

Asian Paleolithic Association
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography
Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences

International Symposium
Characteristic features of the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in Eurasia: development of culture and evolution of Homo species

The vast territory of Eurasia includes certain areas that attract special attention of many scholars. These are the areas located at the cross-points between large geographical regions. The Altai Mountains is the region connecting Northern and Central Asia. Altai Paleolithic sites with their considerable scientific potential are located in the important geographical zone and provide important information for elaboration on the concepts of development of the major cultural and historical processes as well as the physical features of prehistoric populations of the northern, central and eastern regions of Asia. The region has gained additional significance due to the discovery of a new species or sub-species of early humans on the basis of analyses of mtDNA in 2010. This new species of early Upper Paleolithic hominids was named *Homo denisovans* or *H. altaiensis* (Nature, 2010, vol. 464, No 7290, pp. 894–897).

The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences announces an international symposium, which is going to be held in the Altai in the early July, 2011. The symposium will be dedicated to the archaeological, paleo-genetic and anthropological issues of development of humans in the early Upper Paleolithic in Eurasia.

The Organizing Committee of the Symposium invites you to take part in the Symposium entitled *Characteristic features of the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in Eurasia: development of culture and evolution of Homo species*.

Several sessions focusing on particular topics of the Stone Age archaeology will be held at the Symposium:

- Chronological classifications of the Eurasian Paleolithic;
- Early Prehistory of Eurasia;
- The Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition in various regions of Eurasia;
- Development of cultural traditions in the early Upper Paleolithic in Eurasia;
- Paleo-genetic history of the early humans in Eurasia;
- Anthropological features of the Paleolithic populations of Eurasia.

The Symposium will be held at the permanent archaeological camp at Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains in July 4 through 10, 2011.

The Organizing Committee will cover the expenses of round-trip transportation between Novosibirsk and Denisova Cave, board and lodging at the camp, and field excursions during the Symposium.

Please acknowledge your participation before January 15, 2011.

The working languages of the Symposium are Russian and English.

The deadline for submission of presentation texts in English (not exceeding 20 thousand characters including spaces and 2 illustrations) is April 15, 2011 through e-mail: shapkin@archaeology.nsc.ru

Postal address:

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The Organizing Committee of the Symposium:

A.P. Derevianko, Chairman

Prof. S. Paabo, Dr. M.V. Shunkov, Vice-Chairmen

Dr. A.I. Krivoshapkin, Science Secretary

Members of the Organizing Committee:

Prof. A.P. Buzhilova (Russia), Prof. A.K. Agadjanian (Russia), Prof. O. Bar-Yosef (USA), Prof. Gao Xing (China), Prof. J. Jaubert (France), Prof. A.G. Kozintsev (Russia), Prof. J. Kozlowski (Poland), Prof. N. Conard (Germany), Prof. Kidong Bae (Korea), Dr. S.V. Markin (Russia), Prof. Hiroyuki Sato (Japan).

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Second Circular

We will be happy to welcome you in the Altai as a participant of the International Symposium in July, 2011.

Presently, it is time for us to prepare formal invitations that are necessary for visa application. We need the following information:

1. Electronic scanned face page of your passport;
2. Place of birth (country, city);
3. Affiliation;
4. Position;
5. Mailing address.

We will appreciate your prompt response and sending the required data. The procedure of getting the formal invitation takes about one month.

Organizing Committee