



## Conference on Milankovitch Cycles Over the Past 5 Million Years

22 - 24 March 2007

*Trieste, Italy*

### Introduction

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) is sponsoring a Paleo-Climatic 'Conference on Milankovitch cycles over the past 5 million years'. It will be directed by George Philander (Director, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Program, Princeton University, USA), Annalisa Bracco (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), Hema Achyuthan (Department of Geology, Anna University, India) and Fred Kucharski (ICTP).

Although the Milankovitch forcing (modest variations in the distribution of sunlight) has been relatively constant over the past several million years, Earth's response started amplifying around 3 million years ago, culminating in dramatic oscillations between prolonged Ice Ages and brief interglacial periods such as the present one. Recent observational and theoretical results, especially concerning the tropics, provide valuable clues to this puzzle whose solution is of direct relevance to global warming issues.

### Programme

The conference will cover topics such as: Why did the Earth System become more sensitive to Milankovitch cycles during the last 5 Million years leading to recurrent Ice Ages and warm periods? What happened to the 100K cycle? What is the role of the tropics in the Ice Ages? Can El Nino become a permanent phenomenon?

### Participation

The conference is intended for scientists and post-graduate fellows working in the areas of Climatology and Oceanography from all countries that are members of the United Nations, UNESCO, and IAEA. Although the main purpose of the ICTP is to help researchers from developing countries through a programme based on international cooperation, scientists from developed countries are also welcome to attend. The activity will be conducted in English.

Limited funds are available for applicants from, and working in, developing countries only, to be selected by the organizers. There is no registration fee.

The **Application Form** is available at: <http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?1884>  
Applications should be sent via e-mail, fax or post, to arrive no later than 10 Dec. 2006, to:

**Milankovitch Cycles - smr1884**  
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