



Preliminary Circular
The Ninth Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association



Dear Heads of Country Associations,

The Ninth Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association will be held at the “Denisova Cave” field research center (Altai region, Russia) from **July 30 to August 6, 2018**. Organized by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences on behalf of the Presidium of the Asian Paleolithic Association (APA), the conference will provide an opportunity to share new data on Paleolithic investigations throughout Asia. Abstracts of presentations are planned to be published.

There are specific conditions for forming participating delegations due to the limited space available for accommodation at the “Denisova Cave” field research center. **Each delegation must comprise no more than ten people from any one country.** Colleagues who need an official letter of invitation to accompany their visa applications should inform us well in advance so that we can provide such invitations in a timely manner. We also kindly ask you to propose two researchers, who have obtained outstanding results in investigations of Stone Age Asia, from countries outside of the APA, to be invited to participate in the meeting. Furthermore, we ask you to nominate two candidates from Paleolithic Associations of your countries to participate in the Association’s restructured Executive Committee.

We look forward to receiving your replies and to seeing you in Russia in 2018!

Sincerely,

Honorary Presidents of the Asian
Paleolithic Association

Academician Anatoly P. Derevianko
Professor, Dr. Akira Ono

President of the Asian Paleolithic
Association

Prof., Dr. Andrey I. Krivoschapkin

Vice President of the Asian
Paleolithic Association

Prof., Dr. Mikhail V. Shunkov

Executive Committee of the Russian
Association

Dr. Evgeny P. Rybin
Dr. Konstantin K. Pavlenok

Program Committee

Dr. Evgeny P. Rybin
Dr. Konstantin K. Pavlenok
Dr. Ksenia A. Kolobova

Secretariat

Arina M. Khatsenovich
Anastasia V. Nikulina
Maxim B. Kozlikin

1. Preliminary Conference Schedule

July 30 (Monday)	Arrival in Novosibirsk & Registration
July 31 (Tuesday)	Travel to the “Denisova Cave” field research center
August 1 (Wednesday)	Conference Sessions
August 2 (Thursday)	Conference Sessions
August 3 (Friday)	Conference Sessions
August 4 (Saturday)	Post-Conference Excursion
August 5 (Sunday)	Post-Conference Excursion
August 6 (Monday)	Return to Novosibirsk

2. Venue

Accommodation in Novosibirsk	Hotel of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, “Zolotaya Dolina” (10, Ilich Street, Novosibirsk, Russia, 630090; http://www.gold-valley.ru/?lang=en)
Sessions and accommodation during the meeting	“Denisova Cave” field research center (Soloneshensky district, Altai region, Russia)

3. Preliminary Excursion Program

Denisova Cave

A large, multi-layered cave site in the Anui River valley, northwestern Altai, yielding the longest chronostratigraphic sequence in northern Asia from the early Middle Paleolithic (ca. 280 ka) to the Upper Paleolithic. Excavations at this site have produced a rich collection of personal ornaments and human remains, including a new hominin species. Denisova is a critical site for understanding human evolution, yielding evidence of how a unique species of early humans (the

Denisovans) evolved and co-existed with Neanderthals during the Middle and Late Pleistocene.

Karama

A Lower Paleolithic open-air site in the Anui River valley, northwestern Altai. Here, Lower Pleistocene sediments, dated to 600-800 ka, contain archaic pebble tools suggesting several occupational episodes. Karama has yielded the earliest evidence of *Homo erectus* in northern Asia.

Okladnikov Cave

A Middle Paleolithic site in the Sibirka River valley, a tributary of the Anui River, in the northwestern Altai. Okladnikov Cave, associated with late Neanderthal activity around 44–33 ka, has yielded the first evidence of a Middle Paleolithic industry different from contemporaneous complexes in Denisova Cave.

Chagyrskaya Cave

A Middle Paleolithic site in a small tributary valley of the Charysh River, northwestern Altai. The Middle Paleolithic–Sibiryachiha techno-mode of the Chagyrskaya lithic assemblage, dated to 60-50 ka, is unique in the Altai region, differing significantly from the basic characteristics of the North Asian Middle Paleolithic. A significant number of Neanderthal fossils have been recovered from Chagyrskaya Cave.

Ust-Karakol-1

An open-air, multi-layered site in the Anui River valley, located 3 km from Denisova Cave. The site contains a cultural sequence of Middle Paleolithic and Early Upper Paleolithic material culture. The Early Upper Paleolithic assemblages include carinated technology for small blade production, unique in the Altai region and dated to ca. 35 ka.

Kara-Bom

An open-air multi-layered site situated in an intermountain depression in the central Altai. The lithic assemblages represent the Middle Paleolithic, Initial and Early Upper Paleolithic. Dated to ca. 43 ka, the laminar Initial Upper Paleolithic is one of the oldest such assemblages in Eurasia.

4. Registration Fee

The estimated registration fee for conference participants is US\$400 per person, which will include transfers between Novosibirsk and the “Denisova Cave” field research center, accommodations at the research center, and meals during the conference period, conference kits, and excursions. Accommodations in the “Zolotaya Dolina” Hotel shall be paid separately in accordance with the hotel’s pricelist (e.g., a two-room semi-suite currently costs US\$79 per night; see <http://www.gold-valley.ru/?lang=en>). Please note that heads of country associations and members of the APA Executive Committee are exempt from paying the registration fee.

If you require any assistance in booking a hotel room or planning your trip, please contact the organizing committee.

**Please direct all conference-related communication to
apa2018@archaeology.nsc.ru.**