AAPG International Conference Barcelona, Spain September 21-24, 2003

François Guillocheau¹, Cécile Robin², Philippe Razin³, Gilles Dromart⁴, Spela Gorican⁵, François Bechenec⁶ (1) Géosciences Rennes, Université de Rennes-1, Rennes, France (2) University, Paris, France (3) Bordeaux University, Bordeaux, France (4) Université de Lyon 1, Lyon, France (5) Ljubjana University, Ljubjana, Slovenia (6) BRGM france, Nantes, France

The Tethyan Margin of Oman: Short-Term Control (1-5 My) of the Middle / Upper Jurassic Carbonate Turbiditic Sedimentation

The middle to upper Jurassic sediments of the fossil Tethyan passive margin of Oman consist of deep-sea carbonate turbidite deposits (Guwaysa Formation). They are mainly composed of ooïds and " muds " (silt to very fine sands) with a little siliciclastic component. The Guwaysa Formation (300 - 350 m in the most proximal setting) consist of a repetitive motif of 1 to 10 My duration made of coarse-grained sandy units (30 to 100 m thick) overlain by a more muddy one (20 to 50 m thick). The sandy units, coarsening-upward, is topped by a strongly amalgamated unit (top sandy unit, 1 to 10 m thick). Distally, over at least one hundred kilometers, the base sandy unit pinches out, whereas the top amalgamated sandy unit passes into an alternation of siliciclastic clays and carbonate muds with decimetric-thick carbonate sands (Bouma Tbc). These alternations compensate the lateral pinching-out of the basal sands. The muddy unit is again a coarsening-upward trend going from muds to muds/coarse sands to pebbles alternations. The coarse-grained sands to pebbles show nice evidences of by-pass deposits. Distally, they pass to muds and sands (Bouma Tbc), with no change of total thickness. This mean that these by-pass deposits did not feed large sandy deposits. These features can be explained by a change in both sea-level and carbonate production on the shelf, that will be discussed.