Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences

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Outline: In 2003, the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITP), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was established for research on the climate and environment of the Tibetan Plateau and its surrounding regions by taking root in the region. The overarching goal behind the research of ITP/CAS is to better understand the uplift history of the Tibetan Plateau and their impacts on regional environment, and to help achieve sustainable development of the region through the study of environmental processes on the Plateau and their social and economic impacts. At the current stage, the academic focuses of the ITP range from the geosphere structure and plateau uplifting mechanism and the uplifting process and environment of East Asia to Paleo-environment change revealed from high resolution proxy, and from land surface system and processes and atmospheric process to biological adaptability and genetic resources under radical environment. ITP has two Key laboratories of CAS: Key Laboratory of Tibetan Environment Changes and Land Surface Processes (TEL) and Key Laboratory of Continental Collision and Plateau Uplift (LCPU). ITP has also five comprehensive observation and research stations: Nam Co Monitoring and Research Station for Multisphere Interactions (NAMORS/CAS), Qomolangma Atmospheric and Environmental Observation and Research Station,CAS (QOMORS/CAS), Southeast Tibet Observation and Research Station for the Alpine Environment,CAS (SETORS/CAS),Ngari Desert Observation and Research Station(NADORS), and Muztagh Ata Westerly Observation and Research Station(MAWORS).

Research Areas:

Palaeo-environment reconstruction on the Tibetan Plateau, Modern environment and land surface processes on the Plateau, Atmospheric processes on the Plateau, Plateau environment changes and human activities, and Tibetan Plateau environment and global changes.

The structure of the Tibetan plateau, Evolution and mechanisms of collisional tectonics, The processes associated with the uplift and collapse of the Tibetan Plateau, Metallogenic deposits, and Tibet plateau growth and its influence on climate.

Genetic material repository and species adaptability in extreme environments.

Features of Research Activities

We find evidence that black soot aerosols deposited on Tibetan glaciers have been a significant contributing factor to observed rapid glacier retreat (Figure 1, Xu et al., 2009, PNAS). Figure 2 is the Map of the Tibetan plateau showing the seismic profiles (Zhao et al., 2010, PNAS).

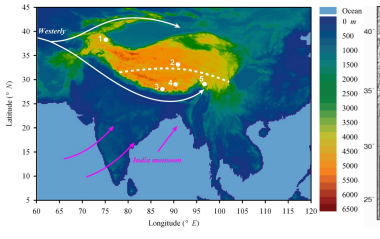
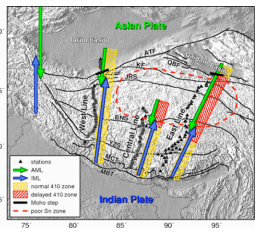


Figure 1



Figure