

PREFACE

Recently Black Sea has been a target for petroleum exploration with many long and expensive wells opened by BP, Petrobras and Exxon in conjunction with the Turkish Petroleum Corporation on the Turkish sector of the Black Sea. Unfortunately most of these wells have been dry and/or have missed the expected target. The main reason for this up to now rather unsuccessful exploration effort is that the stratigraphy, age, lithology and facies of the sequences in the offshore Black Sea basin is poorly known and poorly understood. To understand the sequence stratigraphy in the offshore Black Sea there is a need for precise geological studies in the Circum-Black Sea region and interaction between the geologists studying the Black Sea. With this main aim the 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region was organized jointly by the General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) and Chamber of Geological Engineers (JMO) in Ankara on 5–9th October 2009. The symposium was followed by a fieldtrip to the Eastern Pontides and a guidebook of fieldtrip was published.

At the end of the 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region it was decided to publish some of the papers presented in the meeting in a special issue of the Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences. However, the large number of manuscripts submitted to the special issue and the limited page volume of a single issue means that more than one issue of the Turkish Journal of Earth Sciences is going to be devoted to the geology of the Circum-Black Sea region. This first special issue includes four papers on the geology of the Caucasus, and probably constitutes the most comprehensive geological treatise in English on this region. The first two papers by Shota Adamia and his co-workers chart the geology of the Caucasus from its Late Proterozoic beginnings to recent uplift related to the Arabia-Eurasia collision. The paper by Mark Somin provides a detailed and precise account of the Hercynian and older basement of the Caucasus, providing an extensive isotopic data set. Li Guo,

Stephen Vincent and Vladimir Lavrishchev describe the Jurassic reefs in the Greater Caucasus, which may form analogues to the reefs in the offshore Black Sea – obvious targets for petroleum exploration.

The 1st Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region was organized again by MTA and JMO on 7–11th September 1992, and its proceedings came out in 1995 as a book published in Ankara. It is probably a reflection of the dynamics of the Black Sea geology studies that we had to wait only two rather than seventeen years for the 3rd Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, which is going to take place in Bucharest on 1–10th October 2011.

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