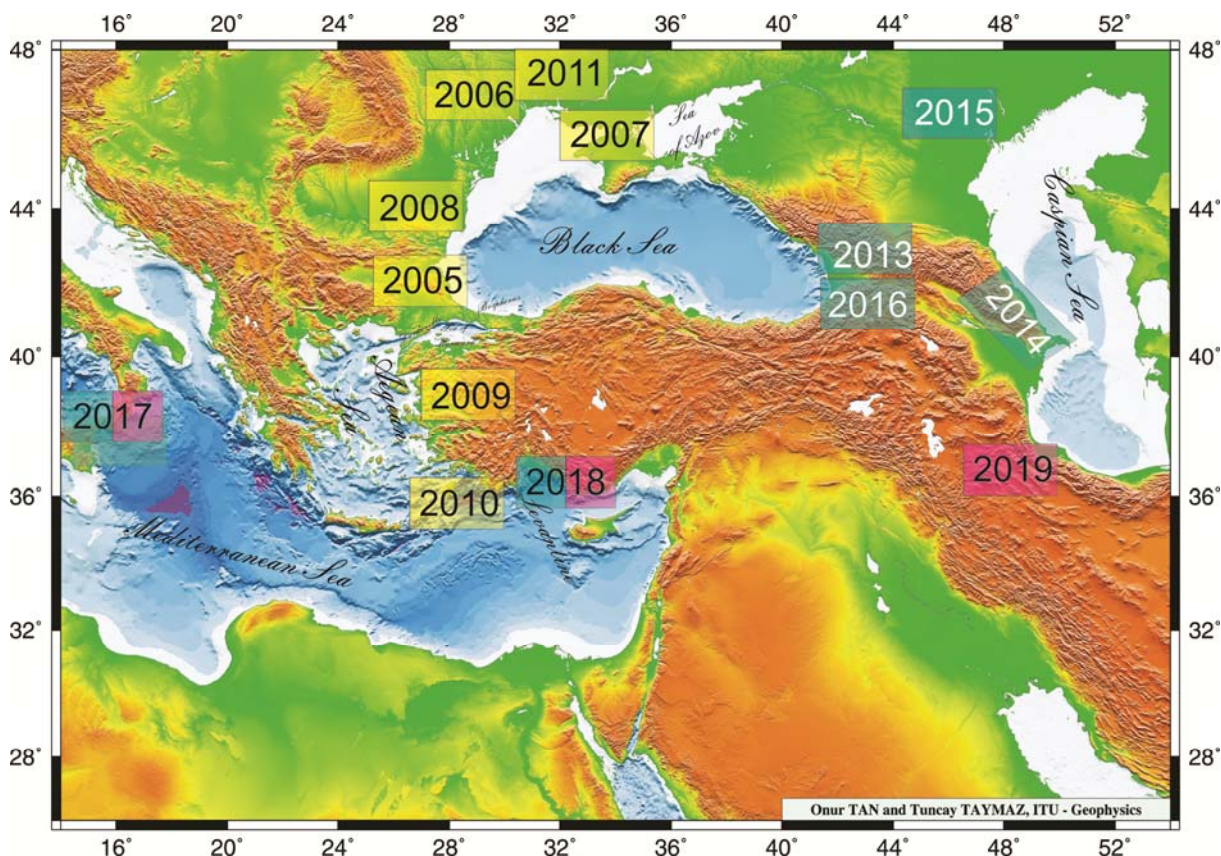


Figure 1. The Caspian-Black Sea-Mediterranean “CORRIDOR” with locations the Plenary Meetings and Field Trips: in yellow - IGCP 521-INQUA 501 (2005 – Istanbul, Turkey; 2006, 2011 – Odessa, Ukraine; 2007 – Gelendzhik, Russia; 2008 – Bucharest, Romania and Varna, Bulgaria; 2009 – Ismir, Turkey, 2010 – Rhodes, Greece); in green – IGCP 610 (2013 – Tbilisi, Western Georgia; 2014 – Baku, Azerbaijan; 2015 – Astrakhan’ (Volga Delta), Russia; 2016 – Tbilisi, Eastern Georgia), in green and pink – IGCP 610 and INQUA IFG POCAS (2017 – Palermo, Italy; 2018 – Antalya, Turkey), in pink - INQUA IFG POCAS (Tehran, I.R. Iran).

The projects established an international team of multidisciplinary scientists (about 300 people from 27 countries) working in close relation bypassing linguistic/political/disciplinary boundaries, linking continents (Europe and Asia) more closely, and encouraging East-West dialogue and cooperation among researchers

The INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS was created within the INQUA SACCOM for the term 2017-2020. It is concentrated on in-depth study of Quaternary stratigraphy and geochronology in the Ponto-Caspian region. The Ponto-Caspian is defined here as a chain of intercontinental basins that encompasses the Caspian, Black, Azov seas, the Kerch Strait, the Manych Valley, and their coasts. This chain represents a unique oceanographic system of relict Paratethys basins which were repeatedly connected and isolated from each other during the Quaternary. This predetermined their environmental conditions and hydrologic regimes, and imposed specific impacts on diverse biological populations. Due to its geographical location and semi-isolation from the open ocean, this region acts as a paleoenvironmental amplifier and a sensitive recorder of climatic events, in particular glacial-interglacial cycles on the Eastern European Plain and mountains, as well as transgressive-regressive sea-level variations of the World Ocean; thus, it can be considered as a stratotype region where

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geological history is well recorded in a long series of marine and continental sediments to be used for the development of the Pleistocene stratigraphy and geochronology of the Northern Eurasia.

The Quaternary stratigraphy and geochronology in the Ponto-Caspian dates back to the XIX century. The basic stratigraphic scale was first suggested by N.I. Andrusov and then modified by numerous researchers. This scale is based on the study of outcrops, many of which represent stratotypes for certain stratigraphic units, that were formed on the sea bottom and later exposed by tectonic uplift on coastal terraces. Many of them were observed during abovementioned projects.

The main goal of the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS is to provide in-depth interdisciplinary study and correlation of the Ponto-Caspian stratotypes and other important outcrops exposed in the field trip localities and to assemble existing and newly obtained data in the up-to-date catalogue supplemented by their pictures, coordinates, lithological, paleontological and paleoecological records, stratigraphic division, and absolute datings. As an additional bonus, this project continues tradition to observe archaeological and paleoanthropological records in each particular part of the CORRIDOR where fieldwork takes place.

The First and Second Plenary Conference and Field Trip of the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS were carried out in Italy (Palermo) and Turkey (Antalya) jointly with IGCP 610 in order to bring the international communities of both projects together to solve a number of contentious issues involving stratigraphy, geochronology, geological history, archaeology, and anthropology of the CORRIDOR. The IGCP 610 project was completed in 2018. The Third Plenary Conference of the INQUA Focus Group POCAS will be carried out in I.R. Iran (Tehran). It will focus on the late Miocene-Plio/Pleistocene geological history of the South Caspian Coast, Iran along the West Alborz Mountains. This subject is very important in shedding light and achieving a better understanding of tectonic-climatic interactions during the Plio/Quaternary period in this region.

The meeting will cover six days in total. Two days (12-13 October) will be spent in Plenary Sessions, and four days (14-17 October) will be dedicated to the Field Trips (Fig. 2).

The Plenary Sessions, social activities and side-meeting round tables will be held in INIOAS headquarter in Tehran, I.R. Iran. Accommodation is considered in Hotel Hijab/Hotel Alborz, in proximity of the meeting location. The two days of the Meeting will be devoted to oral presentations and posters, and four days will be devoted to geological field trips that focus on of the Miocene, Plio-Quaternary outcrops and archaeological sites.

It is expected that the meeting will bring together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world to enhance the West-East scientific dialogue and provide a foundation for collaboration on correlation and integration of subjects covered by the conference as previous IGCP 521, 610, and INQUA 0501 meetings have done.

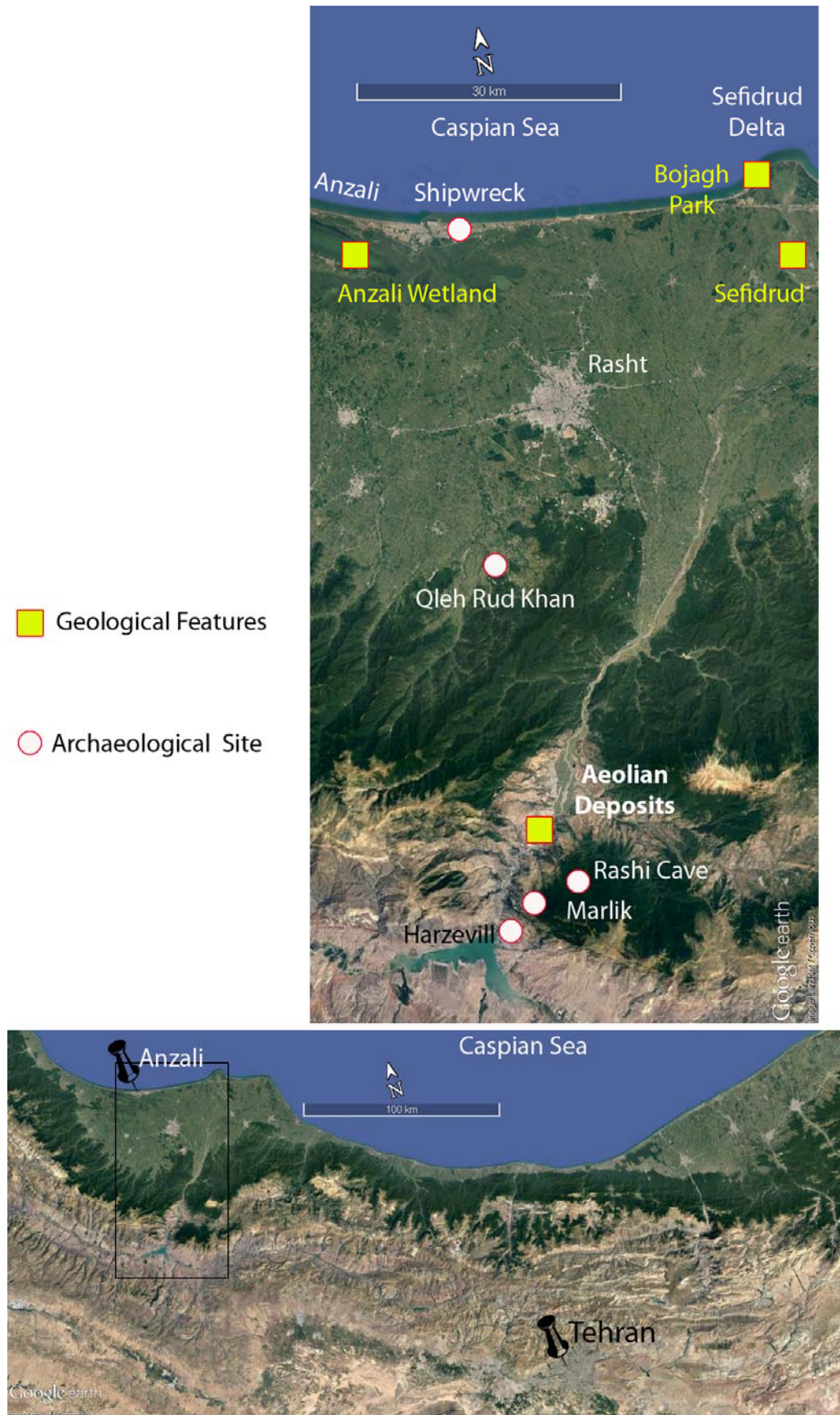


Figure 2. Field trip locations planned to be visited during the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS meeting

SCHEDULE

11 October: Arrival, Registration

12 October: Plenary Session

13 October: Plenary Session

14-17 October: Field Trips

18 October: Departure

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The final number of plenary sessions will depend upon the number of participants and accepted presentations. To be accepted, each presentation must deal with results obtained from the study of environmental change and human response during the Quaternary and pre-Quaternary in the CORRIDOR. It can also have a more general scope, for example, GIS-based modeling of the water exchange between adjacent basins; evolutionary mechanisms of the Eastern Paratethys and its separation into the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, etc. Presentations that go beyond data description to address interpretation and broader understanding of the chosen topic are especially encouraged.

Exemplary Subjects:

- Quaternary geochronology and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR Quaternary geochronology and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR
- Ponto-Caspian as a relict of the Eastern Paratethys
- Quaternary and upper Neogene paleontology, palynology, and stratigraphy of the CORRIDOR
- Recent ecosystems of the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Black Seas
- Role of active tectonics in dividing the Eastern Paratethys into separate basins
- Paleoenvironmental and paleogeographic reconstructions
- Climate modeling
- Sea-level and salinity modeling
- Submarine geohazards (earthquakes, submarine landslides, tsunamis, gas emissions) in the Mediterranean and Ponto-Caspian region
- Mud volcanism in the Mediterranean and Ponto-Caspian region
- The late Miocene (Messinian) salt crisis in the Mediterranean basin and its consequences in the Black Sea
- Archaeology, ethnography, and paleoanthropology of the CORRIDOR
- Modeling of environmental change and human dispersal during the Quaternary

FIELD TRIPS

The field locations are in Guilan Province at a distance of 4-6 hours by bus from Tehran. It is planned to be accommodated after the Field Trips in Guilan Province. Field trip starts from 14 October 2019 from Tehran, traveling through Tehran-Qazvin highway, then to Qazvin-Rasht highway to Guilan Province. On the way we will visit some archaeological and geological features in Rudbar, and stay for a night in Rudbar. Next days we will visit geological and archeological sites in the Guilan plain and Sefidrud delta. The base is considered in Rasht.

Field Trip Itinerary:

14 Oct. 2019, Departing from Tehran at early morning to Rudbar (Figs. 3, 4). Rudbar is the first city of Guilan Province entering from south from Tehran-Qazvin-Rasht highway. Darband e Rashi cave, Cheragh-Ali Tappeh (Marlik), Iron Age archaeological sites and high altitude hyrcanian forests will be visited in Rudbar. We will stay in eco-touristic homes of Damash.

15 Oct. 2019, Early morning departure will help us to be able to visit Pleistocene loess outcrop in Saravan and Rostam Abad south of Rasht in Sefidrud River valley. We will check in Hotel in Rasht and then will leave the hotel to visit Anzali lagoon. We hope to have enough time to see a historical wooden shipwreck and the hircanian forest in Gisum beach.

16 Oct. 2019, Sefidrud Delta, Old Sefidrud tributary, old beach ridges in Kiashahr City, Bujagh protected park will be visited in the third day of field trip.

17 Oct. 2019, Check out hotel, traveling to Fuman city and to Rudkhan Castle, visiting geological outcrops on the way, visiting Castle (needs patience to climb around 1000 steps), return to Tehran.



Fig. 3 Darband Cave, Rudbar, Guilan Province



Fig. 4 Qalerudkhan, Guilan Province

SOCIAL PROGRAM

During the Meeting, a sight-seeing tour in Tehran will be organized. More details will be announced in the next Circular.

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VENUE

The plenary meeting will be held at INIOAS meeting room in the center of Tehran (No3, Etamadzadeh St., West Fatemi Av., Tehran, I. R. Iran) (Fig. 4).

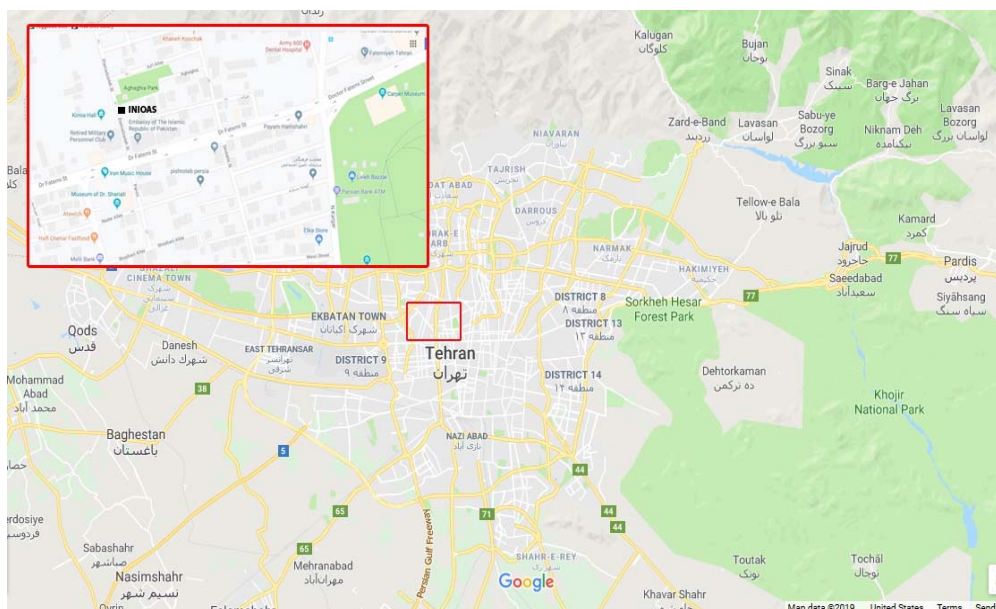


Fig. 4 Tehran map

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are a variety of hotels for different budgets in Tehran. Participants should arrange their accommodations by themselves for the duration of their stay in Tehran. All night accommodations during the field trips will be in Guilan Province, and will be Organized by INIOAS. Prices for some alternative hotels will be provided in the Second Circular. There are also student dormitories in Tehran, and they are comparatively more economical. For more information about hotel reservation one could contact INIOAS International Affairs, Miss Fahimeh Foroghi (foroghi@inio.ac.ir).

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee (Please refer to the “Registration Form”)

Category	Registration before 15 August 2018	Registration after 15 August 2018	Registration on spot
	euro		
Participant	350 (conference & field trip) 200 (only conference)	400 (conference & field trip) 250 (only conference)	420 (300 only conference)
Accompanying person	300	350	370
Student*	200	250	270

*Student identification is required.

The registration fee covers conference kit, refreshments during coffee breaks, lunches during Field Trips, museum entrance fees, and bus transportation during the Field Trips. It does not cover the dinners as well as hotel accommodations in Guilan Province and during Field Trips.

REFUND POLICY

Fifty percent refund before 18 August, 2018. No refund is possible after 18 August 2018.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS has very limited funds available to distribute and is not able to support the full cost of meeting attendance. Therefore, applicants should show evidence of seeking or having obtained funds from elsewhere before applying for assistance. Preference in funding allocations will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries who plan to present a high quality paper accepted by the Scientific Committee. An application for support may be e-mailed to the Organizing Committee (valyan@onu.edu.ua) requesting in your own words a funding amount with justification.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The official conference language is English.

ABSTRACT

Preference will be given to extended and informative abstracts containing new data and arguments. As a rule, your abstract(s) should at least 2 pages. But we will be quite flexible with the length of the abstract (up to 6 pages) if it offers new ideas and information. **Short and uninformative abstracts or abstracts irrelevant to the themes of the meeting will not be considered.**

The guidelines for abstract preparation and submission are outlined in the Abstract Template. You must specify the mode of your presentation: ORAL or POSTER. No abstracts will be accepted without registration of at least one of the authors. Every registered participant has the right to submit up to two extended abstracts as the first author.

Please type your abstract using the template (attached to the First Circular and shortly available at <http://www.avalon-institute.org/projects/>). Submit your abstract via e-mail to Prof. Valentina Yanko-Hombach valyan@onu.edu.ua; valyan@avalon-institute.org

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION

Each speaker will have 20 minutes for a presentation, including questions. Poster format is 100x180 cm. Projection Equipment: Screens, LCD (PowerPoint presentation) projectors, and overhead projectors are available.

PUBLICATION

Accepted abstracts will be published in the INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS Proceedings. The full papers will be published (after proper review) in an IGCP 610- INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS Special Volume of the peer-reviewed journal (*to be defined and announced in the Second Circular*).

VISA

Visitors from most countries must carry a valid passport and Visa to be able to enter I.R. Iran. For more information on visas and other required travel documents, please contact to Miss Fahimeh Foroghi (foroghi@inio.ac.ir). Each attendee is responsible for obtaining his/her visa for entering I.R. Iran.

CLIMATE

The middle of October is a good time for Field Trips. It is mild and warm with average high and low temperature ranging between 13-22° C., relative humidity is 86% and average rainy days is 12.

TRAVEL

Tehran is easily accessible by regular flights.

DEADLINES

30 May 2019	First Circular on IGCP 610 website: (http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/)
15 June 2019	Abstract submission and registration opens
15 August 2019	Abstract submission closes
1 September 2019	Notification of abstract acceptance

*The Third Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of INQUA IFG 1709F POCAS, Tehran and Guilan
Province, I.R. Iran, 11-18 October 2019*

15 August 2019
30 September 2019

Deadline for early registration
Second Circular and the Conference Programme on INQUA IFG
1709F POCAS website (<http://www.avalon-institute.org/projects/>)