

Late Pleistocene to early Holocene giant tsunami deposits around the coastal area of the South China Sea

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Around Indochina Peninsula, yellow thin sandy deposits widely cover ground surface, however, their origin has not been known. We defined Yellow Sand Cover (YSC) as this deposit. The Nhon Trach Formation in southern Vietnam, which is correlated to the YSC, is interpreted as giant tsunami deposits caused by an impact in the South China Sea in the Late Pleistocene to early Holocene. This interpretation is on the basis of the following evidences in the Nhon Trach Formation: (1) a thick and strong (or highly concentrated) flow and its subsequent declining interpreted from the observations of channel fills and internal depositional structures, (2) landward paleocurrents estimated from the foresets, (3) yielded marine diatom fossils, (4) coarser grain-size distribution than general loess, (5) its thickening toward low elevation and the valleys.