

Dear all,

As you possibly know, Bernhard Grasemann, Guy Simpson and myself are convening a special session of the forthcoming EGU Vienna meeting devoted to the « Geodynamic evolution of the Zagros ».

The Zagros Mountains extend over 1800 km from Kurdistan in N-Iraq to the Strait of Hormuz in Iran and is one of the world's most promising regions for the future hydrocarbon exploration. Orogeny evolved through the Late Cretaceous to Miocene collision between the Arabian and Eurasian plates, during which time the Neotethys oceanic basin was closed. Still active shortening and deformation is partitioned in S-SW directed folds and thrusts and NW-SE to N-S trending dextral strike-slip faults".

This session focuses on the geodynamic evolution of the Zagros Mountains including various field- and model-based aspects such as the evolution of the foreland basin, the geometry, kinematics, tectonic style and sequence of deformation in the Zagros fold-and-thrust belt, magmatism-metamorphism-exhumation of hinterland, seismicity and deep crustal structures as well as surface processes and landscape morphology related to climatic, eustatic and tectonic perturbations.

A lot of work has been carried out on the Zagros Mountains during the last decade and new exciting results are currently obtained about exhumation of the hinterland by means of FT, new dating of syn-orogenic deposits or new time constraints on the rate of slip along the main active faults of the Zagros and its hinterland, among others.

We think it is timely to put these information all together in order to improve our understanding of this fascinating mountain belt.

We aim at considering the Zagros Mountains in the broadest sense, so we invite contributions covering the entire aspects described above, from field data to analogical or numerical modelling, from deep seismic profiling to landscape evolution and climate forcing, from subsidence and tectonic-sedimentation relationships in the foreland to metamorphic-magmatic processes and exhumation in the hinterland, and so on.

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