

## Introduction

In recent years the Younger Dryas cold pulse has received considerable attention as witnessed by a steady flow of publications. The recognition of the YD in areas far away from the 'classical' source area, western Europe, makes it a global event. However, correlation world-wide is still hampered by a rather poor definition of the event and by dating problems. Obviously, the YD is not a unique event. Similar YD-style pulses have been recognised during previous deglaciations, both in land and deep-sea sections and in ice-cores.

The primary target of the Younger Dryas Workshop organized from april 10–13, 1994 in Amsterdam was to bring scientists from a wide field of disciplines together to exchange the latest views on this exciting phenomenon. The papers and extended abstracts included in this issue cover a wide scala of topics and geographical areas.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to state-of-the-art papers presented by invited speakers. Topics included the terrestrial, marine and ice-core record of the Younger Dryas in key areas. Full manuscripts of these talks are included in the Proceedings. All other participants were requested to present posters; these contributions are incorporated as extended abstracts.

The second and third day of the workshop concentrated on five specific themes. Reports of these sessions are given in the final section, supplemented with recommendations for future research.

The workshop provided the stage for fruitful discussions on these topics and will stimulate further multidisciplinary cooperation. We thank P. Cleveringa, H. Hooghiemstra and R. Schneider for the manuscript reviews. The Council for Earthsciences (ARA) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Netherlands Research School for Sedimentary Geology (NSG) are acknowledged for sponsoring this meeting. Shell Nederland B.V. is thanked for its financial assistance.

These Proceedings constitute NSG contribution nr. 950611

The editors

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