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Preview

74th Annual Convention of VSP-ASP

June 23 - 25, 2007 at Ortisei, Val Gardena, Southern Tirol, Italy

Bernhard Gunzenhauser, Peter Burri, Werner Heckendorf

The Annual Convention of 2007 is dedicated to the Geology of the Dolomites in Southern Tirol.

During the scientific session of Saturday 23 June, the professors D. Bernoulli (Basel), C. Doglioni (Rome) and W. Schlager (Amsterdam) will give an introduction to regional geology, carbonate sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy and tectonics of this classical area. These experts will also guide us during the excursion of June 24 and 25.

Southern Tirol does not only have a beautiful countryside for skiers, hikers and climbers but the Dolomites offer a unique outside laboratory to study the geological history of the Permo-Triassic of the southern Alps and the depositional patterns of carbonates. This classical region has been extensively used by the international oil industry as a model for their exploration concepts, and the area has recently also been the target of a large AAPG excursion.

Programme

We are happy to have been able to secure the support of three outstanding experts who have been studying this area for decades and who were bringing modern geological concepts to this old geological hunting-ground, namely: Prof. Daniel Bernoulli (Basel) who will share with us his profound knowledge of the large scale regional aspects of the southern Alps, Prof. Carlo Doglioni (Rome), a structural expert, who has intensively studied the interplay between sedimentation and tectonics in the Dolomites and Prof. Wolfgang Schlager (Amsterdam) who will introduce us mainly to his core expertise, the carbonate sedimentology and sequence stratigraphy. These three main speakers will cover the subject in the lectures on 23 June and will also guide us in the following excursion.

The first excursion day will take us by bus around the Sella Group, an Atoll of Carnian age, where we will see the transition from carbonate platform to the basin in the form of spectacular clinoforms of reefdebris, interfingering with basinal deposits. The outcrops will also cover older carbonates of Anisian / Ladinian age and their complex interplay with older and contemporaneous volcanics. Prof. Doglioni will cover the syn- and postdepositional tectonics.

If weather conditions allow, we will take a cable car from Passo Pordoi to the edge of the 3000 m high Sella and walk over the platform towards Piz Boé. This area may still be partly snow covered in June and appropriate clothing and shoes are required.

The second day will bring us by cable car directly from Ortisei to the Seceda where a splendid view and a walk along the mountain crest to several outcrops will allow us to round off the geological picture of the area.

The Partner Programme on Saturday will bring the group to Bozen (Bolzano) a small, pretty town and home of the Oetzi museum, the famous prehistoric man found well preserved in the ice, close to the Austrian border.

Ortisei in Val Gardena can be reached in about 5-6 hours from Zurich, 6-7 hours from Basel. There is a good train connection taking you in 6 hours from e.g. Zurich via Innsbruck to Bolzano from where Ortisei can be

reached in about 1 hour by bus. An additional connection exists by sleeping car on the night train from Zurich to Verona and from there by train to Bolzano. Bolzano has also a small airport that is being served by regular flights of the regional airline Air Alps.

A detailed programme and travel possibilities will be sent to members in February 2007. The same information will then also be available on our web site www.vsp-asp.ch.

The 2007 VSP Convention will not only provide geological highlights but will also offer culinary and touristic delights. We look forward to meeting all members and hopefully many newcomers in the Dolomiti.