

Dear colleagues,

We would like to draw your attention to a special session, "**Clay mineralogy and geochemistry**" (session **TS6-3**), we are organizing at the 18th International Sedimentological Congress to be held in Mendoza, Argentina from September 26th to October 1st, 2010. Below is a description of the session.

Considerable attention has been paid in recent years to mineralogical studies of sediments, and particular consideration has been given to clay minerals as these minerals are important keys to deducing changes in source area, palaeoclimate, and sedimentary environments. Clay minerals are common products of earth-surface reactions such as weathering and authigenesis, and they constitute a significant portion of the sediments deposited in continental as well as in marine basins. However, clay assemblages in sediments are a result of the complex interaction of several variables, including source-area lithology, continental morphology, depositional environments, and palaeoclimate.

During formation, sediments develop primary chemical signatures that reflect their origin. Major- and trace-element data of sediments and sedimentary rocks provide constraints on the effects of sedimentary processes such as weathering and sedimentary sorting, but are also widely employed in discrimination diagrams of tectonic settings. Chemical composition has also served to better understand Earth surface processes and the sedimentary cycle. In addition, major- and trace-element ratios are also effective proxy records for paleoenvironmental reconstruction and global change research.

Please consider submitting a contribution. Abstract deadline is April 30th.

Best regards,

Fernando Nieto
Margarita Do Campo

1) Extension of each technical session. We plan for a maximum of 20 contributions for each session, divided into 10 oral and 10 poster presentations. If a session receives a larger number of contributions, the scientific committee might find a way to accommodate a few extra ones but perhaps not all of them.

2) Oral Sessions. Each oral presentation will be 15' in duration + 5' for questions. Each lecture hall has one screen and one PC projector. Delegates must prepare their talks as a Power Point presentation. It will not be possible to present talks using a speaker's laptop, as this disrupts the smooth running of the session. However, an exception will be made for speakers wishing to present their talks from a Mac computer (for more information check the second circular at <http://www.isc2010.com.ar/english/home.html>).

3) Poster sessions. Posters must be no larger than 0.9 m (width) x 1.8 m (height).

4) Important Deadlines:

April 30, 2010 - Deadline for abstract submission

June 15, 2010 - Evaluation of abstracts and letter of acceptance mailed to authors

July 1, 2010 - Deadline for payment of registration of all fees without cost surcharges

We hope to see you there.
Fernando Nieto
Margarita Do Campo