



ANSO–MTA Silk Road Forum & 3rd ATES Open Science Conference Held in Budapest

On September 9–10, 2025, the “ANSO–MTA Silk Road Forum & The 3rd ATES Open Science Conference” was successfully held in Budapest, Hungary. The event was jointly organized by the Alliance of International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES), alongside other leading institutions from China and Hungary.



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Convened to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, this pivotal academic forum brought together more than 80 distinguished researchers from numerous countries including Hungary, China, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, the United States, and Mongolia. Participants engaged with cutting-edge topics spanning human migration across Eurasia, the origin and diffusion of early agriculture, climate-environment-human interactions along the Silk Road, and East-West exchanges in culture, science, and technology.

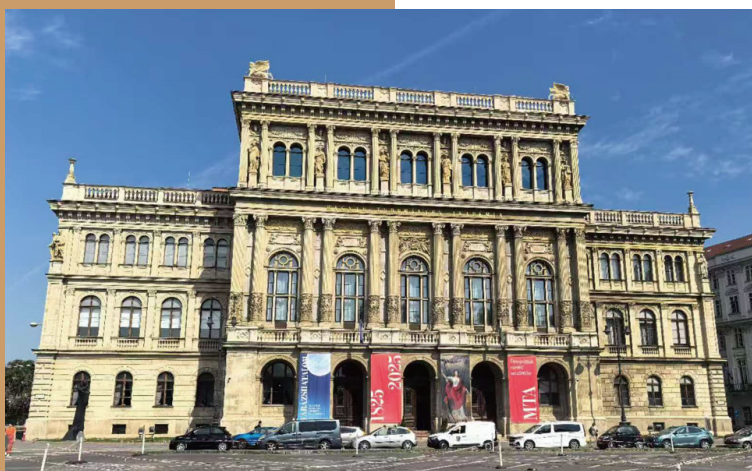
The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Michael Meadows, Co-Chair of ATES. Prof. Ferenc Hudecz, Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, underscored Hungary's deep historical ties to the Silk Road as a crucial East-West bridge and advocated for interdisciplinary Silk Road research to enhance international collaboration. Prof. Weidong Liu, representing the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and ANSO, congratulated MTA on its bicentennial. He emphasized the commitment of CAS and ANSO to fostering science and technology cooperation with Hungary and Europe, stating that the forum's focus on human-environment interactions would provide fresh momentum for sustainability research. Prof. Fahu Chen, Co-Chair of ATES, thanked the co-organizers and highlighted Hungary's key role as a hub for ATES's interdisciplinary research through strengthened China-Europe collaboration.

A major highlight was the official launch of the “Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES) Science Plan (2025-2030)” by Prof. Jürg Luterbacher, Co-Chair of ATES. Co-edited by experts including Fahu Chen and Michael Meadows, the plan details ATES's strategic goals, research priorities, and governance. Focused on the core theme of climate-environment-human relationships, it outlines six key research areas: Paleolithic human migration; origin and diffusion of agriculture; transport network and town development; evolution of culture, science, and technology; genetic history of Silk Road populations; and human-environment-climate interactions. This plan, the result of a two-year collaborative effort involving over 50 global experts, was formally published by Science Press in September 2025.



The conference program featured plenary keynote talks, parallel sessions, a panel discussion, and an exhibition. Plenary speeches addressed three main themes: Climate and Environmental Changes, Neolithic Transitions across Eurasia, and East-West Cultural and Economic Exchanges. World-renowned scholars presented their latest findings, including Prof. Bojie Fu on the social-ecological system of the Loess Plateau, Prof. Jürg Luterbacher on past and future climate changes in China's Ordos region, Prof. Ron Pinhasi on Neolithic genetic patterns, and Prof. Nicola Di Cosmo on ancient trade dynamics during China's Warring States period.

Four parallel sessions allowed nearly 40 experts to present oral contributions on topics such as human migration, agricultural origins, human-environment interactions, and Silk Road culture and language studies. A special “Exhibition on Hungarian Scientists' Expedition Exploring the Silk Road” showcased historical field research in Central Asia and Western Siberia.



The panel discussion fostered in-depth dialogue on ATES's future scientific priorities, interdisciplinary research gaps, and core partnerships, yielding valuable recommendations. The conference successfully established a dynamic platform for scholarly exchange, particularly for early-career scientists, promoted regional and global partnerships, and advanced collaborative, interdisciplinary research on the Silk Road.

“Association for Trans–Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES) Science Plan (2025–2030)” Now Available for Open Access

On September 9, 2025, the “Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES) Science Plan (2025-2030)” was officially launched in Budapest, Hungary. This science plan, co-edited by Fahu Chen, Michael Meadows, Jürg Luterbacher, Ailikun, and Juzhi Hou is a culmination of two years of dedicated effort, involved the collaborative input of over 50 experts worldwide in its initiation, drafting, and revision. It was formally published by the Science Press in September 2025.



Recently, Science Press officially made this book available for online reading and free download on its Open Access (OA) platform. Notably, it is the first academic book released on Science Press's OA platform, marking a significant step forward in promoting Open Science and knowledge sharing.

Readers may access at the following URL



<https://oabook.sciencereading.cn/redirect/bookdetail?t=bookdetail&arg=14c929a69c2e422b8b292e07d414fcb9>



Book Description

As an ancient trade network across Eurasia, the Silk Road was not only a vital trade corridor but also a melting pot for cultures, arts, sciences, and technological innovations between East and West. Meanwhile, it traversed complex geographical terrains and diverse landscapes across Eurasia, such as the Gobi Desert, oases, high mountains, forests and grasslands. Climate and environmental

changes have profound impacts on human migrations, trade networks, political-economic structures, and socio-cultural characteristics in the region, offering a valuable opportunity to investigate human-environment interactions.

The “Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilization Development (ATES) Science Plan (2025-2030)” presents a unique and timely opportunity for advancing and refining our understanding of the dynamic relationship between human and nature. With a focus on cutting-edge research such as human migration across Eurasia, the origins of agriculture and early farming, human-environment interactions, East-West exchanges on culture, science and technology, and the evolution of Silk Road civilizations, this science plan establishes a comprehensive research framework and institutional roadmap to support interdisciplinary and cross-regional cooperation along the Silk Road.

Upcoming Events

Call for Abstracts: Session at IRC 2026 “Climate Change and Transcontinental Exchange: Drivers of Civilizational Dynamics Across the Silk Road”

The IGU Regional Conference 2026 (IRC 2026) will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from August 17 to 21, 2026. Abstract submission is now officially open for the special session “Climate Change and Transcontinental Exchange: Drivers of Civilizational Dynamics Across the Silk Road”. We sincerely invite scholars from relevant fields to submit their latest research findings and join us in exploring the long-term evolution and contemporary implications of human-environment interactions along the Silk Road.



- **Session Title:**

Climate Change and Transcontinental Exchange: Drivers of Civilizational Dynamics Across the Silk Road

- **Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters:**

Istanbul Time (GMT+3): 23:59, Friday, 9 January 2026

Beijing Time (GMT+8): 04:59, Saturday, 10 January 2026

- **Notification of results of abstract reviews:**

February 27, 2026 (Friday)

- **Abstract Submission Link:**

<https://www.irc2026.org/en/ABSTRACT-SUBMISSION.html>

- **Background:**

In August 2024, the International Geographical Union (IGU) officially approved the establishment of the “Commission on Silk Road Civilizations and Environments,” initiated by CAS Academician Fahu Chen, Chair of the ATES. The commission aims to advance research on how climatic and environmental changes have influenced population migration, early agricultural and pastoral development, cultural and societal dynamics, and the evolution of civilizations along the Silk Road. By examining long-term climatic, environmental, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic changes across the Silk Road region, the commission seeks to provide new perspectives and scientific insights to support climate-change adaptation in countries and regions along the route.

This conference is organized by the “Commission on Silk Road Civilizations and Environments”. Through interdisciplinary integration across the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, we aim to reveal the coupled relationships between environmental change and human activities along the Silk Road. Scholars from geography, climate science, archaeology, geology, anthropology, history, remote sensing, and data science will be brought together to foster new perspectives, methodological innovation, and collaborative frameworks. Efforts will also be made to promote the development of shared datasets and comparative research platforms to advance future scholarship in this field.

Contact Us

ATES Secretariat
No.16 Lincui Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing
100101, China
ates@itpcas.ac.cn

