

Dear all,

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Luminescence and ESR Dating (APLED) community, we are writing to summarise our discussions regarding the establishment of the TCDA.

In the APLED conference held in Beijing there were active discussions about the establishment of TCDA. The majority of the participants supports and wish to join the TCDA. Below are the responses from the APLED community and Working Group to some of the questions raised in the initial proposal.

-What is the Mission of the Society (e.g. to promote luminescence and ESR in other fields, committee that can lead discussions in our community?)

The society should be aiming to:

- serve the common interests and facilitate the cooperation of researchers working in trapped charge dating,
- promote collegiality within the society,
- improve visibility of trapped charge dating research among the broader geochronology and applied dating community,
- provide a global forum for trapped charge dating researchers through publications and meetings, and education of the public about trapped charge dating,
- settle any dispute among the community (e.g., conflict of interests, conflicting ages).
- It should be stated that it is a non-for-profit organisation set up exclusively scientific and education purposes.
- It should be more servicing than authorized.

-What is the academic Scope of the Society? (presumably it should include both luminescence and ESR dating, what other allied subjects should it include?)

- It should cover both fundamental methodology and mechanism research, technique and equipment development, and applied dating and retrospective dosimetry research across geological, archaeological, palaeoanthropological, palaeontological and palaeoenvironmental contexts

-What are the Duties of the society? (e.g. support new laboratories, oversee organisation of the scientific and administrative part of LED meetings, organise laboratory inter-comparisons?)

- Coordination among labs and members within the community (or even other communities);
- plan and support organisation of LED meetings (including supporting regional meetings);
- initiate and organise inter-lab comparisons;
- help and support new laboratories and students;
- enhance reliability, reporting and standardisation of trapped charge dating research,
- aid coordination of ‘big data’ or meta-analysis studies of ESR and luminescence datasets,
- promote greater integration of luminescence and ESR dating researchers in shared projects,

- supporting workshops on specific research themes / techniques,
- sponsorship of sessions at other interdisciplinary conferences or arranging joint meetings with related geochronology societies.

-What should the Structure of the society be? (one steering committee with president, vice-president, treasurer?)

- There should be a steering committee. The society may start with a minimal structure; just a steering committee with a president and several members (up to 10?) assigned by the initial WG. This steering committee then serves to approve voluntary establishment of sub-commissions/WG, each of which can promote the aforementioned missions and functions.
- The General Committee / Board could possibly include an early career representative and student representative. Possible sub-commissions for different areas of research (ESR dating, archaeology dating etc)?

-How should the Administration of the society be undertaken? (election process for steering committee, frequency of elections (every three years at LED?), total number of board members, max number of members per country, how to vote on important matters..., annual meeting by steering committee?, ...)

- These should be discussed and decided by the WG and subsequently supported by the whole community (at least most).

-What Financial arrangements should be put in place? (should there be membership fees, accounting year, etc...)

- This relies on the specific missions and duties of the society, pending discussions. The practical arrangements for financial management of the Society needs careful thinking. Presumably we will need to be registered as a non-for-profit organisation in one particular country with a nominated bank account, which will remain a fixed arrangement over the long-term. The elected treasurer may not come from this country and this may impose practical restrictions. Who will carry the burden if the organisation finances are not in order? We should seek advice from similar international organisations (e.g., INQUA) to decide how best to manage the financial arrangements.

-What means of Dissemination should the Society use? (e.g. website, Newsletter, should Ancient TL become the official journal of the Association?)

- Ancient TL is doing a great job in dissemination. It can be continued. However, there are some changes that are suggested as below.
- The official journal of the association should suit most of the members needs. We agree that it should be open access. SCI indexing of Ancient TL would greatly improve its appeal to the community. This approach works for the radiocarbon community with their in-house journal (Radiocarbon) so why don't we adopt a similar model?
- Is it possible to add a subtitle or change the name of Ancient TL to something like "Trapped Charge Dating", "Journal of International Trapped Charge Dating Society", or "Luminescence Dating" to suit this purpose?
- A dedicated website for the Society is also probably needed

-What should the Name of the society be?

- The WG should come up with a shortlist, which is then to be voted by the whole community.
- Some of the proposed names are ‘Society for luminescence and ESR dating’, ‘International Association of luminescence and ESR dating’.

-What Other functions should the Society undertake? (organise student prizes, medals? ...)

- Issues prizes and career achievement awards, but this depends on the financial arrangements.

-Other issues that we have not addressed here?

- What is the role and duties of the steering committee?

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