



aipea

Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles
International Association for the Study of Clays
Internationale Vereinigung zum Studium der Tone
Международная ассоциация по изучению глин

Newsletter N°42

June 2010

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AFFILIATED SOCIETIES:

- Algerian Clay Group (ACG)
- Australian Clay Minerals Group (ACMS)
- Belgian Clay Group
- (British & Irish) Clay Minerals Group
- Brazilian Clay Group (GBA)
- Clay Science Society of Japan
- Croatian Clay Group
- Czech National Clay Group
- Dutch Clay Group
- French Clay Group (GFA)
- German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG)
- Greek Committee of Clay Science and Technology
- Hungarian Clay Group
- Israel Society of Clay Research
- Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA)
- Nordic Society for Clay Research
- (North American) Clay Minerals Society (CMS)
- Polish Clay Group
- Portuguese Clay Group (APA)
- Romanian Group for the Study of Clays and Clay Minerals
- Russian Clay Group
- Slovak Clay Group
- Spanish Clay Society (SEA)
- Turkish National Committee of Clay Sciences
- Ukrainian Clay Group

CONTENTS

1. 2010 President's Report.....	1
2. AIPEA Officers and Council	3
3. AIPEA Website.....	6
4. 2009 Treasurer's Report	7
5. International Union of Geological Sciences Annual Report.....	10
6. 14 th International Clay Conference.....	13
7. National and Regional Clay Groups	14
8. Recent and Upcoming Meetings.....	32
9. New statutes and bylaws.....	34
10. AIPEA Membership Application Form.....	35

1. 2010 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is my first contribution to the AIPEA Newsletter as President of AIPEA. It seems like only yesterday that David Bish, the outgoing President, handed responsibility over to me at the 14th ICC in Castellana Marina in Italy. In fact it was over a year ago now. In the intervening period I have become even more aware of the effort that David Bish and the outgoing Council had invested in revitalizing AIPEA's image and statutes. The by-laws have been significantly updated and are now readily accessible for all to see on the website (www.aipea.org). I encourage you to visit the website and read about what AIPEA stands for and how it operates. If you are enthusiastic about serving on AIPEA Council then you can learn how AIPEA identifies and approaches potential post holders and Council members.

There is always room for enthusiastic and dedicated Council members. Saverio Fiore is an excellent example of such a person. Not only did Saverio champion the incredibly successful 14th ICC, but his efforts in creating the new website are there for all to see. Saverio still needs your help though. Like me and the rest of the Council we need your input to keep the site vibrant and alive. Judging by the list of relevant conferences there is no doubt that the message is getting around. Check and see whether your national clay group is listed and if it is not – then encourage those in charge to make contact and publicize your activities on the AIPEA website.

One of the aims of AIPEA is to promote clay science in all its manifestations. A good way to do this would be for AIPEA to have its own list server to use for communicating with our international members. Unfortunately, the lack of similar lists from our individual national partners, with the exception of the Clay Minerals Society list, has made progress very difficult. Consequently, I agree with David Bish that the best way to accomplish our communication goals is through the existing Clay Minerals Society list server. This list is maintained at Purdue University solely for clay science communications. Subscription to the list is completely free and you may remove your name from the list at any time. You do not need to be a member of the Clay Minerals Society to join the list, and I encourage all clay scientists to subscribe.

You may subscribe by going to the following link:

<https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/clayminerals-1>

Instructions for subscribing are under the heading "Subscribing to Clayminerals-1" and you simply enter your email address and an optional name. You are not required to enter a password (but one will be generated for you if you do not).

AIPEA is now an affiliated society of Elements, the fast growing, multi-society magazine. Indeed, one of my first tasks as President was to write a report on the 14th ICC last year in Italy. The huge attendance at that conference reinforced the renewal of interest in clays and fine grained minerals arising out of the enormous interest from fields as diverse as materials, physics, and chemistry. Routinely reaching such a wide audience can be a challenge and that is why our affiliation with Elements provides a means for AIPEA to communicate with the

worldwide mineralogical and geochemical community, thereby increasing awareness of our society and its activities. Nonetheless, in our role as the primary coordinator of international activities in clay science we do need to establish links to ALL the disciplines that take advantage of the benefits that clays, and related minerals, can offer. Once again, if you have ideas about how we can do this – we encourage you to contact us.

If we begin to develop those links now then we can use them to publicize the next ICC in Brazil in 2013. Reiner Neumann and his organizing committee are already hard at work preparing for our next big international meeting. Perhaps, as the global recession reduces to a bad memory, the interaction between AIPEA and our industry members can be enhanced. It would certainly be good to have a view from their perspective on Council.

AIPEA also continues as an active affiliated society to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS – <http://iugs.org>) and we exchange regular correspondence including IUGS E-bulletins and several official documents. In February 2010 Dr. Sabine Petit, an AIPEA Councillor, acted as our representative at the 61st Executive meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences which took place in Paris, France. Our inclusion as an affiliated society within the IUGS continues to be an effective means for AIPEA to integrate into international geological activities.

The renewed interest in the use of clay minerals in an extensive array of different disciplines will be the theme of the workshop in Madrid which precedes the 2010 Trilateral Meeting of Clays that takes place in Seville in June 2010. This resurgence of interest in clays within the wider scientific community makes it ever more important that AIPEA members play an active role in the life of our society. Moreover, we must seek to involve new members, from related disciplines, in AIPEA and thereby boost the activities of our society. There is no doubt that both existing, and future members, of AIPEA would benefit from a society that is more integrated and cohesive at both the national and the international level.

One of the simplest ways for you to contribute to the aims of AIPEA is to ensure that your society submits a report to the annual newsletter. This activity, which is coordinated by our Secretary-General Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves, is a key vehicle for communicating the activities of our member societies. I sincerely hope that you can help Daisy to accomplish her goals.

This is your society and the Council members and I welcome your support and suggestions.

With best wishes,

Chris Breen
June / 2010

10. AIPEA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Family Name (Please print or type): _____

Given Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Amount of dues enclosed: \$ _____ for _____ years

Type of membership: _____

If you are an individual member of an affiliated Society, give the name of the Society:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Date Effective: _____

Please mail dues as an international money order to the AIPEA Treasurer
Dr. Jeanne B. Percival (jperciva@nrca.gc.ca)
c/o Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A0E8

Fees: \$30.00 USD/4 years individual; \$15.00 USD/4 years student or retiree; \$100 USD/4 years corporate sponsor. **Note:** Sponsoring Societies pay dues on behalf of their members. To send electronically, please contact Treasurer by email.

9. NEW STATUTES AND BYLAWS

During the last four years, Dr. David Bish, AIPEA past-president, and the AIPEA Council have revised the AIPEA Statutes and Bylaws in order to bring them up to date and make them reflect more accurately our current activities.

The suggested revision of the old version of this Statutes and Bylaws were posted on the AIPEA website in the second semester of 2009 for AIPEA members' perusal. Since then AIPEA members could make suggestions or comments about all its contents. Last June, some copies of it were also made available for distribution to the participants of the 14th ICC, at Castellaneta Marina, Italy.

Further, during AIPEA General Assembly, at Castellaneta Marina (Italy), on June 16th 2009, the proposed revisions and amendments were voted and approved by the AIPEA members. Now it is permanently disclosed at AIPEA website (www.aipea.org). We recommend that all AIPEA members consult them and be aware of their revised contents.

2. AIPEA OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Elected during the 14th International Clay Conference at Castellaneta Marina (Italy), in June 2009, the AIPEA officers and Councillors for 2009-2013 are as follows.

AIPEA officers for 2009-2013:

Prof. Christopher BREEN, President
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Phone: +1 613 992 4496 - Fax: +1 613 943 1286
Email: jperciva@nrcan.gc.ca

AIPEA Council Members for 2009-2013:

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Phone/Fax: +54 221 4215677/4258696
Internet: www.isc2010.com.ar/english/home.html

2011

EUROCLAY 2011 (ECGA)

June 26th - July 1st, 2011, Antalya, Turkey
Organized by: Turkish National Committee on Clay Science
Contact: Prof. Dr. Asuman Günel Türkmenoğlu
Department of Geological Engineering,
Middle East Technical University, Ankara,
Turkey,
E-mail: asumant@metu.edu.tr
Internet: www.euroclay2011.org

GEOMED 2011 (4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL GEOLOGY)

September, 20-25th, 2011, Bari, Italy
Organized by: Italian Chapter on Medical Geology of International Medical Geology
Association (IMGA) and the Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA)
Contact: Claudia Belviso
E-Mail: mailto:secretariat@geomed2011.it
Internet: www.geomed2011.it

2013

15TH INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE (15ICC)

June, 23-28th, 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Organized by: Brazilian Clay Group (GBA) on behalf of the Association Internationale pour
l'Étude des Argiles (AIPEA)
Contact: Dr. Reiner Neumann, Representative of 15th ICC
CETEM - Centre for Mineral Technology
Avenida Pedro Calmon, 900 - Ilha da Cidade Universitaria
21941-908 - Rio de Janeiro RJ
Brazil
E-mail: rneumann@cetem.gov.br

8. RECENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

2010

TRILATERAL MEETING OF CLAY MINERALS

June 6-11th, 2010, Sevilla, Spain

Organized by: Spanish Clay Society, Clay Society of Japan and Clay Minerals Society (USA)

Contact: Dr. Pilar Aranda – General Secretary

E-mail: 2010TMC@sea-arcillas.es

Internet: www.sea-arcillas.es/2010TMC

MECC'10 (5th CONFERENCE OF MID-EUROPEAN CLAY GROUPS)

August 25-28th, 2010, Budapest, Hungary

Organized by: Eötvös L. University, Hungarian Geological Society and Clay Groups of Croatia, Czech Republic, German-Austria-Switzerland, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary.

Contact: Dr. Tamás G. Weiszburg

E-mail: mecc2010@mecc2010.org

szendrei@min.nhmus.hu

zsike@abyss.elte.hu

Internet: <http://www.mecc2010.org>

IMA 2010 (20th GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION) Linked to MECC'10

August 21-27th, 2010, Budapest, Hungary

Organized by: Diamond Congress Ltd.

Contact: Robert Hohol

E-mail: hoholr@diamond-congress.hu

Internet: <http://www.ima2010.hu>

WORKSHOP ON ASIAN CLAY

September 6th, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Organized by: Clay Society of Japan

Chair: Kiyoshi Okada

E-mail: makoto@waseda.jp

waseda.ogawa@gmail.com

Internet: <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/cssj2>

18th INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS

September 26th -October 1st, 2010, Mendoza, Argentina

Contact: Dr. Sergio D. Matheos - Secretary General, CIG (La Plata)

ISC2010 Secretariat Office - secretary@isc2010.com.ar

Representative of 15th ICC

Dr. Reiner Neumann

CETEM - Centre for Mineral Technology

Avenida Pedro Calmon, 900 - Ilha do Fundao - Cidade Universitaria

21941-908 - Rio de Janeiro RJ

Brazil

Phone: +55 21 3865 7263 - Fax: +55 21 2290 4286

Email: rneumann@cetem.gov.br

Committees

Teaching committee

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Tel Hai Academic College

Upper Galilee, 12210

Israel

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Nomenclature committee

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Department of Geological Sciences

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Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Chicago Illinois 60607-7059

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Asbestos committee

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3. AIPEA WEBSITE

The AIPEA website is up and running since 2007 and has become an important mean of communication to the international clay community due to its agile dynamics. This media has systematically been used to disclose the announcements of several technical meetings which happen around the world. Besides that, other activities that might be of interest to the international community interested in clay matters (as for example, courses, international projects, etc.) can also be displayed. Therefore both possibilities help AIPEA to fulfill their main purposes.

Our site can be found at www.aipea.org as well as at aipea.org. Please remain in contact with us by sending news of interest to the AIPEA webmaster Dr. Saverio Fiore (fiore@imaa.cnr.it) and/or Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (daisy@cenpes.petrobras.com.br). We intend to provide wide information about all aspects of the clay sciences to all AIPEA members.

AIPEA website has been constructed to disclose all information relative to its purposes, organization and many activities. It has the following permanent sections:

- Historical overview
- Statutes and by-laws
- Council
- Membership
- Publications
- Newsletter
- Committees
- Affiliated Societies
- Awards and Medals

Some items are already available for consulting and, since it is a dynamic media, others are under construction. For example, lists of winners of the several prizes offered by AIPEA have recently been added to this website. Therefore part of the AIPEA history is progressively been recovered. However all AIPEA members are encouraged to check the information already made available and provide additional contributions. If errors are noticed, please notify us so that we can make the proper corrections.

There is a sense that it would be interesting also to have old reports linked to the AIPEA website, such as historical documents, the composition of old committees, *.pdf files of past newsletters, memorial of famous scientists, etc. Most of all, we would be happy to share AIPEA good memories. For this, we count on the cooperation of the entire international community of clay scientists.



Photo 7: Reed Glasmann and Paul Schroeder (L-R) listening to David Mogk (C) give a bus side lecture on the Clays of Yellowstone National Park workshop. (Photo courtesy of R. Brown).

By Stephen Guggenheim
March / 2010

- Volume 13, The Application of Vibrational Spectroscopy to Clay Minerals and Layered Double Hydroxides (2005), CMS Workshop Lectures, \$26 (J. T. Kloprogge, ed.), 285 pp.
- Volume 12, Molecular Modeling of Clays and Mineral Surfaces (2003), CMS Workshop Lectures, \$26 (J. D. Kubicki and W. F. Bleam, eds.), 229 pp.
- Volume 11, Teaching Clay Science (2002) CMS Workshop Lectures, \$26.00 Rule and S. Guggenheim, eds.), 223 pp.

The 47th Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society will be held 6-11th June 2010 in Seville, Spain jointly with SEA (Spain) and JSSJ (Japan). See the CMS website at: www.clays.org.



Photo 4: Lynda Williams (L) and George Christidis talking to Norbert Clauer (C). (Photo courtesy of R. Brown).



Photo 5: Hailiang Dong (L) talking with Douglas McCarty (R). (Photo courtesy of R. Brown).



Photo 6: Group listening to bus side lecture on Clays of Yellowstone National Park workshop. (Photo courtesy of R. Brown).

4. 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial statements for fiscal year January - December 2009 are provided. Total assets as of December 31, 2009 are \$64687.22 USD. AIPEA spent over \$10,000 in support (travel and/or registration) of the AIPEA Medallist, Fellow, Bradley Award, student travel grants as well as student awards (oral and poster) during the conference.

AIPEA continues to receive financial support from supporting societies including: The Clay Minerals Society (CMS), Clay Science Society of Japan (CMSJ), French Clay Group (GFA), German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG), Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA). We want to thank these societies for the continued support, without them we could not cover expenses for the award winners at the ICC quadrennial meetings.

We also acknowledge support from Petrobras as an industrial member and welcome 100 new members from the 14th ICC.

The 14th ICC was a very successful conference. The conference provided \$9030 USD to AIPEA through the 753 conference registrants and 100 new members. This will enable AIPEA to continue supporting its members through awards and travel grants in the future. Special thanks to Dr. Saverio Fiore and his dedicated organizing team for the excellent conference and support for AIPEA.

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 May / 2010

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2010-05-22
Accrual Basis

**AIPEA
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2009**

	31 Dec 09
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Petty Cash	-2,058.26
Royal Bank	
400-105-3	35,170.79
Total Royal Bank	35,170.79
Scotiabank Current Acct.	9,379.70
Scotiabank Savings	14,593.37
Total Chequing/Savings	57,085.60
Accounts Receivable	
Pledges Receivable	650.00
Total Accounts Receivable	650.00
Other Current Assets	
Non Redeemable GIC	
Scotiabank	6,951.62
Total Non Redeemable GIC	6,951.62
Total Other Current Assets	6,951.62
Total Current Assets	64,687.22
TOTAL ASSETS	64,687.22
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	375.00
Total Accounts Payable	375.00
Total Current Liabilities	375.00
Total Liabilities	375.00
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	69,127.10
Net Income	-4,814.88
Total Equity	64,312.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	64,687.22

lecture entitled “Stable isotopes of clay minerals archive organic sources”. Dr. Haydn Murray, Department of Geological Sciences, Indiana University, gave the Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture, which was entitled “60 years as a clay mineralogist”. The Brindley Award Lecture was presented by Dr. Michael Hochella, Jr., Department of Geosciences, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, entitled: “Nanomaterials, mineral nanoparticles and earth systems”. The Bailey Award, the highest research award given by the Society, was presented to Dr. Joseph Stucki, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois-Urbana, who gave a lecture on “Iron redox reactions in smectites”.

There were a total of 114 papers (including award presentations and posters). The oral and poster sessions were divided into the following areas:

- General, 5 oral, 2 posters
- Bentonite, 12 oral, 2 posters
- Quantitative analysis, 11 oral, 5 posters
- Reactions of iron in clays and clay minerals, 14 oral
- Microscopic and spectroscopic studies of clay mineral reactions, 8 oral
- Industrial clay mineralogy: Mining, processing, utilization, 5 oral
- Isotopes and clays, 8 oral, 1 poster
- Clays and energy, 10 oral, 1 poster
- Clay interactions with environmental contaminants in soils and sediments, 9 oral, 1 poster
- A drugstore in the dirt: Medicinal clays and clay minerals, 6 oral
- Feats of clay (special informal session), 3 oral
- From discovery to dollars: the challenges of innovation and commercialization, 7 posters

Two days were devoted to a field trip (Bentonites of the Big-horn Basin), which was tied to the workshop entitled: “Clays of Yellowstone National Park”. The field trip was attended by 34 participants and included stops at the Education Center, Mud Volcano, Old Faithful, Fountain Paint Pots, Norris Geyser Basin, and Mammoth Hot Springs. The workshop will be published as volume 17 of the Workshop Lecture Series in the fall.

The latest CMS Workshop volumes are available for purchase (member prices are discounted from the listed price). Order forms and other information may be obtained at: <http://cms.clays.org/publications.html>

Recent Workshop volumes are:

- Volume 16, Carbon stabilization by clays in the environment: Process and characterization methods, CMS Workshop Lectures, \$30 (David A. Laird and J. Cervini-Silva, eds.), 135 pp.
- Volume 15, Clay-based Polymer Nano-composites, CMS Workshop Lectures, \$30 (Kathleen A. Carrado and Faiza Bergaya, eds.), 278 pp.
- Volume 14, Methods for Study of Microbe-Mineral Interactions (2006), CMS Workshop Lectures, \$30 (Patricia A. Maurice and Leslie A. Warren, eds.), 166 pp.



Photo 2. Prof. Ariel Singer, who passed over on March 2010, receiving his Diploma as SEA Honorary Member. (Photo courtesy of P. Aranda).



Photo 3. Group picture of the participants in the “Jornada Científica Conmemorativa 50 Aniversario de la SEA”. (Photo courtesy of P. Aranda).

By Pilar Aranda
April / 2010

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY (NORTH AMERICA)**

The Clay Minerals Society’s (CMS) 46th Annual Meeting was held in Billings, Montana, on 5-11 June, 2009. The theme of the meeting was “Clays of the Big Sky”, a reference to Montana’s “Big Sky” motto and the horizon-to-horizon cloudless sky during most days of the year. The meeting was organized by Drs. R. Brown, D. Eisenhour, J. Elzea-Kogel, D. McCarty and A. Thomas. Dr. Lynda Williams, School of Earth & Space Exploration, Arizona State University, received the Jackson Mid-Career Clay Science Award and presented a

AIPEA Profit & Loss January through December 2009	
	Jan - Dec 09
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Investment Income	167.73
Program Income	
Membership Dues	5,962.50
Total Program Income	5,962.50
Total Income	6,130.23
Gross Profit	6,130.23
Expense	
Advertising Expenses	600.00
Awards and Grants	
Benefits Paid To or For Members	1,000.00
Cash Awards and Grants	9,092.40
Total Awards and Grants	10,092.40
Bad Debts	10.00
Bank Charges & Interest	145.60
Operations	
Supplies	97.11
Total Operations	97.11
Total Expense	10,945.11
Net Ordinary Income	-4,814.88
Net Income	-4,814.88

5. INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING FORM FOR CONSTITUENT BODIES - 2009

- TITLE OF CONSTITUENT BODY:**
AIPEA, *Association Internationale pour l'Etude des Argiles*
- FIT WITHIN IUGS SCIENCE POLICY:**
The aim of AIPEA is the worldwide promotion of, and cooperation in, clay research and technology. The tools to achieve these goals are: 1) international clay conferences held every four years; 2) stimulation of excellent young clay scientists through grants and awards; 3) rewarding active clay scientists with a brilliant career in clay research; 4) stimulation of communication among clay researchers and technologists.
- ORGANIZATION:**
AIPEA is an international association consisting of all of the national clay societies in the world, acting as an umbrella organization to coordinate and facilitate international activities and collaborations.
- EXTENT OF NATIONAL/REGIONAL/GLOBAL SUPPORT FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN IUGS:**
AIPEA is supported by dues from national clay societies (not all national societies have sufficient resources and organization to pay dues) and by income from its quadrennial meetings.
- INTERFACE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:**
None
- CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009:**
AIPEA's efforts in 2009 were directed towards activities in support of the organization of the 14th International Clay Conference (14ICC), its most important technical event, which took place at Castellana Marina (Italy) during June 14-20th, 2009 (see www.14icc.org).
A new AIPEA Council has been elected and its constitution can be viewed at www.aipea.org.
A number of AIPEA Newsletters were made available and can be accessed via the society website.
- CHIEF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2009:**
No significant problems were encountered in 2009. Quite the opposite – the 14th ICC was a huge success.
- CHIEF PRODUCTS:**
The chief products of AIPEA in 2009 were the 14th International Clay Conference in Italy, the selection and election of a new AIPEA Council, the AIPEA General Assembly, the annual Newsletter and the updating of the AIPEA website.
- SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES IN 2009:**
Expenditure for 2009 was high. This was anticipated and planned for. The expenditure of US\$9831.35 was entirely associated with the 14th ICC in Italy. This included travel and registration for two award winners (AIPEA Medallist and AIPEA Fellow; \$3932.11), registration and award for our student winners (based on abstract,

especiales de Tamame de Sayago” and “Investigation of the elastic properties of single sepiolite fibers under atomic force microscopy”, respectively.

The historical notes on the SEA introduced by Prof. Serratos and Prof. Galán, biographical references of the 6 new Honorary Members of the SEA as well as the abstracts of all the introduced lectures and communications were collected in the book “Jornada Científica Conmemorativa 50 Aniversario de la SEA” edited by E. Ruiz-Hitzky and P. Aranda (FER Fotocomposición SA, Madrid 2009).

The SEA General Assembly celebrated in Madrid (19th November 2009) were informed of the main points treated in the General Assembly of the AIPEA that took place on 16th June in Castellana Marina (Italy). Relevant points for our Society were that the AIPEA Council changes and now 2 members of the SEA, Dr. Saverio Fiore and Dr. F. Javier Huertas, are included in it. Dr. Giora Rytwo, also member of the SEA, was nominated as Head of the Teaching Committee. In accordance with the SEA Statutes all the three have been nominated as “Vocales Natos” of the SEA Council till the end of their terms.

The General Assembly was also informed about the large number of communications introduced by Spanish scientists in the 14th International Clay Conference celebrated in Castellana Marina (Italy), scoring with France in the second place in number of delegates behind, of course, of Italy.

Finally, the General Assembly were informed on the latest details regarding the organization of the 2010 Trilateral Meeting on Clays (2010TMC), sponsored by the Spanish Clay Society (SEA), the Clay Minerals Society (CMS) and the Clays Science Society of Japan (CSSJ), that will be held the second week of June 2010 in Madrid and Seville (Spain). The second circular was appointed to be ready in the next days at the 2010TMC web site (www.sea-arcillas.es). In relation to this Meeting it was also worthy to be mentioned that Prof. José M. Serratos (CSIC), Honorary Member of the SEA, will be honored during the 2010TMC in Seville with the 2010 Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society.



Photo 1. Opening Ceremony of the Jornada Científica Conmemorativa 50 Aniversario de la SEA held in Madrid. From left to right: Prof. Celso Gomes (ECGA President), Prof. Miguel A. Alario (SEA President), Prof. José Vicente García-Ramos (Vice-President of the CSIC), Prof. Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky (SEA President) and Prof. Manuel Prieto (SEM President). (Photo courtesy of P. Aranda).

SPAIN SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY

In 2009, the Spanish Clay Society (SEA, Sociedad Española de Arcillas) commemorated its 50th Anniversary and it was celebrated with a special Scientific Meeting (Jornada Científica Conmemorativa 50 Aniversario de la SEA) that took place on November 19th in the Room of Ceremonies of the National Research Council of Spain (CSIC) in Madrid. The Ceremony was Chaired by Prof. José Vicente García-Ramos, Vice-Presidente of the CSIC, Prof. Miguel A. Alario, President of the Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales of Spain, Prof. Celso Gomes, President of the European Clay Groups Association (ECGA), Prof. Manuel Prieto, President of the Spanish Society of Mineralogy (SEM) and Prof. Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky, President of the Spanish Clay Society (SEA).

Prof. José M. Serratos, Honorary Member of the SEA, introduced the lecture: “Sociedad Española de Arcillas Historical notes”, pointing out the relevant role of the SEA in the participation and promotion of international activities since its very beginning. Special mention were done to Prof. Juan Luis Martín-Vivaldi, the First President of the SEA, and to the organization in 1970 of the Spanish-Belgian Clay Meeting celebrated in Madrid by initiative of Prof. J.J. Fripiat and Prof. J.M. Serratos, that was the basis for the establishment of the European Clay Meetings (Euroclay Conferences).

Prof. Emilio Galán, also Honorary Member of the SEA, introduced later on the most relevant contributions made by SEA Members in his “Aportaciones a la historia de la Sociedad Española de Arcillas” talk.

During that Ceremony were nominated as new Honorary Members of the SEA: Prof. Ray E. Ferrell (Louisiana State University), Prof. Santiago Leguey (Autonomous University of Madrid), Prof. Shlomo Nir (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Prof. José Luis Pérez-Rodríguez (Institute of Materials Science of Seville, CSIC), Prof. Thomas J. Pinnavaia (Michigan State University) and Prof. Ariel Singer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Each of them were introduced by close collaborators also members of the SEA, arising very special and emotive moments for them during the ceremony.

In the Scientific Session were introduced 30 poster communications and also three General Lectures:

- Scale, the key to future advances in geological and other applications of clay mineralogy by Ray E. Ferrell, Jr. (Louisiana State University, USA).
- Novel Derivatives of Smectite Clays by Thomas J. Pinnavaia (Michigan State University, USA).
- Molecular recognition on clays and layered silicates by Makoto Ogawa (Waseda University, Japan).

Among the communications applying for the Awards to the best presentations by Young Researchers, the winners were Ms. Eva M. Manchado from the University of Salamanca and Mr. Francisco M. Fernandes from the Materials Science Institute of Madrid (CSIC), for their poster communications “Evidencias de alteración hidrotermal en el yacimiento de arcillas

including Bradley Award; \$5435.63) and awards for best oral and poster presentations by bona-fide research students (\$463.61). AIPEA is in an excellent financial position because it finances all of its activities from the interest raised on its source fund.

10. **WORK PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR:**
Our plan for the coming year is to develop a strategy to encourage the development of existing and facilitate the formation of new national clay societies, particularly in Asia and South America. A more active involvement of industry will also be pursued.
 11. **CRITICAL MILESTONES TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT YEAR:**
See 10.
 12. **ANTICIPATED RESULTS/PRODUCTS NEXT YEAR:**
We will continue with our annual newsletter, coming out in early 2010. We will continue updating the AIPEA web site with new content. The compilation of an entirely new list of participating national societies will enable Council to update the AIPEA list server. This will allow rapid communication between all national clay societies.
 13. **COMMUNICATION PLANS:**
Newsletter 2010; further develop excellent new website; up-to-date AIPEA list server.
 14. **SUMMARY BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR:**
No IUGS support is requested. Expenditure will be minimal in 2010.
 15. **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES OUTSIDE IUGS:**
Funding comes in part from contributing member societies. The implications of financial support from industry will be addressed under 10 above.
- REVIEW CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS RESULTS OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS:**
The past president broadened AIPEA Council representation with the addition of a new member from South America and another from the European Clay Groups Association (ECGA). The past president also made efforts to ensure that the council formed stronger and better collaborations with large and strong existing organizations such as the (American) Clay Minerals Society and the Japanese Clay Society. The past president attempted to increase the proportion of member societies paying dues in an effort to bolster the finances of AIPEA and this effort is continuing. The past president and council decided that upcoming newsletters would be sent electronically to individual country representatives, thereby saving large amounts on postage. They were also made available on the AIPEA website. Since 2007, the new AIPEA web site is up and running with an entirely new format at www.aipea.org. It has been constructed to act as the main contact point with the clay scientists around the world. It is a dynamic website under the responsibility of Dr. Saverio Fiore, the webmaster. Nowadays it includes updated information about the new council, links to affiliated and other societies, other links of interest to clay science, list of past award and medal winners, lists of past student awardees, committee reports/glossary of terms from the nomenclature committee, and advertisements for our active awards programs and upcoming meetings. The website also hosts the recently revised Statutes and Bye-laws which were voted in during the AIPEA General Meeting held during the 14th ICC in Italy, 2009. This increased level

and availability of information should encourage a more active involvement in the affairs of AIPEA.

AIPEA successfully petitioned for affiliate status in the mineralogical periodical Elements, bringing more international visibility.

The past president actively encouraged members to become more involved with AIPEA and make the members feel that they receive value for money. In an effort to accentuate this, a registration discount was offered for the International Clay Conference in Italy. Both the outgoing and incoming AIPEA councils met in Italy during the 14th ICC. Amendments to the AIPEA Statutes and Bye-laws have been voted and accepted by the international community during the AIPEA General Assembly at the 14th ICC, including the new student awards program and the new hazardous minerals committee (it can be found at www.aipea.org). We are facing a worldwide decline in the number of clay scientists but at the same time there appears to be a renaissance in related sciences where clay minerals play an important role such as in chemistry and in materials science. The enormous success of the 14th ICC in the face of this well documented decline cannot be overestimated. There were no fewer than 654 delegates from 49 countries to provide audiences for the 24 invited lectures, 42 keynote addresses, 408 oral presentations and 548 posters.

16. **SUMMARIZE ANTICIPATED OBJECTIVES AND WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS:**

AIPEA web site www.aipea.org will continue to be the main avenue of contact with clay scientists around the world, under the responsibility of Dr. Saverio Fiore, the webmaster. The website is now under a continuous process of improvement to keep the international community abreast of new developments.

The new AIPEA Council will devise and implement a strategy to encourage the development of new, and foster the growth of new, national clay societies. These societies will be encouraged to join AIPEA and benefit from the wealth of expertise available through the international community of clay scientists. The active involvement of industry in AIPEA will be encouraged.

A key focus of the next five years will be the planning and delivery of the 15th ICC which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2013. This location will benefit enormously from the infrastructural investment being made for the 2014 World Football (Soccer) Cup and many key Brazilian organizations have already documented their support for the 15th ICC.

Prepared by:
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SLOVAKIA
SLOVAK CLAY GROUP

Council: (1 October 2008-30 September 2011)

President	Jana Madejová
Vice-president	Peter Komadel
Secretary	Iveta Štyriaková
Councillors	Adrián Biroň Ivan Kraus

The main international activity of the members of Slovak Clay Group (SCG) in 2009 was presentation of research results on the following international conferences:

- **14th International Clay Conference ICC09**, Castellaneta Marina, Italy
Ten members of SCG (A. Čeklovský, J. Hrachová, E. Jankovič, P. Komadel, J. Madejová, H. Pálková, M. Pentrák a M. Janek, T. M. Matejdes a T. Zacher) attended the conference with 4 oral and 10 poster presentations. SCG financially supported the participation of the member on the conference. M. Matejdes obtained The 2009 AIPEA Student Travel Award.
- **AIPEA School for Young Scientists: Interstratified Clay Minerals**, Bari, Italy
P. Komadel presented an invited lecture: Identification and characterization of interstratified minerals with spectroscopic and other classical methods.
- **The 46th. Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society**, Billings, USA
P. Komadel and P. Uhlík participated on the meeting. P. Komadel introduced Professor Joseph W. Stucki, the 2009 Recipient of the Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award of the Clay Minerals Society.
- **Clays, Clay Minerals and Layered Materials Conference 2009**, Zvenigorod, Russia
P. Komadel and E. Jankovič attended the conference. P. Komadel as Keynote lecturer with contribution: Chemical modifications of smectites seen by selected spectroscopic techniques.
- **Groupe Français des Argiles annual meeting**, Toulouse, France
P. Komadel presented an invited lecture: Chemical application of clays
- A. Czimerová a J. Bujdák participated on the workshop: Anisotropic fluorescent thin films based on organic dyes embedded in layered inorganics, **Nagoya University**, Nagoya, Japan
- P. Uhlík participated on the **8th World Congress of Chemical Engineering WCCE8** in Montreal, Canada
- I. Štyriaková participated on the **Biohydrometallurgy Conference** in Bariloche, Argentina

By Jana Madejova
May / 2010

Administrative address:

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c/o Dipartimento Geomineralogico
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C.F. 93296070720
E-Mail: segreteria@aipea.it

By Maria Luigia Giannossi
April / 2010

JAPAN CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY OF JAPAN

1. Committee

The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2007 and 2008.

President: Dr. K. Okada, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Vice president: Dr. A. Inoue, Chiba University
Dr. K. Kuroda, Waseda University
Secretary: Dr. H. Yamada, National Institute of Materials Science
Principal editors: Dr. Y. Shinohara, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Nendo Kagaku)
Dr. E. Narita, Iwate University (Clay Science)

2. The 53rd annual meeting

The 53rd annual meeting of the Clay Science Society of Japan (CSSJ) was held at Iwate University from 9 to 11th, September 2009. It was organized by Dr. E. Narita. A total of 108 papers including 36 poster presentations were presented. The program also included a guest lecture (T. Saito, Iwate University) and a symposium.

3. Awards

The society presented awards to the following members at the occasion of the annual meeting. 1 Clay Science Society of Japan Award was made to Dr. E. Narita, Iwate University.
2 Encouraging Young Scientist Award was made to Dr. S. Takagi, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

4. Publication

Clay Science Society of Japan publishes four issues of Nendo Kagaku (Journal of the Clay Science Society of Japan in Japanese), and three issues of Clay Science every year. In the fiscal year 2009, Vol. 48, No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 for Nendo Kagaku, and Vol. 14, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 for Clay Science were published.

By Makoto Ogawa
May / 2010

6. 14th INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE

All information concerning the 14th ICC can still be found at the conference website at: <http://www.14icc.org> together with a collection of photos to be shared with all participants and the entire international clay community.

We would like to call attention to all that selected contributions presented during the 14th International Clay Conference have been submitted for publication in international journals, some as topic special issues. Participants of 14th ICC and all AIPEA members are encouraged to consult them for more complete details.

The Publishers and Journal Chief Editors approved the following special issues:

- **Applied Clay Science**
Clays and Environment
Guest Editors: Saverio Fiore & F. Javier Huertas.
- **Applied Clay Science**
Clays in Archaeology
Guest Editor: Bruno Fabbri.
- **Applied Clay Science**
Synthesis of Clay Minerals and Clay-based Materials
Guest Editor: Chun-Hui Zhou.
- **Clay Minerals**
Selected papers related to Mineralogy and Applications of clays and clay minerals
- **Philosophical Magazine**
Selected papers submitted to the following sessions: Bio-Clays Interface, Mineralogy and Crystallography, Ceramics and Engineering, Nano and Porous Materials.
Guest Editor: Giovanni Valdrè.
- **European Journal of Mineralogy**
Selected papers related to zeolites

By Saverio Fiore
June / 2010

7. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CLAY GROUPS

This section gathers all the reports sent by the AIPEA affiliated societies until May 2010. It corresponds to a vivid effort to coordinate communication with all of the national clay society members and individual members of AIPEA. Due to its ample covering, it is planned to bring all important information to those who are interested in clay matters.

Since 2007, AIPEA Newsletters are made available (in two formats) at AIPEA website as a permanent section. Therefore it can also be considered as a kind of memory of the activities that took place along of the years and can be check whenever needed.

Each year, the number of collaborators to this section varies. However these contributions are one of the main tools which allow AIPEA to fulfill its aim of worldwide promotion of clay research and technology and of international cooperation in clay research and technology. Therefore, we stimulate all affiliated societies to publish their reports and we are much grateful to those which answered our message for their cooperation.

Daisy Barbosa Alves
AIPEA Secretary-General

ALGERIA ALGERIAN CLAY GROUP

Since 2008, most of efforts have been turned towards the organization of the Third Maghrebin Clay Symposium, which was held in M'hamed Bougherra Boumerdes University (50 Km from Algiers) from 23 to 25 November 2009 (SMAIII: 3ème Symposium Maghrébin sur les argiles) <http://smaiii2009.umbb.dz>.

Five invited lectures from France were presented:

- Faïza Bergaya (CRMD Orléans): Research and development of nanoclays in clay polymer nanocomposites;
- Michel Rautureau (CRMD Orléans): L'argile et la santé: "Dynamique moderne- actualité d'emploi des méthodes médicales dites " d'extractions naturelles;
- Henry Balard (ICSU Mulhouse): La chromatographie Inverse: "Une méthode Innovante pour la caractérisation des Argiles";
- Philippe Blanchart (Université de Limoges): Matériau à microstructure organisée. Relation entre l'organisation microstructurale et les propriétés mécaniques; and
- Nouria Fatah: (Université de Lille): Etude des propriétés physiques et collectives: Poudres microniques et submicroniques. Exemple de "poudres céramiques".

Therefore, a group of scientists from Algerian Clay Group presented communications and participate to discussion in the ordinary general assembly of AIPEA in Castellaneta Marina (Italy) during the 14th ICC, in June 2009.

The general assembly and the Clay Day 2010 (8th April 2010) has been the occasion for new members to join the group. Awards and grants 2010 (Giovanni Novelli Prize, Luigi Dell'Anna Award and Grant for a Ph.D. thesis on clay) will be moved to 2011 and awarded during the next European Clay Groups Association (ECGA) Conference.

10th Course AISA: Every two years a course on X-ray diffraction for qualitative and quantitative analysis of clays and clay minerals is organized. The last course took place in 2008 from July 1 to 4th. in Tito Scalo (Potenza, Italy). The next workshop will be held from 7-10th September 2010, at the CNR Institute (Tito Scalo, Potenza, Italy). The course will be coordinated by Claudia Belviso, Saverio Fiore and Maria Luigia Giannossi (IMAA-CNR, Italy). Participants, both from universities and from industrial laboratories, are welcome.

GEOMED2011: The International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) invited AISA to organize the 4th International Conference on Medical Geology (GEOMED2011), that will take place in Bari, from 20-25th. September 2011. The theme of the Conference, *Geological & Medical Sciences for a Safer Environment*, provides a unique opportunity for mineralogists, physicians, soil scientists, toxicologists, geochemists, veterinarians, biologists, chemists and many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the impact of natural environment on health.

During 2010, the activities for the preparation of the 4th International Conference on Medical Geology, started in the 2009, will continue under the chairmanship of Saverio Fiore (IMAA-CNR, Potenza). An open call for submitting scientific session proposals stopped at the end of March and the call for abstracts will start in September 2010. All the information is available on www.geomed2011.it.

List of executive members of AISA onlus:

President:	Aldo Mirabella
Vice President:	Vito Summa
Secretary:	Maria Luigia Giannossi
Treasurer:	Rocco Laviano
Council Members	Piergiulio Cappelletti Enzo Gallori Mauro Pallara Massimo Setti Cristina Siligardi
Liaison Officer:	Saverio Fiore

Hoping we all have a fruitful clay year,

Dr. Yael Mishael

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Yael Mishael
May / 2010

ITALY ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS

2009 Activities:

The Italian Clay Group (AISA, Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille) concentrated its 2009 international activities on the organization of the 14th International Clay Conference, which took place at Castellana Marina (Italy), from 14-20th June 2009, under the coordination of Dr. Saverio Fiore (IMAA-CNR). The material of the conference is available on the web site: <http://www.14icc.org>, and a detailed report on the Conference is available in the previous AIPEA Newsletter n.41.

We want outline that two prizes were assigned by the AISA during the Conference and they were intended to favour the research activity of young scientists devoted to applied clay sciences:

- Giovanni Novelli Prize was assigned to Hendrik Heinz, Univ. Akron, USA.
- Luigi Dell'Anna Award was assigned to Francesco Perri, Univ. Basilicata, Italy.

An AIPEA School for Young Scientists was organized before the Conference, coordinated by Javier Huertas and Javier Cuadros. The course was entitled "Interstratified clay minerals: Origin, characterization and geochemical significance". This was a two-day course and, at the end, a book of lectures will be produced.

AISA also organized the general assembly and the Clay Day 2009 which took place in Modena (Italy), on 27th February. The Clay Day 2009 was a thematic day on "Organoclays: structure, characteristics and applications".

Work Plan For 2010:

Our primary objective for next year will be to improve our website. We will also move the AISA web site to a new domain (www.aisaonlus.it) and will have an entirely new web home page. The collection of new information will enable us to update the web content and will improve the relations among all members.

The scientific Algerian community organized some seminars and workshop which treated topics about some clays applications, such:

- Clay minerals characterization (Geology and deposition conditions)
- Clay in oil industry (Problems during drilling and production)
- Clays in catalysis
- Clays in environment

For further updated information, please contact General Secretary Dr. Mohamed Khodja (Mohamed.khodja@ep.sonatrach.dz).

By Mohamed Khodja
May / 2010

AUSTRALIA AUSTRALIAN CLAY MINERALS GROUP

The Australian Clay Minerals Society Inc. (ACMS) had its beginnings with an inaugural meeting held in Melbourne in 1962 and has since organized a conference in Australia at approximately two yearly intervals. Membership in recent years has declined to around 40 members, a reflection of the changes in demand and focus for specialists with mineralogical skills in industry and academia, and a shifting pattern in clay use and production in Australian industry. Our core members are principally involved in soil science, environmental role and application for clays, and clay modification and characterization for new markets, including nanotechnology.

The ACMS has always had strong representation from soil scientists and taking this into account, the next ACMS conference will be held on 7-8 August 2010 in Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. The conference will be coordinated with the 19th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) to be held at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre from 1-6 August 2010. See www.19wcscs.org.au for details of WCSS.

At the suggestion of ACMS, the organizing committee of the 19th WCSS agreed to hold Commission 2.4 – Soil Mineralogy Sessions on Friday 6th August. The themes for the sessions are:

- 2.4.1 - The role of soil minerals in forming and maintaining associations in soils to ensure their future sustainability.
- 2.4.2 - Soil minerals for the uptake and control of contaminants.

On Saturday 7th August, ACMS will hold a full one day conference of technical presentations and posters covering broad aspects of clay mineral research and industrial applications of clays. This will be held at the Owen J Wordsworth Centre at Queensland University of Technology located in Brisbane city and in close proximity to the venue for the Soils Congress. On Sunday 8th August, a 1 day field excursion will be held that will include a visit

to bentonite mining and processing operations near Brisbane, and a new research facility established on the Gold Coast to test and develop geofabrics aimed at revolutionizing design and use of geosynthetics worldwide.

To assist young researchers attend both WSSC and ACMS conferences, ACMS has provided bursaries to five PhD students to cover the cost of conference registration. Further details of the ACMS conference and registration forms are available at the ACMS website www.clays.org.au.

News of members: ACMS Treasurer and X-ray mineral specialist at CSIRO Land and Water, Mark Raven, was placed equal third in the Clay Minerals Society's 4th Reynolds Cup for quantitative mineralogical analysis. Mark is the first in the southern hemisphere to achieve a top three place, after consistently achieving a place in the top 10 since the competition began in 2002. Gordon Jock Churchman was awarded APIEA Fellow at the 14th ICC. The award recognizes Jock's outstanding contributions to soil mineralogy and clay science and the application of his knowledge to the benefit of the environment and industry. ACMS representative on APEA Council, Balwant Singh, University of Sydney, co-edited with Markus Gr Fe a new publication on "Synchrotron-based techniques in soils and sediments". The book is included in the series Developments in Soil Science, 34, published by the Elsevier Group.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Australian Clay Minerals Society will be held on 7th August 2010 during the Brisbane Conference.

Current officer bearers are:

President: John Keeling
Secretary: Rob Fitzpatrick
Treasurer: Mark Raven
Council Members: Jock Churchman
Peter Self
Will Gates
Ray Frost
AIEPA Representative: Balwant Singh

By John Keeling
May / 2010

BRAZIL BRAZILIAN CLAY GROUP

The Brazilian Clay Group (GBA, Grupo Brasileiro de Argilas) has concentrated efforts in its own organization. Some meetings were organized in order to gather ideas and endorsement of the community of Brazilian scientists dedicated to the studies of clays and clay minerals. GBA website is under construction and a list of potential participants has been prepared.

elected with our president as a new member. Also in councils of other Clay Mineral Societies DTTG members are present: Georg Grathoff (Greifswald), Reiner Dohrmann (Hannover) and Helge Stanjek (Aachen) were elected as council members of the CMS.

An international DTTG-Workshop on qualitative and quantitative analysis of clays and clay minerals is organized every two years. The workshop is focused on the needs of graduate and PhD students in the field of clay science and is open for all who work in the area of clay research. Topics of the workshop are: Different aspects of XRD of clay minerals including QPA with the Rietveld method, physicochemical properties of clay minerals and their quantification, thermal, optical and spectroscopical characterization as well as geotechnical properties of clays. The third workshop took place from Feb 8th to 13th, 2009 in Zurich (Switzerland) with participants from DTTG-countries but also from Canada, France and Croatia. In order to become fair to the character of a workshop with practical attempts, the number of participants was limited to 15 (the number of interested persons was much higher). The next workshop takes place from Feb 14th to 18th, 2011 in Zurich (Switzerland).

For further updated information: www.dttg.ethz.ch or contact Michael Ploetze, ETH Zurich, e-mail: www_dttg@web.ethz.ch.

Michael Ploetze
April / 2010

ISRAEL ISRAELI SOCIETY FOR CLAY RESEARCH

The Annual meeting of the Israeli Society for Clay Research took place on October 12th, 2009 at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Jerusalem. Approximately 25 members attended the meeting.

I would like to thank the outgoing president Dr. Amir Sandler and the outgoing treasurer Dr. Ahmed Nasser for their terrific work throughout the past couple of years and for maintaining the activities of the society. At the same time I would like to welcome the new treasurer Dr. Zohar Yrmiyahu and to wish myself, the new president, good luck.

This year we plan on increasing the number of members by personally approaching scientists in the field, re-involving the professors emeritus and creating more involvement of students. In addition there are some local industries with clay R&D which we will contact. The annual meeting will take place during October 2010 and a field trip is planned as well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express the society's condolences to the family of Prof. Aria Singer. Prof. Singer, who passed away this year, was a member of our society for many decades and one of leading mineralogists in Israel. We all remember fondly the scientific and social talks with him. Personally, I will miss walking down a flight of steps to his room in order to ask any clay related question that was troubling me, knowing I would get a scholarly and friendly answer.

International master in Advanced Clay Science

The “International Master in Advanced Clay Science” (IMACS) is a 2 years integrated Master of Science developed by 5 institutions: the University of Poitiers (UP) in France (co-ordinator), the Technical University of Crete (TUC) (Chania) in Greece, the University of Aveiro (UA) in Portugal, the University of Ottawa (UO) in Canada, and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) (Porto Alegre) in Brazil.

The IMACS program was approved by the European Commission under a very competitive application scheme as an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master program in July 2009 and it will open in September 2010. Erasmus Mundus is a cooperation and mobility program in the field of higher education supported by the European Commission. This program offers very attractive scholarships/fellowships for both Non European and European student candidates and short-term scholarships for Non European and European academics to carry out research or teaching assignments as part of the joint masters program.

This Master is the first multi-disciplinary program that brings together the widely distributed knowledge of clay science. It plans to form high level graduates by providing them the competence, fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to perfectly assimilate the more recent developments in clay science and their applied perspectives. The IMACS provides a complete background in the main fields of clays and technology as well as an in depth professional specialization in two of the following fields:

- Environment, Soil and Geological system,
- Geomaterials and Civil Engineering – Assessment and processing,
- Advanced clay, Nanomaterial,
- Healing minerals.

GFA and AIPEA are associated to this Master. For more information: IMACS website www.master-imacs.org.

By Jocelyne Brendlé
May / 2010

GERMANY-AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND GERMAN-AUSTRIAN-SWISS CLAY GROUP (DTTG)

Since 2008, the German Clay Group Association (DTTG, Deutsche Ton- und Tonmineralgruppe) is a member of the MECC groups. At the 4th MECC meeting 2008 in Zakopane the following members were elected for the DTTG committee: Helge Stanjek, RWTH Aachen (president), Reiner Dohrmann, LBEG/BGR Hannover (treasurer), Michael Ploetze, ETH Zurich (secretary), and seven members for the advisory board. The next election will be at the 5th MECC-meeting 2010 in Budapest.

The DTTG was represented at the ICC 2009 in Castellana Marina/Italy with 47 participants, which was one of the biggest groups. At the AIPEA business meeting a new council was

GBA is now in charge to organize the 15th International Clay Conference (15ICC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013. The chairperson is Dr. Sylvia Maria Couto do Anjos (PETROBRAS) and the secretary is Dr. Reiner Neumann (CETEM).

By Daisy Barbosa Alves
May / 2010

CROATIA CROATIAN CLAY GROUP

The Croatian Clay Group was founded in 1999 in Zagreb. It is active as a section within Croatian Geological Society. The Group has 32 members, whose scientific and professional activity within the fields of mineralogy, geology, petroleum engineering, chemistry technology, geotechnics or civil engineering is completely or partially connected with clays, i.e. clay and related minerals.

In the 2009 members of the Group participated in the “DTTG workshop on qualitative and quantitative analysis of clays and clay minerals”, Zurich, Switzerland, “AIPEA School for Young Scientists” - Bari, Italy, and 14th International Clay Conference – Castellana Marina, Italy.

In 2010 members of the group will participate in the 5th Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC2010), the joint conference of the national clay groups of Mid-European countries, which will be organized in Budapest. Other activities will include organization of lectures covering the topics of clays.

List of the officials of the Group (elected in 2008):

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By Darko Tibljaš
May / 2010

CZECH REPUBLIC CZECH NATIONAL CLAY GROUP

The Czech National Clay Group published two numbers (41–42) of the bulletin "Informátor" in Czech language. The ISSN numbers for Journal Informátor: printed version ISSN 1802-2480 and internet pdf version ISSN 1802-2499.

In the year 2009, the spring and autumn seminars were organized.

The spring meeting was organized in Prague in the building of the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic on May 26. At this seminar two lectures were presented:

- Kamil Lang: Hybrid LDH films as photoactive materials.
- David Hradil: Kadaň green distemper and its identification in the paintings of Czech collections.

The autumn meeting was organized together with Centre of Nanotechnology Ostrava in lecture hall of VŠB-TU Ostrava on November 26. At this seminar thirteen lectures were presented:

- Karla Barabasová: Metal oxides as functional fillers for clay composite materials
- Barbora Doušová: The preparation of anion active nanosorbents based on clay minerals.
- Zdeněk Klika: Montmorillonite intercalated with methylene blue in acid water solutions.
- Peter Komadel: Reduction and oxidation of nontronite. The peak reduction technique obtained in the years 1986–87.
- Petr Kovář: Molecular modeling of layered materials intercalated with porphyrin derivatives.
- Jana Madejová: IR spectroscopy characterization of natural and modified clay nanomaterials.
- Lucie Obalová: Effect of catalysts in mixed oxides prepared by thermic decomposition of layered double hydroxides.
- Daniela Plachá: The preparation of sorption materials on the base of vermiculites.
- Miroslav Pospíšil: Molecular modeling of methylene blue on the montmorillonite surface.
- Petr Prous: Ag nanoparticles on montmorillonite.
- Gražyna Simha Martynková: Application of vermiculite in composites.
- Marta Valášková: Porous cordierites on the base of natural clay minerals mixture.
- Vítězslav Zima: Layer metal organophosphates and their intercalates.

In the year 2010 we are planning two seminars and coordination of the 5th MECC in Budapest, Hungary.

Contemporary board: M. Pospíšil (chairman), M. Šťastný (vice-chairman and treasurer), J. Konta, S. Jarková, K. Melka, M. Holý, P. Hájek and D. Koloušek (representative of zeolite subgroup).

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For further information see our pages.

www.czechclaygroup.cz.

By Miroslav Pospíšil
April / 2010

FRANCE FRENCH CLAY GROUP

7th Meeting of the French Clay Group (GFA, Groupe Français des Argiles)

The 7th meeting of the GFA was held in Toulouse on April 15-16 2009. A session of this meeting was dedicated to Alain Decarreau. The communications were given by some of his colleagues and friends, one of them, Peter Komadel, coming from Slovakia, and by some of former PhD students he supervised during his career. Alain Decarreau also received a reward from the GFA in recognition of his career.

XIV International Clay Conference, Castellana Marina (Italy)

Many members of the GFA attended the 14th AIPEA meeting which was held in Castellana Marina (Italy) on June 14-20 2009. This leads to many scientific exchanges and gave also the opportunity to share good moments with colleagues coming from 50 countries.

Exhibition on Clay History: past and future in France

The GFA and School of Geology (ENSG, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Géologie) in Nancy have created an exhibition on the clays and their uses over time. The exhibition is organized into three parts. The first one is focused on traditional uses of clay in various fields such as art, medicine, writing, building materials and potteries. The second part points out the new developments in clay uses in polyphasic products such as plastics, paints, papers and ceramics in which clays are less and less visible. The third part is more open and tries to give hints about future uses of clays such as geochemical barriers and storage of chemical or radioactive wastes, eco-habitats; clay syntheses and applications in high technology. This section also presents the regional aspects of the geology of clays and associated industries as well as instruments based of clay and sculptures in talc.

The exhibition is presented at the Palais de la Découverte in Paris since December the 22th 2009 and will be held till September 1st 2010. Information can be found on the web site: www.argiles-expo.org.