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Talk title	The Ediacaran palaeontology of Namibia and its importance to global research
By	Dr Alex Liu is an Associate Professor in Palaeobiology at the University of Cambridge, U.K
Date	Thursday, 27th of April
Time	17h45
VENUE	Auditorium of the Ministry of Mines

Abstract:

"The Ediacaran palaeontology of Namibia and its importance to global research"

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The Ediacaran Period (635-539 million years ago) records some of the most important geological and evolutionary events in Earth history, including the rise of global oxygen concentrations to roughly modern levels, and fossil evidence for the first appearance of both macro-algae and animals. Meanwhile, geochemical and sedimentological data reveal some of the largest carbon isotope excursions in Earth history, and several extensive glacial events. Determining how these evolutionary and environmental changes relate to one another requires detailed sedimentological and palaeontological study of Ediacaran sedimentary successions, and the Nama Group of southern Namibia documents one of the most complete latest Ediacaran stratigraphic sections in the world. In this talk, I will provide an overview of major Ediacaran geological and palaeontological events, before introducing the incredible fossils and strata of the Nama Group and their importance to global scientific research. Namibian fossil material includes evidence for the first biomineralisers on Earth; the first burrowing organisms; and important sedimentological data that will allow us to determine whether or not the first mass extinction on Earth took place during Ediacaran time. The Nama Group is therefore of critical importance to global efforts to track early animal evolution through time, and determine the impact of these new organisms on the Earth system.

