



[The Inner Mongolia Research Project](#) [Dinosaur Palaeontology in the Gobi Desert](#)

Presented by Dr. Michael Pittman

Date: Wednesday 7th August 2013
Time: 6.30 pm – 7:30 pm
Venue: Conference Room 2 at Atkins China Ltd., 13/F Wharf T & T Centre, Harbour City, TST
Seminar Fee: Free of charge
Registration: Prior registration is required, please email Ms. Kitty CHAN at kitty.chan@arup.com to reserve a seat. Seating capacity is limited to 30 and the applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendance CPD certificates will be provided.

Synopsis:

The Cretaceous-aged rocks of the Gobi desert are legendary amongst palaeontologists for their spectacular, three-dimensionally preserved fossils. If you have ever heard of the dinosaur *Velociraptor* then these are the rocks it originates from.

This talk focuses on the Campanian-aged (~70-80ma) dinosaurs of Bayan Mandahu, Inner Mongolia, China. Preserved in alluvial red beds these dinosaurs are found in a wide range of lithologies that appear to have formed under arid conditions. Numerous dinosaur species have been identified from Bayan Mandahu over nearly 100 years of exploration. These species represent an ecosystem that is similar to those reconstructed at contemporaneous red bed deposits in Mongolia.

The talk briefly outlines the geology and history of exploration at dinosaur-bearing localities and introduces The Inner Mongolia Research Project. Important Project discoveries are discussed including their impact on our knowledge of dinosaurian evolution and of evolutionary processes more generally. Amongst the Project's discoveries are the World's only single-fingered dinosaur, *Linhenykus*, as well as the near-complete *Velociraptor* relative, *Linheraptor*, both of which appeared on the cover of Geoscientist magazine (the 2008 expedition was partly funded by the Society). In the final part of the talk, the experiences and discoveries of the 2013 expedition are shared.



About the Speaker:

Michael Pittman PhD FGS is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at The University of Hong Kong (mpittman@hku.hk). As a dinosaur palaeontologist, his research focuses on the evolutionary biomechanics of vertebrates, especially dinosaurs, as well as the evolution of theropod dinosaurs (including early birds). Given the University's location in China, he works mainly on local fossil material and has participated in several international projects including the ongoing Inner Mongolia Research Project. Michael joined the Geological Society in 2003 as an undergraduate at UCL. In addition to receiving funding from the Society on three occasions as well as visiting it for events, Michael presented a talk at Burlington House with his collaborator Prof. Xu Xing on feathered dinosaurs.