

NEWS AND RESOURCES

News

The Second DELTA Steering Committee meeting was successfully held in January

Ariana Xu

The Steering Committee of Deep-time Earth and Life Transnational Alliance (DELTA) held its second annual meeting on 24 January 2024 via ZOOM. The overall aims of the meeting were to review DELTA-activities and share progress in the past year and collectively plan for the coming year. Seven DELTA Steering Committee members from the University of Bristol, Oxford University, University College London and Nanjing University, attended, and Ms. Ariana (Shuyi) Xu, the DELTA Steering Committee Secretary, hosted the meeting.



The DELTA Steering Committee, established in January, 2022, is composed of representatives from the four DELTA member institutions, respectively Nanjing University, Oxford University, University College London and University of Bristol. The Committee members are mainly responsible for making joint decisions on major issues, and making joint efforts to its development.

Ms. Xu began the meeting by presenting the progress and updates in 2023, including research collaborations, student exchanges, change of member institutions, etc.

In 2023, with great efforts made by teams from Nanjing University and Oxford University, the integration of Triton dataset into Onestratigraphy database (OneS) was completed, meaning that users now can access to Triton through OneS platform. Meanwhile, Nanjing team has finished developing the chemostratigraphic function with the first-round internal test. This means geochemical data can be compiled with stratigraphic framework in this database.

It is also worth noting that, in the past year, which was also the first year that China completely relaxed its COVID restrictions, a number of students from DELTA member institutions successfully exchanged/ are exchanging. Articles contributed by the students on their exchange journey are available [here](#).

At the second half of the meeting, discussions were held

among attendees. Noting that DELTA had now been running for two years and the international travel had been back to be normal, Prof. Junxuan Fan suggested that this alliance be promoted to a bigger community not only by online approaches, such as DELTA website and its quarterly published newsletters, *Voice from the Past*, but also through the international paleontological conferences, such as 12th North American Paleontological Convention (NAPC) and Geological Society of America Connects 2024 (GSA) in the coming year, where DELTA-sponsored workshops, short courses and other activities could take place. He added that such activities would inform the paleontological community of the existence of DELTA and therefore encourage more potential international collaborations in the future.

In the ensuing conversation, the participants discussed about the opportunity of an in-person DELTA gathering to be organized in 2024 for connection and discussion.

In closing, the Committee approved the extension of the current Committee members to the second term from 2024 to 2026.

An online meeting to introduce OneStratigraphy's chemostratigraphic functions

Xiaoli Ma
Nanjing University

[OneStratigraphy](#) (OneS) is a community-based, international collaboration project and a professional platform that integrates, manages, shares, and analyzes deep-time stratigraphic data. Herein, more than millions of lithostratigraphic and fossil occurrence records have been entered into the platform. Recently, this platform has developed a new specialized module for the entry of sedimentary geochemical records.

On 5th Feb. 2024, Xiaoli MA, a PhD student at Nanjing University, presented a talk to introduce OneS' new geochemical functions in the online meeting. The attendees include Prof. Graham Shields (University College London); Prof. Junxuan Fan (Nanjing University); Prof. Yukun Shi (Nanjing University) and students from University College London. During the meeting, Xiaoli MA shared examples to introduce the geochemical function in the OneS platform and attracted wide discussions.

