

Press release:

The systematic search for Stone Age sites in the interior of the Sharjah Emirate carried out by the members of the Joint Excavation Team of the University of Tübingen (Germany) and the Directorate of Antiquities of the Dept. of Culture & Information of the Government of Sharjah has recently led to another important discovery. A highly corroded so-called *chopping tool* made of quartzite was found in an area, where the team had already discovered evidence for the production of primitive stone tools during earlier surveys. These finds were mentioned in the Emirates Yearbook of 2003.

Up to now it is impossible to determine the real age of the artefacts. However, the simple technology of the stone tools together with their intense corrosion indicates an age of several hundred thousand years. In fact these objects might be as old as about two million years. They might belong to the time when an early form of mankind - called *Homo erectus* - left Africa for the first time and ventured across Southern and South-eastern Arabia into South Asia. More research will be necessary to clarify the earliest part of human history in this part of the world.