



## ATES Delegation Attends the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC

The 35<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress (IGC) took place in Dublin, Ireland on 24-30 August 2024. This congress was hosted by the International Geographical Union (IGU) and organized by the Geographical Society of Ireland and Dublin City University (DCU). Under the theme “Celebrating a World of Difference,” more than 2,600 scientists from over 100 countries attended the plenary keynote talks, 200 parallel sessions, exhibitions, the IGU General Assembly and field trips. The ATES delegation, led by Co-chair of ATES, Prof. CHEN, actively participated in various congress events.



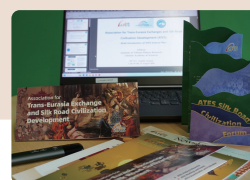
*Ireland  
Dublin*



*New  
Commission*

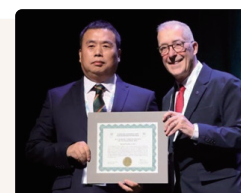
On 25 August, the IGU General Assembly officially endorsed a new commission titled “Silk Road Civilizations and Environments” chaired by Prof. CHEN Fahu. This new IGU commission aims to further understand the fundamental roles of environmental change in the evolution of the Silk Road by revealing human migration processes, food, culture, and social systems establishment, as well as their relationships with the emergence and collapse of ancient civilizations. This initiative has gained significant involvement from prominent scientists across Europe, East Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia, fostering enhanced international collaboration and exchanges in the Silk Road regions.

On 27-28 August, two sessions were organized by ATES, titled “Human-environmental Interactions in the Ancient Silk Road regions” and “Interactions between the Silk Road and the Eurasian Steppe since the Neolithic era” respectively. A total of 17 oral presentations drew wide interest. These ATES sessions were convened by ITPCAS and Lanzhou University together with University of Giessen (Germany) and University of Birmingham (UK).



*Two  
Sessions*

On 29 August, the IGU Honors and Awards Committee presented prestigious awards at the Closing Ceremony of the 35th International Geographical Congress. “Dr. CAO Xianyong, professor at ITPCAS and core member of ATES Working Group 6, received the IGU Early Career Award in Geography, recognizing his significant contributions to the field.



# The 1<sup>st</sup> ATES Co-chairs Meeting Held Online

On August 13, 2024, the first ATES Co-Chairs meeting took place online. Three ATES Co-Chairs, Prof. Fahu Chen (Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Prof. Michael Meadows (Nanjing University/University of Cape Town), and Prof. Jürg Luterbacher (Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany), participated in the meeting, along with ATES Secretariat.

The main task of this meeting is to exchange ATES's latest progress and future plan, discuss how to enhance ATES's leadership and interact within ATES working groups and communities outside of ATES. The meeting also covered the discussion of the ATES work plan for 2024-2025.

ATES was officially launched in 2019 by Prof. Fahu Chen under the platform of ANSO (The Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions). In 2024, Prof. Michael Meadows and Prof. Jürg Luterbacher joined ATES as co-chairs with Prof. Chen. This move aims to strengthen ATES's leadership and enhance its visibility on international platforms.



## Michael Meadows: New ATES Co-Chair

Michael Meadows is Professor in the School of Geography and Ocean Sciences at Nanjing University and is a Senior Research Scholar in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town, where he was Head of Department from 2001-2017.

His research interests lie broadly in the field of physical geography and more specifically concern Quaternary environmental change and the geomorphological and biogeographical impacts of geologically recent natural and anthropogenic changes. He has a particular passion for fieldwork and discovering new and interesting places. Meadows was Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Geographical Union (IGU) from 2010-2018 and was elected as IGU President for the period 2020 to 2024.



## Jürg Luterbacher: New ATES Co-chair

Jürg Luterbacher is Full Professor at the Department of Geography, Climate Change/-Climatology/Climatic Dynamics and Centre for International Development and Environmental Research at Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany. From 2020 to 2024 he served as the Director of Science and Innovation and Chief Scientist at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). He is an elected member of the Scientific Advisory Board appointed by UN Secretary-General Guterres and a member of the Academy of Sciences and Literature / Mainz, Germany.

He has demonstrated leadership and excellence in a broad spectrum of climate science and contributed significantly to the holistic Climate-Earth System approach. He co-developed and implemented the PAGES research strategy on the past climate for Europe/Mediterranean and Asia covering the past 2000 years. He has repeatedly received recognition as the Thompson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher in the field of Geosciences.



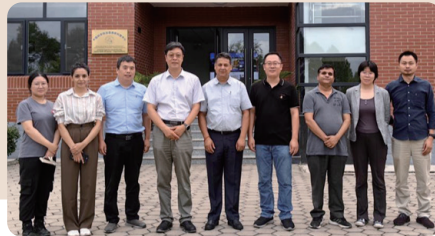
# ATES Co-Chair, Prof. Fahu Chen Visits Nepal

From July 28 to August 3, 2024, Prof. Fahu Chen, Co-chair of ATES, visited Nepal with a delegation from the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ITPCAS). The main purpose of this trip was to participate in the international conference titled "Environmental Protection, Moderation, and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions" in Kathmandu, Nepal. This conference was hosted by the Mountain Sub-society of the Geographical Society of China (GSC), and co-organized by Tribhuvan University (TU), the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment/CAS, and Yangtze University. Over 200 experts and scholars from China, the UK, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, and Rwanda attended this event.

Prof. Fahu Chen delivered a welcome address in the opening ceremony, and presented a keynote speech titled "Mega-sandwich Pattern of Interdecadal Precipitation Variations and Its Regional Manifestation in the Asian Summer Precipitation Region". He delivered another invited talk titled "Human Activity History and Its Environmental Impact on the Tibetan Plateau and Surrounding Mountains" in the session organized by ICIMOD.



*Visits Nepal*



During the visit, Prof. Fahu Chen and the ITPCAS delegation received an invitation to the ICIMOD headquarters. They discussed future potential future collaborations between ICIMOD, ITPCAS, and ATES with Mr. Pema Gyamtsho, the Director General, Ms. Izabella Koziell, the Deputy Director General, and key members of the research and project teams.

Prof. Fahu Chen and the ITPCAS delegation visited the Kathmandu Center for Research and Education (KCRE), which was jointly established by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Tribhuvan University, and run by ITPCAS and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of TU. ITPCAS delegation also visited the Central Department of Geography of TU and held a mini workshop with faculties and students. After the meeting, they undertook a field trip to observe the natural disasters, the mountain environment, and development along the China-Nepal Highway.

## *A Field Trip*



*China-Nepal Highway*

# UPDATES

## 夏河白石崖溶洞遗址暨丹尼索瓦人国际学术研讨会 International Symposium on Researches of Baishiya Karst Cave and Denisovans

兰州大学  
2024.08.09-12

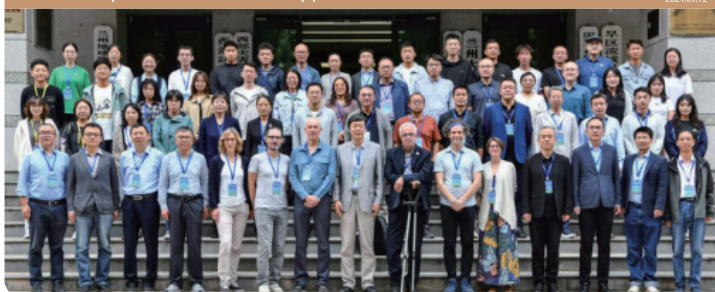


### ATES WG1

International Symposium on Researches of Baishiya Karst Cave and Denisovans.  
Lanzhou, 9-12 August, 2024.  
(around 100 Participants)

## 欧亚大陆草原与绿洲通道的互动国际研讨会 Workshop on Interaction of Steppe and Oasis Corridors in Eurasia

兰州大学  
2024.09.12



### ATES WG2

Workshop on Interaction of Steppe and Oasis Corridors in Eurasia.  
Lanzhou, 11-13 September, 2024.  
(around 80 Participants)

## Welcome AGU Delegation to ITPCAS



Prof. Lisa Graumlich, President of AGU, and other AGU vice presidents visited ITPCAS on 3rd September 2024

On behalf of the Earth-Human Coalition (EHC) launched by The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD), Prof. Nebojša Nešković, the vice president of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), visited CAS HQ in Beijing on 26 September 2024. Prof. Chen participated the meeting.



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