2nd IOC  2nd International Obsidian Conference

Organisation proposal for 2019 on behalf of the Hungarian National Museum

1) Venue for the Conference including the institutions involved in the organisation; members of the local organising committee and exact location

We are planning to organise the 2nd International Obsidian Conference in Hungary at two locations,

Budapest, Hungarian National Museum and
Sárospatak, Rákóczi Museum

The first day of the Conference would be in Budapest (HNM) and the two subsequent days would be in Sárospatak.

This arrangement is necessary because the obsidian sources are located in the vicinity of Sárospatak (Tokaj Mts. and Zemplínske vrchy Mts.) We are providing free transport for participants by bus from Budapest to Sárospatak and back as well as the excursions to the Carpathian 1 (Slovakian) and Carpathian 2 (Hungarian) obsidian sources. Participants are also welcome to make their own arrangements for travelling at their own cost if they prefer to use, e.g. their own car.

The main organiser responsible for the Conference would be the Hungarian National Museum (HNM)

Partner Institutions:
HNM Rákóczi Museum (HNM-RM), Sárospatak
Eötvös Loránd University (ELU), Budapest
Centre for Energy Research of Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA-EK), Budapest
Herman Ottó Museum, Miskolc
State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr, Bratislava, Slovakia
Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv, Ukraine
Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute (KMF), Beregovo, Ukraine
Local Organising Committee (planned): 
T. Biró, Katalin HNM
Markó, András HNM
Kasztovszky, Zsolt MTA-EK
Weiszburg, Tamás, ELU
Tamás, Edit HNM-RM
Bačová, Zuzana & Bačo, Pavel SGI
Příchystal, Antonín MU
Rácz, Béla KMF
Ryzhov, Sergei, TSNU

We are confident on the support and participation of the Scientific Committee of the 1st IOC Meeting, namely
Akira Ono, Michael Glascock, Yaroslav Kuzmin and Robert Tykot.
Please advise us on further members we should include in the SC.

2) Access of the city through the international transportation systems

Budapest is easily accessible by public transport with aeroplane, train, bus. Detailed maps will be provided on main transport facilities on the Conference Web Page.

Sárospatak is about 250 kms from Budapest to the North-East, easily accessible by private car but not so easy by train or bus. Therefore we will organise free (bus) transport for the participants from Budapest to Sárospatak at a given schedule.
For Sárospatak the nearest international airports are found in Košice (70 km) and Debrecen (120 km), however, certain problems are possible at reaching the town of the conference.

3) Range of dates for the conference

We propose end of May 2019, 3 working days, e.g. 27-29 May (Monday to Wednesday). The final date will be confirmed later.

4) Size, nature and facilities of the lecture hall

At the HNM we can count on the Ceremonial Room of the Museum, with 200+ seats and facilities for projection, supplied with free WIFI connection.
At Sárospatak, the Knights’ Hall of the Museum seats approx. 100 persons.
5) Place available for posters

We are planning to install the poster session at Sárospatak. The corridors of the Museum will provide adequate and representative space for the posters.

6) Estimated registration fee for the Conference for regular participants

We are planning to keep conference costs low, certainly not exceeding the Lipari registration fee. The full registration fee will be 100 Euro, early bird registration 80 euro (half year before event), and there will be 50 % discount for students and accompanying persons. It will cover organisation costs, printed material for the conference, coffee breaks, bus from Budapest to Sárospatak and back (at specified dates) and excursions during the Conference. Participants are welcome to make their own arrangements for travelling between Budapest and Sárospatak but in this case they have to cover their own travel costs. Conference banquet is planned at extra cost (approx. 30 euro). A post-conference tour to Carpathian 3 sources (Ukraine) is anticipated depending on possibilities at extra costs (will be specified later).

7) Availability and costs of hotels and hostel accommodation in the proximity of conference facilities

Budapest is a metropolitan city with wide range of accommodations. The organisers will suggest conference hotels in the vicinity of the HNM. The hotel prices are in the range of 60 to 120 Euro / day, hostels can be obtained at cheaper prices (30 to 60 euro). Participants can also make their arrangements by internet services.

Sárospatak is a small town in NE Hungary. The chief hotel is currently available at the price 60 euro / day, we will try to achieve special prices for the conference participants. There are a number of hostels and pensions also available. We will offer possibilities on the conference homepage in due time.

8) Possibility to provide grants

Depending on funding we can announce bursaries and try to find cheap accommodation (guestroom) for participants in difficult financial situation.
9) Suggested topics

We would like to keep the traditions set in Lipari but allow possibilities for new ideas.
Suggested topics:
- Formation and geology of obsidian
- Sources and characterisation
- Analytical / methodological aspects of obsidian studies
- Archaeological obsidian by the chronological periods
- Technology and use wear
- Theoretical and cultural anthropological issues

10) Plans for the publication of the proceedings

The minimal plan is an e-book; depending on the inflow of manuscripts we will try to ensure publication in a standard journal

11) Any other information that you consider important

- we will set up a conference webpage ASAP after receiving a hopefully positive answer to our proposal
- we are planning to make an exhibition in the HNM (strictly from extra funding)
- we are also planning to collect available information on C1-C2 (perhaps C3) obsidian and make them available for participants in the form of special publication (strictly extra costs)
- we will suggest some post-conference programs for participants (visits in the research reactor of the MTA-EK, and museum collections of the HNM or the HOM - to be specified later)

We hope you accept our proposal and we can host the 2nd IOC Meeting in 2019.
Yours sincerely:

Katalin T. Biró
András Markó
Hungarian National Museum, Budapest

Facade of the HNM

Main staircase of the HNM
Ceremonial Hall of the HNM
The Rákóczi Museum at Sárospatak
The Knights' Hall
Part of the corridor at Sárospatak – venue for posters