



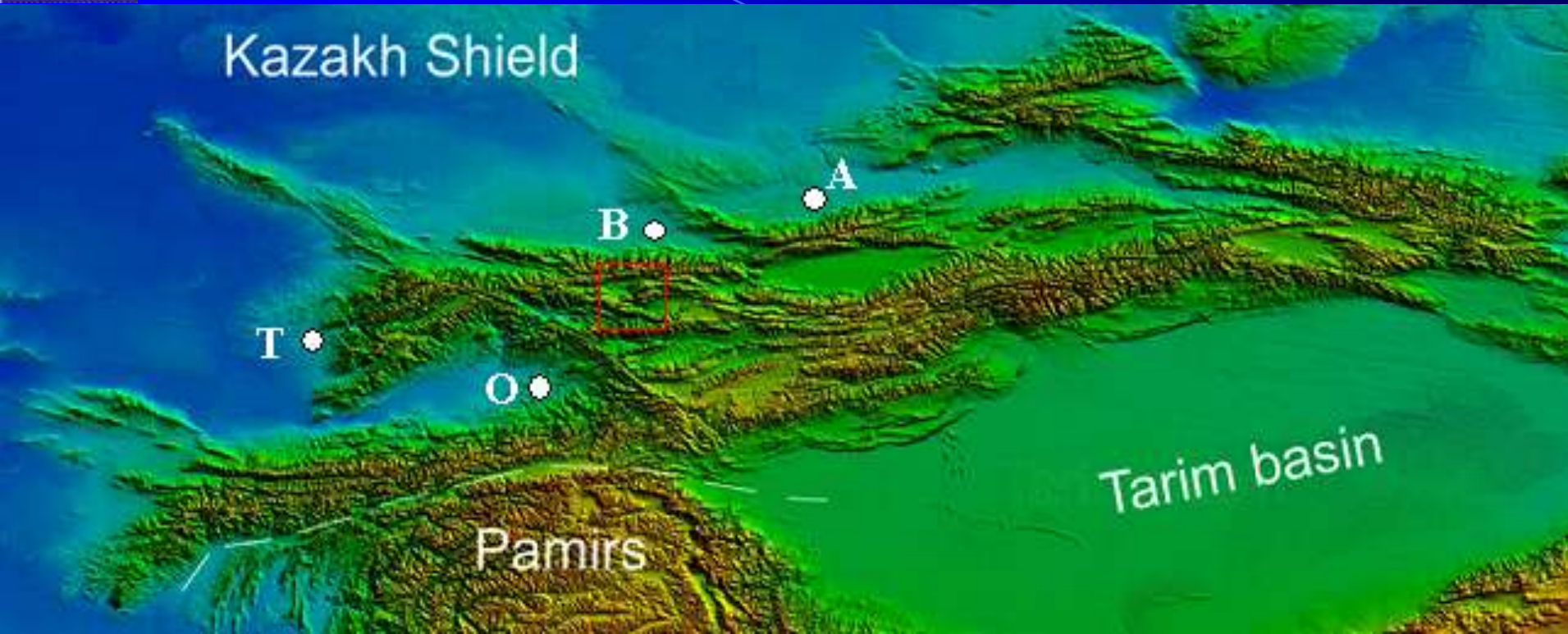
Kokomeren Summer School on Rockslides and Related Phenomena:

ICL field training course for students and
young landslide researchers
in the Kokomeren River valley
(Central Tien Shan, Kyrgyzstan)



Annual field training courses were carried out since 2006. Initially this activity was supported by IPL Projects M₂₀₀₂111 and M₂₀₀₄126; since 2009 – by the Coordinating Project C-106-2

Summer School target area



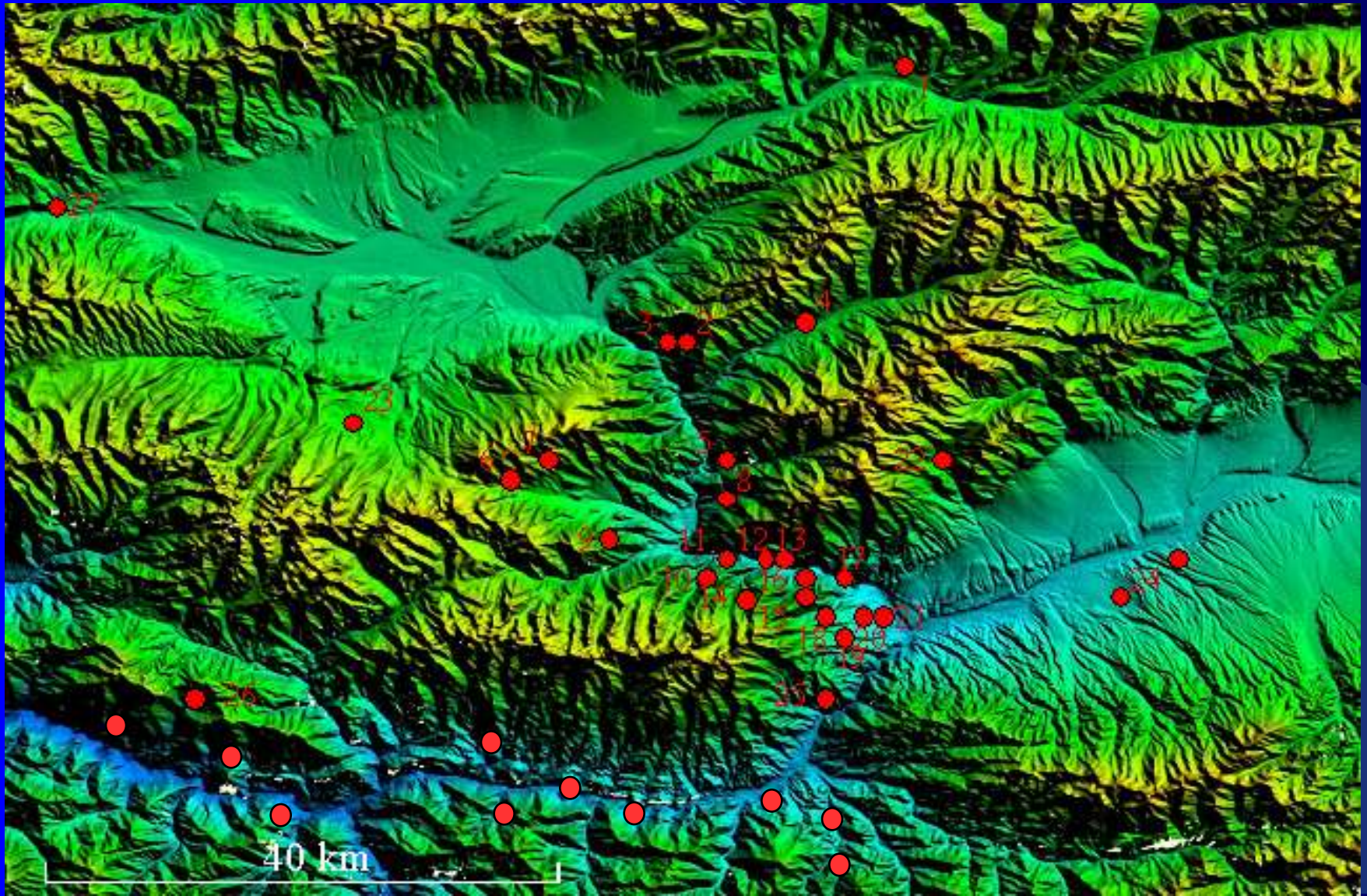
B – Bishkek; A – Almaty; T – Tashkent; O – Osh

Area marked by red quadrangle was selected due to favourable

combination of several factors:

1-day trip distance from the Bishkek city. There are daily flights to Bishkek from Moscow, Istanbul and London.

Presence of numerous rockslides and rock avalanches ranging from several millions to more than one billion cubic meters in volume within a limited area.



Variability of rockslides' and rock avalanches' types and morphologies.

Rockslides with compact bodies formed high natural dams such as the Kokomeren rockslide ~1 cubic kilometer in volume

Arrow marks active fault, which motion could cause this bedrock failure



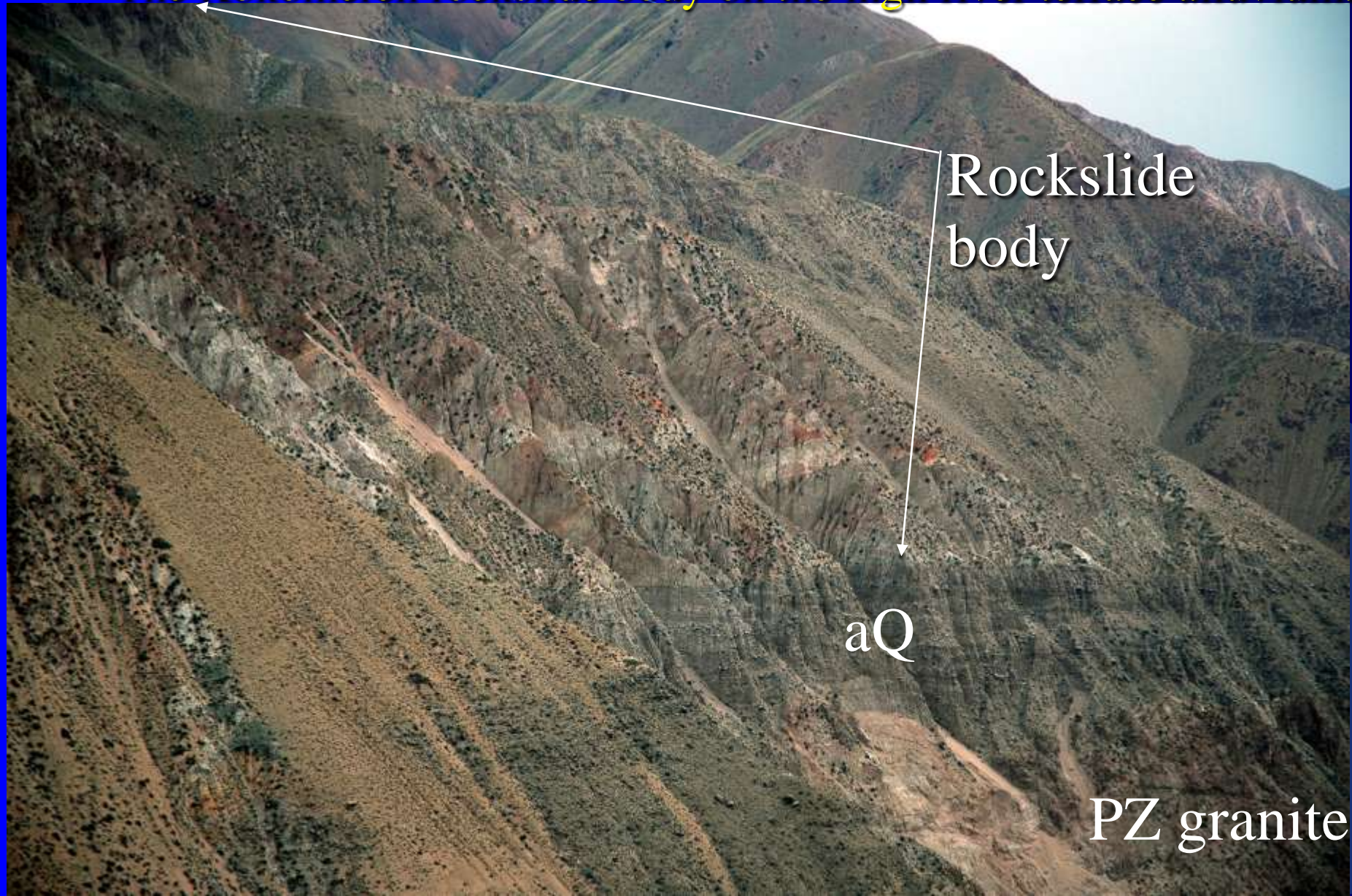


Long runout rock
avalanches
of the primary and
secondary types
The Chongsu secondary
RA (above)
and the Seit primary RA
(below)





Some rockslides have been deeply incised by erosion, which provides excellent opportunity to study their internal structure. The Kokomeren rockslide body on the high river terrace alluvium.

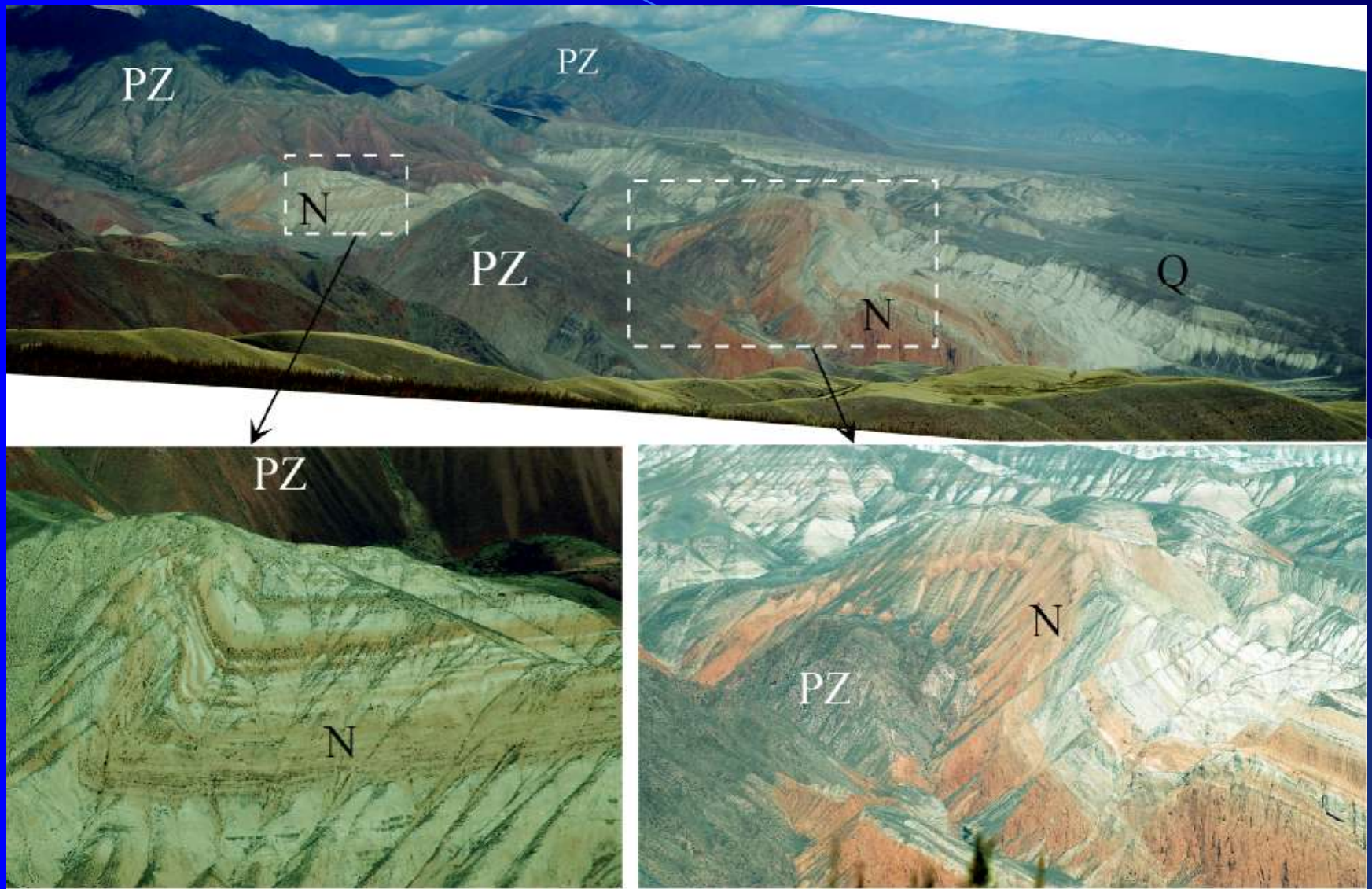


Rockslide
body

aQ

PZ granite

Expressive neotectonic structure allowing better understanding of geological environment in which rockslides have occurred.

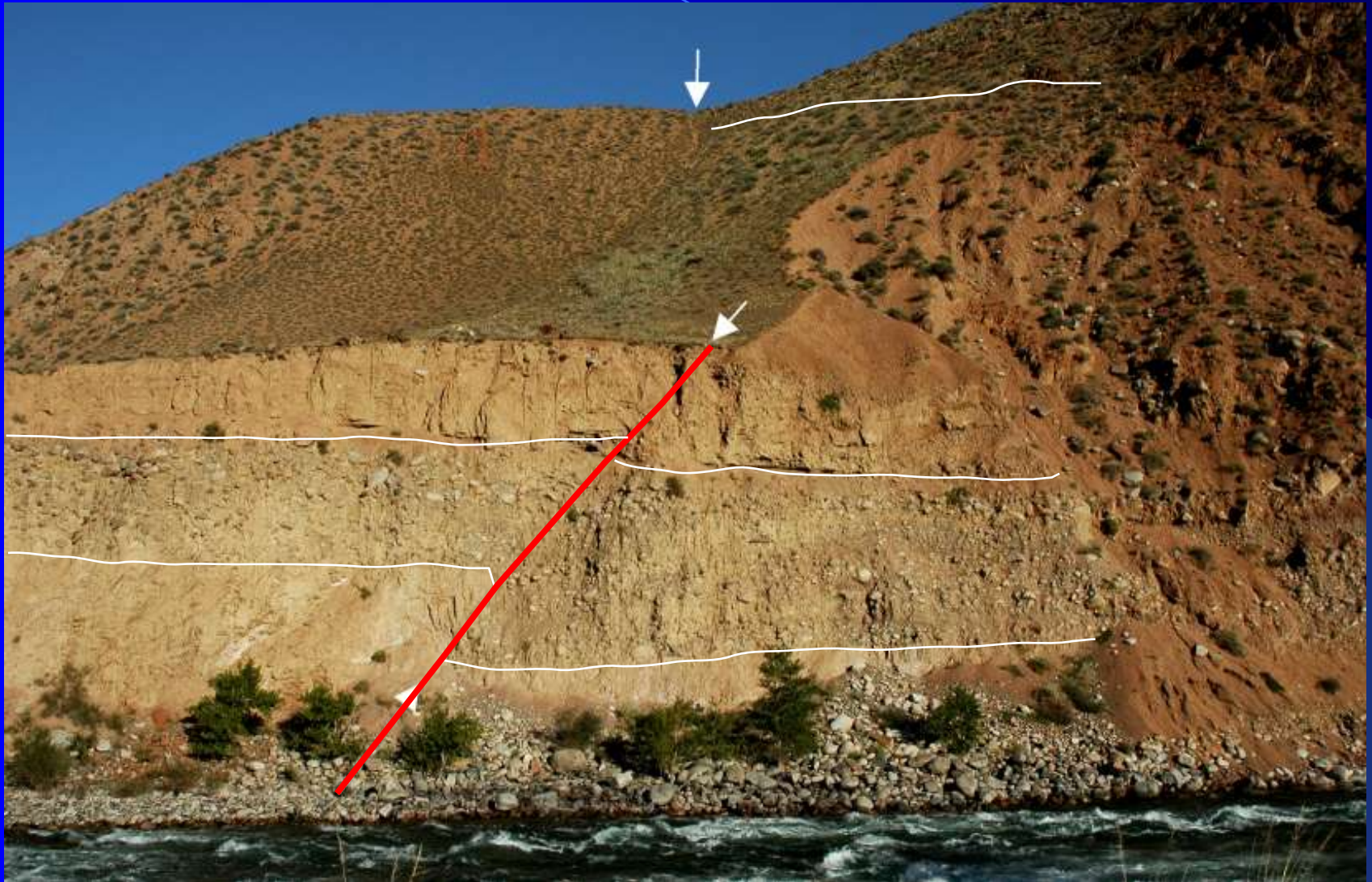


Presence of numerous active faults and surface ruptures, both modern and past, indicating high level of seismic activity



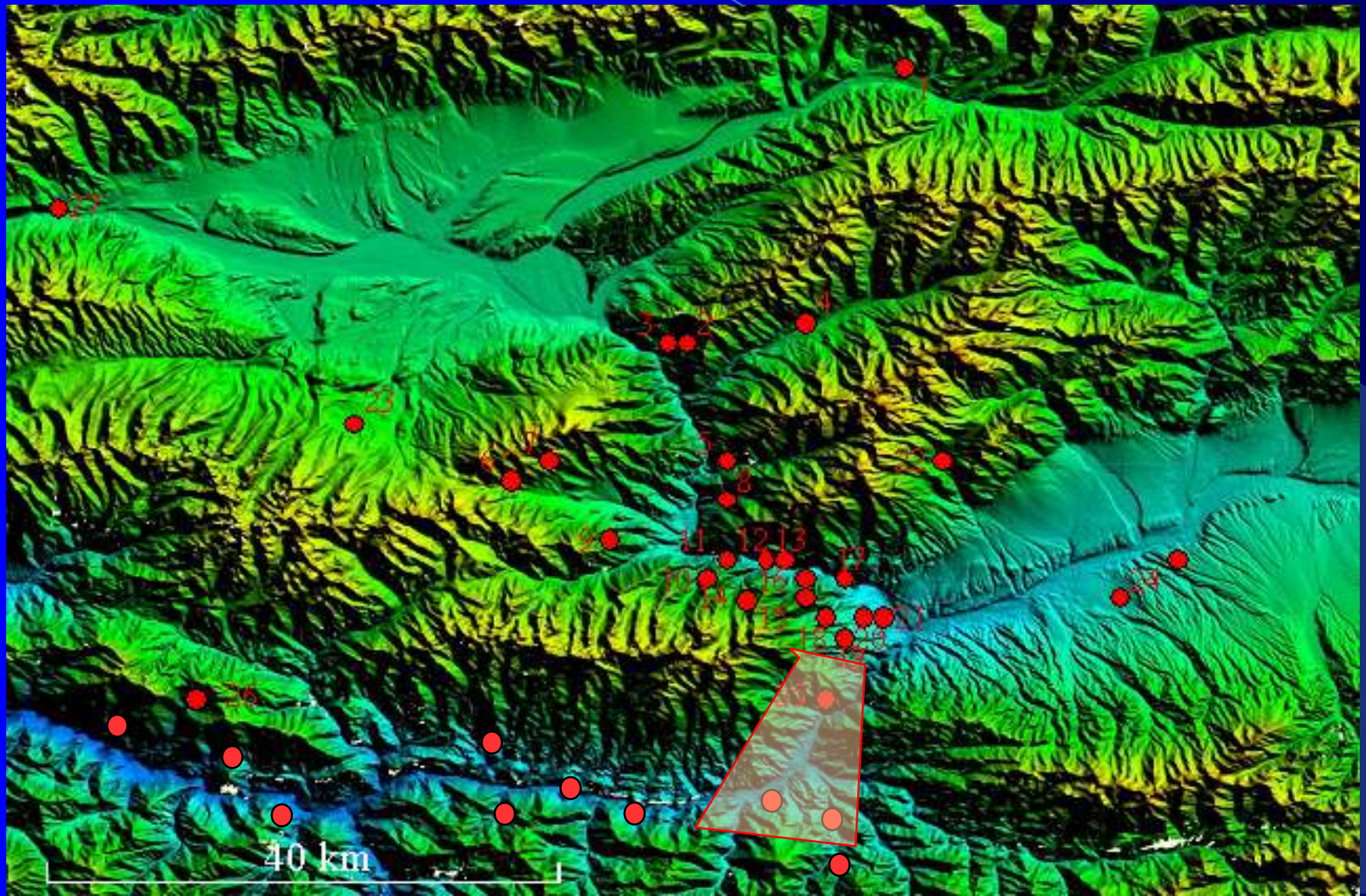
Surface rupture of 1992 M 7.3 Suusamyr earthquake, 5 days after the event and 14 years later

Active fault, which rupturing and associated earthquake could trigger the Kokomeren rockslide formation



What was new, in comparison with previous training courses?

We expanded the study area visiting several interesting sites downstream, well "stratified" Ornok rockslide in particular





"Layers" of debris at the frontal part of the Ornok Rockslide



ICL In 2009 we paid more attention on lacustrine deposits of rockslide dammed lakes



Seismites in the basal unit of the lacustrine deposits of the rockslide dammed lake overlaid by undisturbed silt layers



Nonstratified basal unit of the lacustrine sediments of the past lake that had been dammed by the Kokomeren rockslide

We also found clear evidence of a powerful outburst flood – Lower Aral rock avalanche





The 2009 training course was carried out from July 30 to August 15. This year we had 8 participants – almost two times more than we had before. Students came from Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Italy, Czech Republic, New Zealand, France and Russia.





After Summer School two participants from Austria and Switzerland joined me during the field trip to Southern Kyrgyzstan for field reconnaissance of landslides.





*Welcome
to
Tien Shan!*