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Professor Xiaolei WANG
School of Earth Science and Engineering
Nanjing University
Nanjing 210046, China

Dear Professor Xiaolei WANG,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in the international field conference across the North American Cordillera. The main scope of the conference is to discuss and compare the tectonic origin of the Andean-type active continental margins in the North America Cordilleran and Tethyan orogens. The Chinese and North American geologists have long been referring the two orogenic systems in their research. However, there have been few joint field conferences to be held in North America despite numerous efforts across Asia in the past decades. This will be the second such an effort to bring together Chinese and North American geologists to discuss mutually interested scientific problems in the orogenic studies. The conference dates scheduled as from **Jan. 3 to Jan. 13, 2017**. Your experience in the geology of Asia, where the Tethyan and Central Asian orogenic systems are best exposed and documented, will be central to the discussion on comparative orogenic studies during the conference. Therefore, I wholeheartedly invite you to join us for the field conference that includes field presentations, field discussion, and field excursions/investigations. As detailed in the conference plan and field trip guide, we will provide all the logistic support during the 11-day field conference.

The total cost for the conference is \$3000/person, which will cover (1) all the meals in the field, (2) renting four-wheel-drive field vehicles, (3) gasoline expense, (4) hiring graduate student drivers, (5) preparing field trip guidebook, (6) office worker expense for arranging the field conference the field trip logistics, (7) obtaining visas and processing relevant paper work, and (8) hotel accommodation throughout your stay in the US. Please let me know if you have any questions with regard to this invitation letter.

A day to day schedule is listed below:

- 1/3: Claremont Hotel (day 1) (check in)
- 1/4: San Simien (day 2) (field day 1: Cordilleran Borderland Geology and the Initiation of the San Andreas Fault)
- 1/5: Lone Pine: (day 3) (field day 2: Franciscan mélange complex, Coast Range ophiolite, San Andreas fault; wind gap; Garlock fault)
- 1/6: Las Vegas (day 4) (field day 3: Bi-modal volcanism and Basin-Range extension, Neoproterozoic snowball Earth, initiation of the Cordillera orogen)
- 1/7: Las Vegas (day 5) (field day 4: Clark Mountains thrust system and the Keystone thrust in the Red Rock National Monument: thin-skinned vs. thick-skinned thrusting)
- 1/8: Flagstaff (day 6) (field day 5: the hinge zone between the North America craton and the Cordilleran miogeoclinal sequence)
- 1/9: Havasu City (day 7) (field day 6: Grand Canyon cratonal stratigraphy, Neoproterozoic tectonics of North America, and Quaternary Meteor Crater structure; drive to and stay in Lake Havasu City)
- 1/10: Blythe (day 8) (field day 7: Whipple Mtn. detachment fault, Arica Mountains intra-arc fold belt; stay in Blyth, California)
- 1/11: Claremont Hotel (day 9) (field day 8: Orocochia Schist and the underplating of forearc and melange materials beneath North American craton through flat subduction of the Farallon plate; flower structures along the San Andreas fault at Macca Hills; the evolution of the Colorado River as a result of Mesozoic and Cenozoic tectonics; back to UCLA).
- 1/12: Claremont hotel (day 10) (conference at UCLA)
- 1/13: Claremont hotel (day 11) (check out)

Please let me know if you have any questions with regard to the field conference and field trip. I look forward to receiving you all here in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

An Yin, Professor of Geology