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International Meeting of Young Researchers in Structural Geology and Tectonics (YORSGET-08): introduction

M. GUTIÉRREZ-MEDINA[1, 2*], J. POBLET[1], D. PEDREIRA[1] AND C. LÓPEZ-FERNÁNDEZ[1]

[1]*Departamento de Geología, Universidad de Oviedo, C/Jesús Arias de Velasco s/n, 33005, Oviedo, Spain.*

[2]*Now at: Departamento de Ciencia e Ingeniería del Terreno y de los Materiales, Universidad de Cantabria, Avenida de los Castros s/n, 39005, Santander, Spain.*

[*]*e-mail: miguel.gutierrez@unican.es*

This volume of the journal *Trabajos de Geología* includes a selection of reviewed versions of extended abstracts presented at the **"International Meeting of Young Researchers in Structural Geology and Tectonics (YORSGET-08)"** held at Oviedo (Spain) from June 28th to July 3rd, 2008.

Structural geology and tectonics are scientific disciplines that focus on the deformation processes that suffered and are suffering rock masses of the Earth and other planets. The different structural geology and tectonics topics have an important significance in many fields, and the benefits to society brought by this type of studies are transcendental and diverse. Structural geology and tectonics are also important in the basic research developed in any country. Thus, today it is hard to conceive a country that does not know the geological structure of its surface and subsoil, and that does not understand, at least in a broad sense, the tectonic processes that have led to the current arrangement of its territory.

The **"International Meeting of Young Researchers in Structural Geology and Tectonics (YORSGET-08)"** filled an important gap in the scientific and technological international community dedicated to structural geology and tectonics, because it focused on last year undergraduates, MSc and PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and young employees of public services or private companies related to structural geology and tectonics. The meeting aimed to encourage collaboration and exchange of ideas between young people who are involved in such specialties, as well as to disseminate the knowledge and enhance research and technological applications in various fields. Although this conference was mainly devoted to young researchers, it also aimed to achieve an active participation from senior researchers within the topics already mentioned. This event gave young people an opportunity to develop ability to present and defend their research work publicly, and benefit from active discussions with senior specialists, who, in turn, could find a useful platform to recruit personal for their research groups and to publicize their job offers among young people.

The number of meeting participants was 201, coming from 25 countries from Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania (Fig. 1). This congress also intended to motivate such sort of meetings and to promote that the YORSGET meeting takes place again in a couple of years in a different place.

A pre-conference fieldtrip (from June 28th to 30th, 2008) took place through different localities of Asturias, Galicia and northern León (Spain), aimed to study the main features, origin and evolution of the Variscan Orogen that crops out in the Northwestern Iberian Peninsula.

Figure 1. Some of the attendants to the "YORSGET-08" meeting in front of the conference venue (Oviedo, Spain).

The conference itself took place on July 1, 2 and 3rd, 2008 and was held at the "Príncipe Felipe" Congress Hall-Auditorium of Oviedo. It included a program in which 44 oral communications were arranged thematically in several sessions, preceded by 9 invited keynote lectures given by the most relevant scientists of recent years in these disciplines, alternated with 90 poster displays. The first session was in memory of the structural geologist Martin Casey who, unfortunately, died recently.

The topics of the different sessions were:

Oral session 1: Microstructures.

Oral session 2: Folding.

Oral session 3: Fractures.

Oral session 4: Thrust and fold belts I: regional and large-scale structure.

Oral session 5: Thrust and fold belts II: rheology and kinematic/dynamic evolution.

Oral session 6: Thrust and fold belts III: impact of erosion and sedimentation.

Oral session 7: Plate tectonics.

Oral session 8: Oblique settings: strike-slip, transpression and transtension.

Oral session 9: Inversion tectonics, fault reactivation, extension, salt tectonics.

Oral session 10: Structural geology and oil industry.

Poster session 1: Microstructures and fault rocks, folding, faults and fractures, stress and strain analysis, tectonics and magmatism/metamorphism.

Poster session 2: Compressional regimes - fold and thrust belts - fault related folding, deep structure: seismic, gravity and thermal studies, seismotectonics, neotectonics, engineering geology.

Poster session 3: Inversion tectonics, oblique settings (strike-slip-transpression-transtension), salt tectonics, extensional settings and normal faulting, magnetism and paleomagnetism.

The invited keynote talks were given by professors **John G. Ramsay** (*"Structural Geology: where have we come from and where might we be going next?"),* **Richard Lisle** (*"Geological folds in three dimensions"),* **Neil Mancktelow** (*"Fracture and flow in natural rock deformation"),* **Rob Butler** (*"Submarine Thrust Belts: combining marine seismic and field analogues to study the localization of contractional deformation in sedimentary successions"),* **John Suppe** (*"Mechanics of thrust belts and the weak-fault/strong-crust problem"),* **Jacques Malavieille** (*"Impact of surface processes on the dynamics of orogenic wedges: insights from analogue models and case studies"),* **John Dewey** (*"Arc/continent collision: orogeny and continental growth"),* **Andrés Pérez-Estaún** (*"Orogenic processes in transpressional regimes*"), and **A. M. Celâl Şengör**, (*"Mediterranean tectonics since the Palaeozoic: a carrefour of Palaeo-Tethyan and Atlantic plate boundary systems").*

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