



新潟大学  
NIIGATA UNIVERSITY



# International Association for Gondwana Research

International Association for Gondwana  
Research 2023 Convention and 20th  
International Conference on Gondwana to  
Asia



First Circular

October 7 - 12, 2023, Niigata, Japan

*Organized by*  
Niigata University and Fossa Magna Museum, Itoigawa

## INTRODUCTION

The 2023 Annual Convention of the International Association for Gondwana Research (IAGR) and 20th International Symposium on Gondwana to Asia will be held **onsite** in Niigata, Japan, during October 7-12, 2023, organized by the Niigata University and Fossa Magna Museum, jointly with the IAGR.

The conference will commence with registration and ice breaker on October 7, and oral and poster sessions for 2 days during October 8-9, 2023. The conference is followed by a 2-day field excursion to the Paleozoic to recent geology of Japan surrounding the Itoigawa Global Geopark on October 10-11, 2023.

The IAGR annual conventions and Gondwana to Asia international conference series provide an excellent platform for dissemination of new research results and exchange of scientific knowledge on the history of supercontinents, cratons and continents, major orogenic belts, life evolution, resources and environment. The convention in Japan will also focus on subduction zone geology and natural hazards research. The annual conventions of IAGR have high reputation as venues for the advancement of science, and one of the best platforms for interaction with renowned geoscientists.

The focal themes for the 2023 conference are as follows:

- Continents, cratons and supercontinents
- Tectonics and metallogeny
- Life evolution and surface environment
- Geology of subduction zones, past and present
- Natural Hazards

Please submit your registration form and expression of interest for joining the field excursion by March 30, 2023. For participants from countries requiring a visa to enter Japan, please contact the conference secretariate along with their credentials and personal details well in advance.

Niigata University, Fossa Magna Museum and IAGR cordially invite you to participate in this important international conference.

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P.G. Athira (Niigata University, Japan)  
T. Ogawara (Fossa Magna Museum, Japan)  
T. Katori (Fossa Magna Museum, Japan)

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**October 7, 2023: Arrival, registration and ice breaker.**

**October 8-9, 2023: Library Hall, Ikarashi Campus, Niigata University, Japan**

Inaugural function and keynotes, oral and poster presentations, Gondwana Research 2023 Best Paper Award Ceremony, Geoscience Frontiers Best Paper Award Ceremony, IAGR Best Student Poster Award, IAGR General Assembly, IAGR Executive Council Meeting, Gondwana Research and Geoscience Frontiers Annual Editorial Board Meetings.

**October 10-11, 2023: Field Excursion, overnight stay at Itoigawa**

Field excursion to Paleozoic to recent geology of Japan surrounding the Itoigawa Global Geopark.

**October 12, 2023: Departure**

## ACCESS TO NIIGATA

Niigata is one of biggest cities facing the Sea of Japan and is well connected both by air and high-speed trains (Shinkansen). It takes only 2 hours from Tokyo to reach Niigata using a Shinkansen.



For more details, please visit <https://enjoyniigata.com/en/access>

## REGISTRATION AND FIELD EXCURSION FEE

Registration fees and excursion fees should be **paid in cash onsite** during registration in **Japanese yen**.

**Registration fee:** Professional delegates: 25,000 JPY; Student delegates: JPY10000, including abstract volume, ice breaker, working lunch for both days and a symposium banquet.

**Excursion fee:** JPY 30,000; including transportation, accommodation, and food, excluding beverages

## ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for the oral and poster presentations and registration forms must be submitted before June 30, 2023. Abstracts should follow the format of Gondwana Research (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/aip/1342937X>) and can be up to three printed pages with a maximum of one figure (in jpg format) and one table (in Excel format). E-mail your abstract files to **[iagr2023@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp](mailto:iagr2023@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp)** with a copy to **[chengxue.yang@qq.com](mailto:chengxue.yang@qq.com)**. The text and table if any should be in editable Word file and the figure should be in .jpg or .tif file.

## FIELD EXCURSION

**Excursion guided by T. Ogawara, H. Ueda, K. Kataoka, T. Kurihara, T. Takahashi and M. Satish-Kumar**

The 2-day field excursion will focus on the Paleozoic to recent geology surrounding the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark, which is located about 180 km southwest of Niigata. Situated exactly in the tectonic gap (called the Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line; ISTL) between Northeast and Southwest Japan, the region is famous for understanding the geologic history of Japan, especially the Paleozoic and those relating to back-arc spreading and opening of the Japan Sea. The excursion may cover localities representative of geological features of proto-Japan, Paleozoic schist belts, serpentinite mélange, jade, Paleo-guyot, Cenozoic rift faults, Quaternary volcano and so on and include a visit to the Fossa Magna Museum. The schist zone is also known for its occurrence of blueschist and eclogite, though such outcrops require mountaineering skills to approach.

Niigata is generally pleasant in October, with temperatures dropping to around 10 °C in the night, and without much rain. However, the participants are requested to carry windbreakers or raincoats and field shoes, as we have some walking along non-paved paths. With an overnight stay at Itoigawa City, we hope to give you a flavor of geological and cultural heritage of Niigata.

A tentative description of the localities planned for the excursion along with a schedule are given below. Please note that the localities and schedule given here are subject to changes, depending on the number of participants and weather conditions. We will provide a further detailed plan in the second circular.

**Day 1** 8:30 AM: Departure from Niigata (2.5 hours drive)

**AM1 Paleozoic Omi limestone**

Observing a pelagic and shallow marine limestone body of Carboniferous - Permian ages, containing bioclasts including fusulinids. It is regarded as a large fragment (tectonic slice) of a subducted seamount (paleo-guyot) accreted onto proto-Japan in the Permian period.

**PM1 Hashidate Jade Park**

Visiting a protected area of jadeitite blocks from a serpentinite zone. Jadeitites in this area have been dated as Cambrian, and considered as a product of metasomatism in an early Paleozoic wedge mantle. Jade gemstones were manufactured and traded in ancient periods since the New Stone Age (Jomon Period) in this area.

**PM2 Omi River (at the juncture with Kanayama-dani river)**

Here outcrops and large drifted blocks of the Carboniferous Omi crystalline schists, metagabbro and associated serpentinite. The schist zone is also known as a locality of blueschist and eclogite, though their outcrops are hard to approach and need mountaineering skills. The rock types in this locality record the early stages of the Japanese subduction zone.

**PM3 Omi Jade Coast (optional)**

If a little more time is available, we can have a walk on a gravelly coast looking for and taking pebbles of jade (if you find... it's rare) and other diverse rocks in this area.

18:00 Arrive at Hotel and excursion Dinner

**Accommodation at business hotels in Itoigawa City**

**Day 2**

**AM1 Fossa Magna Park**

Walking a short trail crossing the Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line (ISTL). ISTL is one of the largest faults in Japan, and acted as a wall of large-scale graben (Fossa Magna) formed during the opening of the Japan Sea in the Miocene. We'll visit an outcrop of fault gauge of ISTL along the contact between Permian metagabbro-sediment complex and Miocene volcanic rocks. Also seen is another outcrop of well-preserved pillow lava of the Middle Miocene age.

**AM2 Fossa Magna Museum**

Visiting a geological museum displaying rocks of highly diverse lithology from Paleozoic to Cenozoic and their geological backgrounds in this area. Itoigawa is the first area in Japan that was accepted as a UNESCO global geopark, and the museum acts as its key station with staff of diverse specialties.

**PM1 Holocene lava of the Yakeyama Volcano**

Having a touch with the termination of a thick dacite lava flow that erupted in the Middle Age (~800 years ago) from the summit of the active Yakeyama volcano. The lava is quite fresh and occasionally shows signs of mixing magmas of differing compositions.

**PM2 Holocene pyroclastic flow**

Observing topography and outcrops of small-scale pyroclastic flow deposits ~800 years ago that filled a valley to the north of the Yakeyama volcano. Also seen is an outcrop of lahar (reworked pyroclastics).

**19:00 Return back to Niigata**

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**Conference Registration Form**

Full name as in passport:				
Surname:		Given name:		
Title (Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.)		Nationality:		
Affiliation and postal address:				
Tel and fax:		E-mail:		
Do you wish to give a presentation?	Yes	[ ]	No	[ ]
If yes, your intended presentation:	Oral	[ ]	Poster	[ ]
Title of the talk:				
Do you wish to participate in the field excursion?	Yes	[ ]	No	[ ]
Do you need an invitation letter?	Yes	[ ]	No	[ ]
Do you need help with arranging a hotel accommodation:	Yes	[ ]	No	[ ]
Dietary requirements For lunch boxes and banquet	Allergic	[ ]	Vegetarian Vegan	[ ] [ ]
Expected arrival date:		Departure date		
<p>E-mail this form to conference secretariate at <b><a href="mailto:iagr2023@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp">iagr2023@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp</a></b></p> <p>For those who require a visa to attend the conference, please scan and send a copy of your passport along with contact details, a full schedule of your trip to Japan, flight details and accommodation details in Japan.</p>				