



ATES Co-chair, Prof. Fahu Chen visits Uzbekistan

From June 24 to 29, 2025, Professor Fahu Chen, Co-chair of the Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES), visited Uzbekistan. He participated in academic events hosted by the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME) and Samarkand State University, engaging in substantive discussions with researchers from Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries.

In Tashkent, Prof. Chen attended the “WCRP- CORDEX CASCADE Central Asia International Symposium on Climate Change”. In his opening remarks, he highlighted Uzbekistan’s significance as a key partner in China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and emphasized the critical need to understand climate change impacts on regional ecosystems, water resources, and food security. Professor Chen presented a keynote talk titled “Climate Change and Past Human-Environment Interactions from Arid Central Asia and Monsoon Asia”, which facilitated the exchange of recent research findings and discussions on future collaboration among international scientists.

Subsequently, Prof. Chen participated in the “International Scientific Conference on Ecological and Environmental Protection Issues” in Samarkand. In his address, he pointed out Samarkand’s historical significance as a pivotal nexus along the ancient Silk Road. He delivered another keynote titled “Human along the Silk Road: climate, environment, and human”, detailing recent research on early human migration, agriculture origins, and human-environment interactions along the Silk Road.



During the visit, Prof. Chen and the Chinese delegation also visited relevant faculties and the Archaeological Museum at Samarkand State University, holding in-depth discussions with local researchers and deans. The delegation included scientists from multiple CAS institutes and Chinese universities. Prof. Ailikun from the ATES Secretariat introduced the background and scientific priorities of the alliance at both events.

Pakistan and Nepalese Experts Visit ITPCAS

Invited by Prof. Fahu Chen, Chair of the National Committee of China in the International Geographical Union (IGU), Co-Chair of ATES a group of distinguished scientists from Pakistan and Nepal visited the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ITPCAS) on 20 September 2025. The delegation included Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, President of the Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA) and Chairman of the Department of Geography & Geomatics at the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, Prof. Umesh Kumar Mandal, Head of the Central Department of Geography at Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and Prof. Shakeel Mahmood, chairperson of the Department of Geography at Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan. Also present at the meeting were Prof. Guoyou Zhang,

Deputy Secretary of CPC of The Geographical Society of China (GSC), and Dr. Dai Wang, Executive Director of the GSC.



In a presentation titled "Pakistan Geographical Association: Strength and Potentials", Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman introduced the history, organizational structure, main activities, and future plans of the Pakistan Geographical Association, highlighting its pivotal role in promoting fundamental geographical research, advancing geographic information technologies, and fostering talent development.

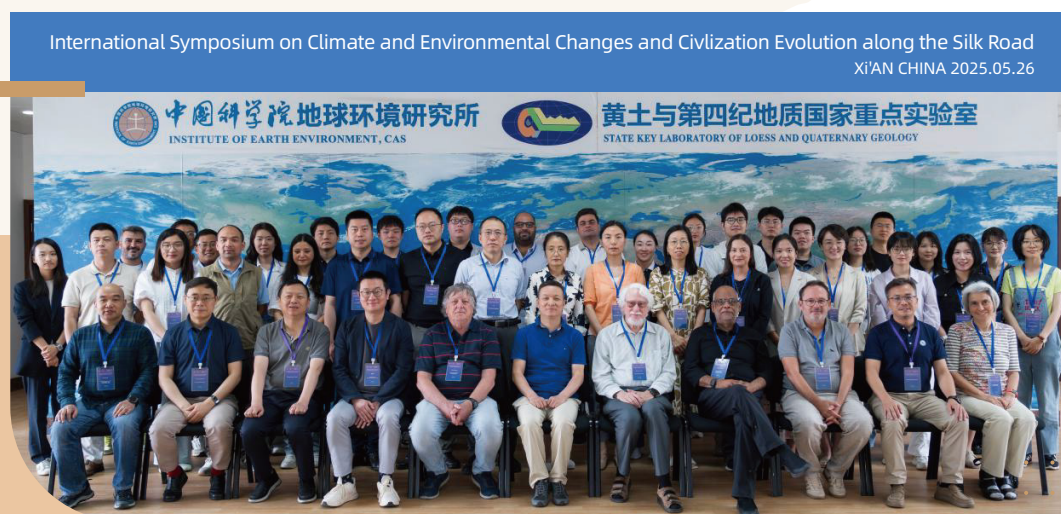
Prof. Umesh Kumar Mandal delivered a report entitled "Activities of Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University in Nepa". He provided a detailed overview of the Department's status as a core institution for geographical education and research in Nepal, showcasing its progress and achievements in disciplinary

development, international cooperation, and cutting-edge research such as land use and land cover change, climate change, and disaster risk management in South Asia.

Prof. Fahu Chen gave a talk titled "100 Years of Excellence, Heading for the Future", outlining a century development and significant achievement of the Geographical Society of China. After that, Prof. Juzhi Hou briefly introduced the main research foci, scientific advancements, and team members of The "Alpine Paleoeology and Human Adaptation" group in ITPCAS.

During the discussion, participants expressed a strong expectation for more profound cooperation in the future.

International Symposium on Climate and Environmental Changes and Civilization Evolution along the Silk Road held in Xi'an



The “International Symposium on Climate and Environmental Changes and Civilization Evolution along the Silk Road” was successfully held in Xi'an on May 25-26, 2025.

This symposium was jointly hosted by the Institute of Earth Environment (IEE), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the State Key Laboratory of Loess Science, and other professional commissions. It was co-organized by the Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES) and the Shaanxi Province “Belt and Road” Joint Laboratory on Central Asia Extreme Climate (in preparation).

Before the symposium, Professor Zhisheng An from IEE/CAS met with main international guests, including Professor James G. Ogg (Purdue University, USA) and others, to discuss frontier scientific issues.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Liangcheng Tan, Director of the Research Center on Silk Road Climate and Environment at IEE/CAS. Prof. Sun Youbin, Director General of IEE/CAS, extended a warm welcome to all participants. The international symposium brought together scientists from renowned universities and research institutions worldwide. Prof. Ailikun from the ATES Secretariat introduced the background, vision, and scientific priorities of the alliance.

During the conference, experts and scholars shared their latest research findings and engaged in in-depth discussions on cutting-edge issues such as the evolution of landscape on the Silk Road, new methodologies for reconstructing ancient climates, the spreading routes of early agriculture and pastoralism, and the relationship between extreme climate events and social changes.

After the symposium, participants visited the China Continental Environmental Drilling Core Repository, the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Center, and the Cave Laboratory at IEE/CAS.

Upcoming Events

Call for Abstracts: ATES at the EGU 2026

We would like to invite you to submit abstracts to EGU 2026 Session "Climate and Environment Changes and their Impact on Trans-Eurasian Exchange and Civilization along the Silk Road" (CL3.2.5: Future Climate - Climate and Society) in Vienna, Austria, and online, which will be held from May 3 to 8, 2026.



The abstract submission system is now open, and the deadline for abstract submission is Thursday, **January 15, 2026, 13:00 CET / 20:00 CST.**

- **Session Title:**

Climate and Environment Changes and their Impact on Trans-Eurasian Exchange and Civilization along the Silk Road

- **Session Conveners:**

Prof. Elena Xoplaki, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Dr. Haichao Xie, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Dr. Shengqian Chen, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Dr. Shanjia Zhang, Lanzhou University, China

- **Abstract submission link:**



<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU26/session/56359>

- **Abstract submission guidelines:**



<https://www.egu26.eu/authors/how-to-submit.html>

- **Session Description:**

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes that stretched from central China to the Pamir Mountains, through Central Asia and Arabia to India and Rome, and played a key role in facilitating economic, cultural, political and religious exchanges between East and West. The central part of the Silk Road, located in arid Central Asia, is highly sensitive to environmental changes. Climate and environmental changes, especially changes in water availability, could significantly influence the spatio-temporal distribution of the Silk Road network, trans-Eurasian exchanges and human migration, as well as the civilizational development. This session seeks to enhance comprehension of how environmental change influenced trans-Eurasian exchange and Silk Road civilization by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. By uniting historians, archaeologists, geneticists, and climatologists, we aim to leverage methodological advancements and identify relevant data towards a coordinated database to drive an intellectual revolution in Silk Road studies. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, we encourage innovative questions and perspectives that advance research in this field.

Looking forward to seeing you in Vienna, Austria.

Contact Us

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