

CHRONICLE

6th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences,
Ranzan-Machi, Japan
(contribution by Polish scientists)

The 6th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences sponsored by SCAR was held in Ranzan-Machi (Japan) from 9 to 13 September 1991. The symposium was organized by the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) in Tokyo, with Professors Yoshio Yoshida and Katsutada Kaminuma acting as scientific secretaries. The venue of the Symposium in the National Women's Education Centre, with its excellent housing and lecture facilities, and beautiful Japanese-style garden, certainly contributed to friendly and informal atmosphere which prevailed during the meeting. Our Japanese hosts did their best to offset possible negative impacts of very wet weather on the course of the proceedings, and to a good effect.

The Symposium proceeded in partly parallel sessions: A. *Precambrian-Early Palaeozoic crustal evolution*; B1. *Phanerozoic tectonics, magmatism and sedimentation*; B2. *Structure of Antarctic lithosphere*; B3. *Palaeontology and palaeoenvironment*; C. *Cenozoic glacial history and geomorphology*; D. *Mapping, imaging, technique and station observatory of geophysics*; M — *Marine geology and geophysics*; V — *Cenozoic volcanism*. Moreover, there were separate thematic poster presentations.

The Polish participants in the meeting of some 300 Earth scientists from all nations active in Antarctica were represented only by one geologist (K. Birkenmajer) and one geophysicist (A. Guterch). Their participation was made possible by grants most kindly offered to them by the Ministry of Education of Japan, through NIPR, for which both recipients are deeply grateful.

The Polish contribution to the Symposium was originally planned for 5 lectures and 1 poster, but finally there were two lectures, and one poster presented by:

- K. Birkenmajer: *Evolution of the Bransfield Rift, West Antarctica* (lecture, Section M);
K. Birkenmajer: *Tertiary glacial history of the South Shetland Islands, West Antarctica* (poster C36P);
A. Guterch and H. Shimamura: *An OBS-Land refraction seismological experiment in the Bransfield Trough, West Antarctica* (lecture, Section M).

Abstracts of the above, as well as of 3 other lectures (by A. Gaździcki, M. Gruszczyński, A. Hoffman, K. Małkowski, S. Hałas and A. Tatur: *Isotopical evidence for glaciation in the Palaeogene La Meseta Formation, Seymour Island, Antarctica*; A. Gaździcki: *Stromatolites from the Palaeogene Polonez Cove Formation of King George Island, Antarctica: stratigraphic and palaeoclimatic implications*; A. K. Tokarski: *Structural development of Trinity Peninsula Group in Bransfield Strait region, West Antarctica*) which have not been delivered due to the absence of their authors, were published in the *Abstracts* volume of the Symposium.

The Polish Earth-scientists participated also in the COGS (*Collaborative Geoscience in the South Shetland Islands*) Workshop organized at NIPR (Tokyo) by Dr M. R. A. Thomson, secretary of the SCAR Working Group on Geology, acting as convenor. The workshop lasted for two days (14–15 September), being a very good forum for exchange of information between scientists of many Antarctic nations working in the South Shetland Islands area, and for discussion on current and planned national and multinational scientific projects. K. Birkenmajer and A. Guterch outlined ongoing and planned Polish Earth-sciences research in the area of the South Shetland Islands, Bransfield Strait and northern Antarctic Peninsula.