

The Ninth International Congress on Rudist Bivalves

June 2011, Kingston, Jamaica

The organising committee, on behalf of the ***Department of Geography (The University of the West Indies), The University of the West Indies Geological Museum*** and the ***Geological Society of Jamaica***, invites scientists to **Kingston, Jamaica, in June 2011** to participate in the **Ninth International Congress on Rudist Bivalves**. The conference will include three days of technical sessions, Pre-Conference and Post-Conference fieldtrips, opportunities to view ***the University of the West Indies Geological Museum Collections***, and a range of Cultural Events.

Location. The conference will be held at the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies. The Mona Campus is situated on the outskirts of Kingston, the Capital of Jamaica, on two old sugar plantations between Long Mountain and Dallas Mountain. The climate is tropical, with average daily temperatures of around 30° with wet (May to November) and dry (December to April) seasons. Hurricanes can affect the island at any time during the wet season, but most occur in the months of August to October.

The University of the West Indies Geology Museum (UWIGM) was established in 1961 and is situated on the ground floor of the De la Beche Building of the Department of Geography and Geology at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The museum contains a serious of reference specimens relating to the geology of Jamaica and the Caribbean region. Important collections of rudists include the following: Puerto Rico (Matson, 1960s); St. Croix (Whetton, 1960s); Jamaica (Trechmann, 1950s; Coates, 1960s; Chubb, 1960s; Gunter, 2002; Mitchell, 1996- 2011).

Travel (Flights). Jamaica is served by two International Airports: Donald Sangster International (for Montego Bay and the Tourist Belt along the North Coast) and Norman Manley International (for Kingston) with regular services between the two. Many carriers serve these airports because of the Tourist Trade. We plan to offer a shuttle service from Norman Manley International to the University Campus before and after the conference (Please advise us of travel plans). If your flight is delayed or the shuttle service is unavailable, please take a JUTA taxi to the University of the West Indies which will cost about US\$30.00.

Travel (Within Jamaica). The best way to travel around Kingston is by Taxi. Please use authorized taxis (contacts can be obtained from the Secretariat) and agree a fare with the driver before travelling (the Secretariat can advise). There are numerous coach and minibus services, but these are not for the faint hearted, and are not advised. For longer trips, car hire is possible (please contact the Secretariat for a list of Car Rental Companies).

Accommodation. There are various possibilities for accommodation. Full details will be given in the second circular. **Halls of Residence.** We are block-booking a series of rooms in the Halls of Residence which will be the cheapest option (hopefully around US\$50.00 per day). **Mona Visitors Lodge.** This is a small hotel on the UWI Campus; room is limited. **Kingston Hotels.** There are a range of Hotels in Kingston with the UWI Campus reached by taxi.

Currency. The legal currency in Jamaica is the Jamaican Dollar although US dollars are accepted in many places (but with poor exchange rates). There is an NCB bank on Campus where Currency can be exchanged. Standard Credit cards are accepted and are generally charged the Jamaican rate converted to US dollars.

Provisional Programme

Pre-Conference Fieldtrip. Lower Cretaceous rudists of the Benbow Inlier, central-north Jamaica.	Saturday, 18 June 2011
Ice Breaking Ceremony (University of the West Indies Geological Museum (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)	Sunday, 19 June 2011
First Technical Session (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	Monday, 20 June 2011
Second Technical Session (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)	Tuesday, 21 June 2011
Visit to collections at the University of the West Indies Geology Museum (2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	Tuesday, 21 June 2011
Conference Dinner. (7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)	Tuesday, 21 June 2011
Third Technical Session (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)	Wednesday, 22 June 2011
Closing Ceremony (4:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)	Wednesday, 22 June 2011
Post-Conference Fieldtrip. Campanian and Maastrichtian rudists of Central and western Jamaica.	23-25 June, 2011

Contact Information. We will use the official contact for the UWIGM for the conference. Tel: (876) 927-2129/2728. Fax: (876) 977-6029. Information will also be posted on: <http://www.mona.uwi.edu/geoggeol/index.htm>; Email: geology.museum@uwimona.edu.jm

Please pass this information to anyone who may be interested.

The Second Circular will be released in June 2010 with full details including registration.