At the time of the AIPEA General Meeting in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), on 11th July 2013, I had a dream: to have soon a second volume of the AIPEA Educational Series (AES), the first one dealing with the Interglacial Clay Minerals. Due to the hard work of authors, editors and reviewers, the dream has turned into reality and Magnesian Clays: Characterization, Origin and Applications is ready for reading!

The book, edited by Manuel Pozo and Emilio Galán, was prepared in conjunction with the second edition of ASYS, the AIPEA School for Young Scientists, successful convened on the University of Rio de Janeiro on July 6 and 7, 2013, by Manuel Pozo (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain). Young and not so-young clay scientists actively participated in the ASYS providing a fertile cultural substratum for discussing old and new knowledge on characterization, origin and applications of magnesian clays. The organization of the chapters in this book follows the didactic approach of the 2nd ASYS. The didactic material, accompanied by an extensive literature, has been collected to form 7 chapters authored by Patricia Aparicio (Spain), José P. Calvo (Spain), Emilio Galán (Spain), Stephen Guggenheim (USA), Manuel Pozo (Spain), Julio Santarén (Spain), and Nicholas J. Tosca (United Kingdom). It is my certitude that this book will revitalize the scientific and technological interest in such an important group of clay minerals. It covers aspects dealing with the crystal chemistry and structure of Mg-rich clay minerals (Chapter 1), and analytical techniques usually employed for their identification and characterization (Chapter 2). There are two chapters (3 and 5) that describe geological occurrences of Mg-clays in sedimentary and non-sedimentary environments. Chapter 4 details origin and mineralogical aspects of Mg-rich clay minerals and Chapter 6 discusses on geochemical parameters governing their formation. And finally, Chapter 7 details the use of magnesian clays in a number of industrial applications. By going through the book, the reader will have a clear idea that there are...
plenty of important open questions. Rather than an incompleteness, they should be considered as an opportunity for continuing studies in clay science.

There is another great news for clay scientists. The electronic copy of the 1st volume of AES “Interstratified Clay Minerals: Origin, Characterization and Geochemical Significance” (2nd ed., ISSN: 2283-687X), is available now for free download. Just send a request to info@aipea.org and we will provide a link for downloading the file.

Unfortunately, AIPEA has received formal information that the Nordic Society for Clay Research and the Dutch Clay Group are no more in activity. Now, in the final days of the year, 2014 is ending with a good expectation: The Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI) is evaluating its affiliation with AIPEA. Our plan for the 2015 is to encourage the formation of new national and regional clay groups and the affiliation of existing active clay groups.

I hope that you appreciate the new design of our e-Newsletter. It has been recognized as online publication and recorded in the ISSN register as ISSN 2421-0757. I also hope that a greater percentage of our affiliated societies can contribute to our next Newsletter. It is important to share with clay scientists around the world information on past and future activities, projects, and I encourage all national society representatives to respond promptly to our Secretary-General’s requests for information.

An important meeting is scheduled for 2015: EUROCLAY 2015 (Edinburgh, UK, 5-10 July). It is the quadrennial meeting of the European Clay Groups Association (ECGA) that will be organized jointly with the annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) and in association with the International Natural Zeolite Association (INZA) and the Geological Society. AIPEA will have a presence at EUROCLAY and awards for best oral and poster student presentations.

By Saverio Fiore
AIPEA Membership Application Form

Becoming member of AIPEA is recommended to everybody interested in clays and clay minerals. At the moment, all AIPEA members, such as updated information from many events that are being organized around the world besides other information that might be of general interest.

The rules of acceptance of new members are defined in the AIPEA Statutes and By-Laws (http://www.aipea.org/statute.html), as follows:

Statutes:

**“II. MEMBERSHIP”**

3. a) AIPEA may accept as members individuals (individual members, who may also be life members), institutions and companies (corporate members), and national or regional societies (Affiliated Societies) with an interest in clay research or technology;

b) Application for individual or corporate membership shall be made in writing to the Treasurer and be accompanied by the appropriate membership fee. Applications from Societies wishing to become Affiliated shall be made to the Secretary General in writing giving relevant information on field of interest, number of members, etc.:

c) Membership will be for the period for which the membership fee is paid. If it is one year’s dues the member will be in good standing for one year. If the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the Council...”

By-Laws:

“Individuals 65 years of age and older who have been individual members for 12 years or more shall automatically become Life Members on notification to the Treasurer. A Life Member must verify his membership every 4 years coinciding with the year of the International Clay Conference...”

To facilitate the admission of new members, AIPEA made available the Membership Application Form at its web page http://www.aipea.org/downloads/aipea_membership_application_form.pdf. Those interested in being part of this organization should fill it out, print, sign and mail it, accompanied by the appropriate membership fee (as international money order), to the AIPEA Treasurer:

Dr. Jeanne B. Percival
(Jeanne.Percival@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca)
c/o Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A0E8

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c) Membership will be for the period for which the membership fee is paid. If it is one year’s dues the member will be in good standing for one year. If the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the Council...”

By-Laws:

“Individuals 65 years of age and older who have been...”

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c) Membership will be for the period for which the membership fee is paid. If it is one year’s dues the member will be in good standing for one year. If the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the Council...”

By-Laws:

“Individuals 65 years of age and older who have been individual members for 12 years or more shall automatically become Life Members on notification to the Treasurer. A Life Member must verify his membership every 4 years coinciding with the year of the International Clay Conference...”

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c) Membership will be for the period for which the membership fee is paid. If it is one year’s dues the member will be in good standing for one year. If the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the Council...”

By-Laws:

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(Jeanne.Percival@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca)
c/o Geological Survey of Canada
601 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A0E8

The AIPEA Council has been elected during the 15th International Clay Conference at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), in July 2013. The Officers and Councillors who will work for AIPEA during 2013-2017 are as follows:

**AIPEA Executive Officers for 2013-2017**

Dr. Saverio FIORE, President
Head of the Microminerals, Health & Environment Research Group
Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis, National Research Council of Italy
c/o Department of Earth & Geoenvironmental Sciences
Via Orabona, 4 - 70125 Bari - Italy
Phone: +39 080 544 2618
Fax: +39 080 544 2591
E-mail: president@aipea.org or saverio.fiore@cnr.it

Prof. Joseph W. STUCKI, Vice-President
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University of Illinois
W-321 Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Avenue - Urbana, IL 61801 - U.S.A.
Phone: +1 217 333 9636
E-mail: vicepresident@aipea.org or jstucki@illinois.edu

Dr. Daisy Barbosa ALVES, Secretary-General
Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. Research Center (CENPES)
Rua Horacio Macedo 950 - Cidade Universitaria Ilha do Fundao - Rio de Janeiro - RJ
CEP: 21941-915 - Brazil
Phone: +55 21 2162 6438
Fax: +55 21 2162 4562
E-mail: secretary@aipea.org or daisy@cenpes.petrobras.com.br

Dr. Jeanne B. PERCIVAL, Treasurer
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601 Booth Street, Ottawa - Ontario K1A0E8 - Canada
Phone: +1 613 992 4496
Fax: +1 613 943 1286
E-mail: treasurer@aipea.org or Jeanne.Percival@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

**AIPEA Council Members for 2013-2017**

Dr. F. Javier HUERTAS (Councillor, 2nd term)
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Russian Academy of Science
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Institute of Energy Science and Engineering
Viadustinmedii Institute of Science and Technology
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E-mail: waseda.ogawa@gmail.com

Representative of the 16th ICC
Dr. Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO
Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, Director
CSIC - Universidad de Granada
Av. de las Palmeras - 18100 Armilla (Granada) - Spain
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Committees
Teaching Committee, Chair
Dr. Sabine PETIT
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Phone: +33 (0)549 453 756
Fax: +33 (0)549 454 241
E-mail: sabine.petit@univ-poitiers.fr

Nomenclature Committee, Chair
Prof. Stephen GUGGENHEIM
University of Illinois at Chicago
Department of Geological Sciences
845 West Taylor Street, M/C 186
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Chi-
cago Illinois 60607-7059 - U.S.A.
Phone: +1 312 996 3263
Fax: +1 312 413 2279
E-mail: xta@uiuc.edu

Hazardous Minerals Committee, Chair
Dr. Saverio FIORE
Head of the Microminerals, Health & Environment Research Group
Department of Earth & Geoenvironmental Sciences
Via Orabona 4 - 70125 Bari - Italy
Phone: +39 080 544 2618
Fax: +39 080 544 2591
E-mail: saverio.fiore@cnr.it

POSITES (ICACC’16)
January 24-29th, 2016, Daytona Beach, Florida, USA.

GOLDSCHMIDT 2016
June 26 - July 1, 2016, Yokohama, Japan
E-mail: helpdesk@goldschmidt.info

8TH MID-EUROPEAN CLAY CONFERENCE - MECC-8
July, 4-8th, 2016, Košice, Slovakia
Organizers: Slovak Clay Group

MICROSCOPY & MICROANALYSIS 2016
July, 24-28th, 2016, Columbus, OH, USA.
Contact: Nicole Guy
E-mail: nicoleguy@conferencemanagers.com

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CERAMICS - ICC6
August 21-26th, 2016, Dresden, Germany
Internet: www.icc-6.com

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
August 27th-September 04th, 2016, Cape Town, South Africa
Chair: Jay Barton
E-mail: Jay.Barton@telkomsa.net
Internet: http://www.35igc.org/

VI INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LAYRED MATERIALS
September, 5-9th, 2016, Kutná Hora, Czech Republic
Organizer: Jiří Čejka
E-mail: workshop2016@jh-inst.cas.cz
Internet: http://www.jh-inst.cas.cz/workshop2016/

EMC2016 - 2ND EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL CONFERENCE
September 11-15th, 2016 Rimini, Italy
Internet: http://emc2016.socminper.it

15TH WATER-ROCK INTERACTION INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - WRI-15
October, 16-21st, 2016, Evora, Portugal
Organizers: CPI - Meetings & Events
Rua Rua das Calçadas - Vivenda Pereira 1º Andar Piso do Vento,
2755-277 Cascais, Portugal
Phone: +351 21 400 35 40
Fax: +351 21 406 08 29
Email: secretariat@wr15portugal.org
Internet: http://wr15portugal.org/

MS&T’16: MATERIALS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, COMBINED WITH ACSER’S ANNUAL MEETING
October 23-27th, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

24TH BIENNIAL AUSTRALIAN CLAY MINERALS CONFERENCE
To be held in 2016, Melbourne, Australia.
Chair: Will Gates
E-mail: will.gates@monash.edu
Internet: http://www.clay.org.au

2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATMOSPHERIC DUST
To be held in 2016
Internet: www.dust2016.org

REYNOLDS CUP - 2016
To be held in 2016
Organizer: Reinhard Kleeberg, Freiberg, Germany
E-mail: kleeberg@mineral-tu-freiberg.de

5TH MEDITERRANEAN CLAY MEETING
To be held in 2016, İzmir, Turkey
Organizers: Clay Science Society-Turkey

2017

41ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO ON ADVANCED CERAMICS AND COMPOSITES,
January 22-27th, Daytona Beach, FL, USA

16TH INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE - ICC 2017
July, 2017, Granada, Spain
Chair: Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO
E-mail: alberto.ugg.es
Internet: http://www.16icc.org/

2018

9TH MID EUROPEAN CLAY CONFERENCE - MECC’18
Croatia
080 544 2614
E-mail: info@amam2015.org
Internet: www.amam2015.org

ICAM 2015 - INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON APPLIED MINERALOGY
June 13-17th, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.
Internet: www.icam2015.org.tr

EUROCLAY 2015
July, 5-10th, 2015, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Chair: Steve Hillier
Internet: http://www.minersoc/euroclay.html

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL GEOLOGY - MEDGEO2015
July 26th-1st August, 2015, Aveiro, Portugal
Organizer: Departamento de Geoecologias
Universidade de Aveiro
Campus de Santiago
3810-193 Aveiro
Portugal
E-mail: geo-medgeo15@ua.pt
Phone: +351 234 370759
Fax: +351 234 370605
Internet: http://medgeo15.web.ua.pt/

MICROSCOPY & MICROANALYSIS 2015
August, 02-06th, 2015, Portland, OR, USA
Contact: Nicole Guy
E-mail: nicoleguy@conferencemanagers.com

12TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR APPLIED MINERALOGY - ICAM2015
August, 10-12th, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey
Conference Chair: Dr. Emin Çiftçi
Department of Geological Engineering
Istanbul Technical University
Maslak 34469, Istanbul
Organizer: ARBER Professional Congress Services
Sair Nedim Sokak No: 19/ 1 A.Ayırancı 06540 Ankara - TURKEY
Phone: + 90 312 441 07 00
Fax: + 90 312 441 07 01
E-mail: info@icam2015.org
Internet: http://icam2015.org/

25TH GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE
August, 16-21st, 2015, Prague, Czech Republic
Organizers: European Association of Geochemistry & Geochemical Society
Internet: http://goldschmidt.info/2015/

ECM29 - MEETING OF EUROPEAN CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION
August 23-28 29th, 2015, Rovinj, Croatia
Internet: http://ecm29.ecanews.org

16TH NATIONAL CLAY SYMPOSIUM OF CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY-TURKEY
September 2-5th, 2015, Çanakkale, Turkey
Organizers: Clay Science Society-Turkey and Çanakkale 18 Mart University
Internet: http://kil16.comu.edu.tr (in Turkish)

ECMS 2015 - EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MINERALOGY AND SPECTROSCOPY
September 9-11 8th, 2015, Rome, Italy

WORKSHOP ON LAYERED MATERIALS
September, 15-19th, 2015, Theš, Czech Republic
Organizers: Jiří Češka, Petr Nachtigall and Vratislav Zima
E-mail: workshop2015@jh-inst.cas.cz
Internet: http://www.jh-inst.cas.cz/workshop2015/

5TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOIL ORGANIC MATTER
September, 20-24th, Göppingen, Germany
Internet: http://www.som2015.org/

MS&T'15 - MATERIALS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, COMBINED WITH ACERS 117TH ANNUAL MEETING
October 4-8th, 2015, Columbus, OH, USA

THIRD RUSSIAN WORKSHOP ON CLAY AND CLAY MINERALS “CLAYS-2015”
To be held in 2015
Organizers: Russian Clay Group
Internet: http://www.ruclay.com

THE FOURTH RUSSIAN SCHOOL ON CLAY MINERALS “ARGILLA STUDIUM-2015”
To be held in 2015
Organizers: Russian Clay Group
Internet: http://www.ruclay.com

2016

40TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO ON ADVANCED CERAMICS AND COM-

The AIPEA Website at http://www.aipea.org continues to be the most important means of communication for the international community dedicated to Clays and Clay Minerals since its creation in 2007, because it provides extensive information about many aspects of AIPEA and the clay sciences. Therefore it is an important tool helping AIPEA fulfill its main purposes.

Information about several topics of AIPEA activities can be easily find such as: mission, purposes, organization, statutes and by-laws, membership, council, publications, newsletters in a searchable way (a few specimens are missing or incomplete and we hope contribution to fill these gaps), committees, affiliated societies (name of the person who is responsible for contact with AIPEA, awards and medals (list of winners), historical overview; and links to several National Clay Societies (NGC) websites and to that one from the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), which AIPEA is affiliated to.

There is a general sense that the AIPEA website should include the records of historical decisions, documents, the composition of old committees, distinguished clay scientists, etc. The perusal of old AIPEA Newsletters will provide an extensive information about many aspects of AIPEA and the clay sciences. Therefore it is an important tool helping AIPEA fulfill its main purposes.

Finally, all AIPEA members are encouraged to check the information currently available at its website and provide additional contributions. If errors are noticed, please inform us immediately so that we can make the proper corrections. Please remain in contact with us by sending news of relevant activities and events to the AIPEA webmaster Dr. Saverio Fiore (webmaster@aipea.org) and/or to the AIPEA Secretary-General Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (secretary@aipea.org or daisy@cenpes.petrobras.com.br).

Daisy Barbosa Alves
December / 2014

opportunities that are available around the world. We also ask you to check whether your NGC is listed and if it is not - then encourage those in charge to make contact and to publicize its activities on the AIPEA website.
AIPEA Listserves

The Clay and Clay Minerals International Community has been benefited by announcements and warning through the two AIPEA listserves. They are intended to make available quickly information about all areas of clay sciences.

The first AIPEA listserv (members@aipea.org) contains the e-mail addresses of all AIPEA members and from those of its Affiliated Societies all around the world. These addresses have already been uploaded and several messages have been sent during 2014. If your National Clay Group (NCG) is not included, please ask your representative to send the e-mail list of your fellows to the AIPEA webmaster.

Besides, AIPEA organized as well a “talk list” (talk@aipea.org) for people interested in Clay Science latu sensu, but who are not yet engaged in NCGs or AIPEA. Those interested in participate in the AIPEA talk listserv should send a message to talk.subscribe@aipea.org. Subscription to the list is completely free and you may remove your name from the list at any time sending a message to talk.unsubscribe@aipea.org.

All clay scientists who are not yet AIPEA member (nor a member of an Affiliated Society) can make their subscription by filling the form available at AIPEA website (http://www.aipea.org/downloads/aipea_membership_application_form.pdf) or at the end of this newsletter. By doing so, newcomers will automatically be included in the AIPEA members listserv.

We take this opportunity to remind all AIPEA members about the importance of paying their membership fee on time. If it is one year’s dues, the member will be in good standing for one year. However we encourage everybody to pay for the period of 4-years, which will make easier participation in all AIPEA activities longer. According to AIPEA statute and by-laws, if the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled and excluded from the AIPEA listserv.

So, if you want to share with AIPEA members information about any topic related to clay and clay minerals please send a synthetic message to the AIPEA webmaster (webmaster@aipea.org) and/or to the AIPEA Secretary-General Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (secretary@aipea.org or daisy@cemesp.petrobras.com.br).

Daisy Barbosa Alves
December / 2014

Recent and Upcoming Meetings

2015

JOURNÉES SURFACES ET INTERFACES - CEMES
January, 28-30th, 2015, Toulouse, France
E-mail: jsi2015@sciencesconf.org
Internet: http://jsi2015.sciencesconf.org/

6th WORKSHOP ON QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS
March, 9 - 13th, 2015, Karlsruhe, Germany
Organizers: Drs. Katja Emmerich and Annett Steudel
E-mail: annett.steudel@kit.edu
Internet: http://www.dmg.ethz.ch/workshop2015.html

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY YEAR OF MUD 2015
March, 4-5th, 2015, London, UK
Internet: http://www.shaleuk.com/

LYELL MEETING 2015 - MUD, GLORIOUS MUD AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FOSSIL RECORD
March, 11th, 2015, London, UK
Internet: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/lyell-2015

ISRAEL SOCIETY OF CLAY RESEARCH - CONFERENCE
March, 22nd, 2015, Raanana, Israel.
E-mail: nutrigm@openu.ac.il

6th INTERNATIONAL MEETING: CLAYS IN NATURAL AND ENGINEERED BARRIERS FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE CONFINEMENT
March, 23-26th, 2015, Brussels, Belgium
Contact: Kunstlaan 14 Avenue des Arts
1210 Brussels - BELGIUM
Phone: 02 212 10 60
E-mail: secretariat@clayconferencebrussels2015.com
Internet: http://www.clayconferencebrussels2015.com/

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015 EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION
April, 12-17th, 2015, Vienna, Austria
Contact: Copernicus Meetings
Bahnhofofalle 1e
37081 Göttingen
Germany
Phone: +49-551-900339-20
Fax: +49-551-900339-70
Internet: http://www.egu2015.eu/home.html
E-mail: egu2015@copernicus.org

59th BRAZILIAN CONGRESS ON CERAMICS - 59º CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE CERÂMICA
May, 17-20th, 2015, Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil
Chair: Samuel M. Toftoli - ABC / Poli-USP
Organizers: Metallium Congressos Técnicos e Científicos
Av Otacilio Tomazik, 236 - sala 02
Vila Polo Poli
Cep: 05363-000 São Paulo - Brasil
Phone / Fax: +55(11) 3731-8549 or +55(11) 3735-3772
Internet: http://www.metallum.com.br/59cbc
E-mail: cbc@metallum.com.br

18th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTERCALATION COMPOUNDS
May, 31st - June 4th, 2015, Strasbourg, France
Internet: http://isic18.u-strasbg.fr

AMAM 2015 - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED MINERALOGY & ADVANCED MATERIALS
June, 7-13th, 2015, Castellaneta Marina, Italy
Contact: Saviero Fiore
Adress: AMAM 2015 c/o Dept. Geoenvironmental & Earth Sciences
University Aldo Moro - Bari
Via Orabona 4, 70125 Bari - Italy
Phones: +39 080 544 2618 , +39 0971 42 7224 , +39
Obituary: José J. Fripiat (1923-2014)

Professor José J. Fripiat, prominent Belgian scientist and former professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) who contributed so much to the surface and solid state science of minerals and that of clay minerals in particular, passed away on February 17, 2014, in Mexico City at the age of 90.

Prof. Fripiat graduated in 1946 from UCL in chemistry. His MS thesis was on the relationship between polarization and molecular spring constants, illustrating at an early stage his lasting interest in physical chemistry, spectroscopy, and fundamental questions. He started his career as a “soil physicist” in a research institute located in the Belgian Congo. In 1986, he went to the United States to work at the Laboratory for Surface Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also worked at the Mexican Institute of Petroleum in Mexico City.

Prof. Fripiat was the author of more than 300 scientific papers and two books. He was a member of the Belgian Academy of Sciences and foreign member of the French Academy of Agriculture. In 1951, he received the Barman Award of the Belgium Royal Academy. In 1967, he was awarded the Francqui Prize on Exact Sciences for his work on surface chemistry. He became Honorary Member of the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) in 1988.

More information about his work and outstanding scientific achievements was recently provided by van Damme & Bergaya (2014a & b). Here we would like to highlight his main contributions as AIPEA member during his long career as a scientist. A perusal at the previous editions of AIPEA Newsletter shows several references of Prof. Fripiat’s contributions in many activities organized by AIPEA. For instance, he had collaborated in several committees which are vital parts of AIPEA activities. He served as Councillor for two periods: 1966-1969 and 1969-1972. He became AIPEA President from 1973 to 1975 and was made AIPEA Fellow in 2005.

He participated of several International Clay Conferences as prominent keynote speaker, as chair of scientific sessions and round tables, and presenting results of his researches. Also mentioned, are the many participation on meetings organized by several National or Regional Societies / Groups around the world along the years.

Professor José J. Fripiat is survived by his wife Graiciela, three sons, three daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and fifty grandchildren and great grandchildren.

AIPEA would like to express its gratitude to Prof. Fripiat by his constant cooperation and joint the international community in this plain tribute, sending sincere condolences to Professor Fripiat’s wife, children and family.

Reference:

Council Affairs

There was no AIPEA Ordinary Council Meeting during the year 2014. However some decisions on important matters related to AIPEA were made using AIPEA [Council] listserv. Participation of the Councillors was intense.

Discussion 2014/1 originated the AIPEA Memorandum 2014.

Topic: Proposal of AIPEA Website to host ECGA homepage (September, 2014).

Historical: Two years ago, European Clay Groups Association (ECGA) has asked AIPEA to host its website under the domain www.aipea.org. As AIPEA webmaster, Prof. Fiore led this discussion and there was a general agreement on a positive answer to the request. There was a main concern related to the image of both Associations and that it was necessary that national (or international, as in the case of ECGA) societies maintained their identity. This discussion was also done in the ECGA meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) and some technical solutions and requirements (page categories, costs, control of the site, etc.) were put out by Dr. Fiore.

One important aspect was the “category” of the hosting site: ECGA information could be disclosed as subpage (i.e., www.aipea.org/ecga_page) rather than as a third level (i.e., www.ecga.aipea.org). This proposal has been presented to the representatives of the European NCGs in a specific meeting. Recently, Dr. Peter Komadel, President of ECGA, communicated that the proposal of the ECGA Council to have a website running under the AIPEA domain was accepted and ECGA was waiting for a decision of AIPEA. The additional costs with this additional implement in the AIPEA homepage will be covered by ECGA.

Justification: To host the ECGA website will increase the visits (and, consequently, the “rank”) of AIPEA website.
AIPEA continues to be in a positive financial situation due to the ongoing support of several National Clay Groups. The international community is growing and new National Clay Groups are now supporting AIPEA activities. Welcome to the Croatian, Slovak and Tunisian Clay Groups. Also we welcome back the support of the French Clay Group. We continue to contribute to Elements Magazine which ensures that we have access to promoting AIPEA to the larger mineralogical community. Contributions from the XV International Clay Conference (ICC) meeting are pending electronic transfer.

**National Clay Groups** - AIPEA executive wish to acknowledge the continuing financial support from clay societies of Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Slovakia. We soon expect contributions from the Clay Minerals Society and the Tunisian Clay Group. The funds provided by these societies enable reduced registration fees for their members at upcoming ICC meetings and support for student oral and poster awards at both Euroclay and ICC meetings.

**Websites Support** - The website is now be supported by AIPEA. We need to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Saverio Fiore and the Italian Clay Group for setting up the website and keeping it up to date.

**Financial Statement** - The Balance Sheet and Profits & Loss statements are provided for 2014. Elements Magazine support is under “Advertising”.

**Future Considerations** - The Executive is looking at new ways to accept individual memberships without using the more expensive credit card method used in the past. As member dues are in US dollars, I cannot accept PayPal payments at a Canadian bank. This will be a focus of discussion at the upcoming Interim Council meetings, scheduled for Euroclay 2015.

Jeanne Percival
January / 2015

The Reynolds Cup competition has developed into a story of success (sometimes even mentioned as “world championship” in quantitative mineralogy). The competition is now in its 8th round (16th year) with participation increasing year by year. Whereas in the first competition in 2002 had 40 registrants and just 15 submitted results (rate 38%), the numbers increased in 2014 to 81 registrants from 21 countries with 67 submitted results (rate of 83%). The results of the most recent 7th CMS Reynolds Cup were announced at the CMS Annual meeting in College Station, TX in May 2014. The competition was won by Reinhard Kleeberg and his coworkers, Ulf Kempe and Robert Möckel (TU Bergakademie and Helmholtz Institute Freiberg, Germany). Reinhard Kleeberg is the first repeat winner of the Reynolds Cup. Second place went to Steve Hillier and his teammates, Helen Pendlowski, Nia Gray, and Ian Phillips (The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland). Jan Dietel and Jasminia Wojatschke (University Greifswald) and Kristian Ufer, Stephan Kauhold, and Reiner Dohrmann (BGR, LBE, Hannover, Germany) tied for third place.

The Reynolds Cup will continue in tradition in 2016, when the 8th competition will be organized by Reinhard Kleeberg. Further information about the competition, including guidelines and previous winners, along with descriptions of their methods can be found at http://clays.org/SOCIETY%20AWARDS/RCintro.html.

By Michael Plötz
December / 2014
The Reynolds Cup of The Clay Minerals Society

The Reynolds Cup competition is named after the late Prof. Robert C. Bob Reynolds Jr. Reynolds was known for his pioneering work in quantitative clay mineralogy among other great contributions to clay science. The Reynolds Cup competition was established in 2000 by the efforts of Douglas McCarty (Chevron ETC), Denis Eberl (USGS), and Jan Srodon (PAN, Poland). The Reynolds Cup competition is now regularly funded by The Clay Minerals Society CMS and the German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group DTTG. The primary goal of the Reynolds Cup is to stimulate improvements in techniques of quantitative mineral analysis and to develop individual skills in a competitive spirit.

The competition is held on a biennial basis and free for all to enter using any analytical method or choice of methods. The participants are sent three artificial mixtures that represent realistic clay-bearing sedimentary rock or soil compositions, and they must identify and quantify each component. The results submitted by the participants are ranked by the sums of the differences between the actual compositions and the measured compositions (bias). The entry with the smallest sum of absolute errors for the three samples provided is presented with the prestigious Reynolds Cup. Only the names of the top three contestants are announced at The Clay Minerals Society annual meeting, and they are presented with commemorative plaques. The names of all other participants remain confidential.

The Reynolds Cup presentation: from left, Jan Dietel (3rd place), Helen Pendlekovski and Dr. Steve Hillier (2nd place), and Dr. Michael Plôte (previous winner and contest organizer). (Photo courtesy of Michael Plôte.)

REPORTING FORM FOR IUGS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS 2014

Name of Affiliated Organization:
Association Internationale pour l'Etude des Argiles - AIPEA

Overall objectives:
AIPEA is an umbrella organisation for the world’s national clay societies. The aim of AIPEA is to promote international co-operation in clay research and technology. To fulfill this purpose its activities shall include the organization of: meetings - such as International Clay Conferences; field excursions; visits to centres of clay research and technology; publication of issues on clay research and technology; publication of a periodical Newsletter to inform members of activities concerning clay researches.

Relate goals to overall IUGS scientific objectives:
a. Organize and/or collaborate in the organization of conferences of clay worldwide interest;
b. Stimulation of excellency in young clay scientists;
c. Rewarding active clay scientists with a brilliant career in clay research;
d. Stimulation of communication along clay researchers and technologists.

Structure and organization:
AIPEA is administrated by a council formed by: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer (Officers), the immediate Past-President, six Ordinary Councillors, representatives of the Organizing Committee of next International Clay Conference, and the Chairs of the Nomenclature Committee, Teaching Committee and Hazardous Minerals. Updated list with the names of members of AIPEA Council for 2013-2017 includes:
Dr. Saverio FIORE, President - president@aipea.org (or saverio.fiore@cnr.it)
Prof. Joseph W. STUCKI, Vice-President - jstucki@illinois.edu
Dr. Daisy Barbosa ALVES, Secretary-General - secretary@aipea.org (or daisy@cenpes.petrobras.com.br)
Dr. Jeanne B. PERCIVAL, Treasurer - treasurer@aipea.org (or jeanne.percival@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca)
Prof. Christopher BREEN, Past President - c.breen@shu.ac.uk
Dr. F. Javier HUERTAS (Councillor, 2nd term)
Dr. Balwant SINGH (Councillor, 2nd term)
Prof. Helge STANJEK (Councillor, 2nd term)
Dr. Georgios CHRISTIDIS (Councillor, 1st term)
Dr. Victoria KRUPSKAYA (Councillor, 1st term)
Dr. Makoto OGAWA (Councillor, 1st term)
Dr. Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO (Representative of the 16th ICC)
Dr. Sabine PETIT, Teaching Committee
Prof. Stephen GUGGENHEIM, Nomenclature Committee
Dr. Saverio FIORE, Hazardous Minerals Committee

Interaction with other International organizations and projects:
AIPEA has 24 affiliated societies / groups from around the world: Algerian Clay Group, Australian Clay Minerals Society, (British & Irish) Clay Minerals Group, Clay Science Society of Japan, Croatian Clay Group, Czech National Clay Group, Dutch Clay Group, French Clay Group, German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group, Korean Clay Minerals Society, the German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group DTTG.
Chief accomplishments 2014 and plans for 2015:
AIPEA is being organized to adapt itself for the use of new medias with the purpose of keeping a better communication with clay scientists all over the world. Last year the AIPEA listserves have been made available. AIPEA will continue to produce its Annual Newsletter in digital format.

Specify how any IUGS Allocation for 2015 was used:
AIPEA is financially independent and receives income from individual members and affiliated societies and for registrations to the International Clay Conferences.

Budget request with justification for 2015 (only applicable to low income groups):
None.

Does your website have a link to IUGS?
Yes.

Name, address and e-mail of person preparing this report:
Dr. Daisy BARBOSA ALVES, Secretary General Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. - Research Center (CENPES) Rua Horacio Macedo 950, Cidade Universitaria Ilha do Fundao - Rio de Janeiro - RJ - CEP: 21941-915 Brazil

By Daisy Barbosa Alves November/2014

94 p.

The Clay Minerals Society publishes a Clay Glossary, and this is located on the CMS website.

The 16th annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society will be held 5-10 July 2015 jointly with the European Clay Groups Association (EuroClay), the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society (CMG) and Anke Neumann (Newcastle) have been asked to look at this. RSC may be a good partner.


By Steve Guggenheim October / 2014

UNIVERSITY

Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society (GB and Ireland)

Committee Changes
A committee meeting was held by telephone on the 2nd May 2014. John Adams stood down as chairperson of the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society (CMG), and Chris Greenwell agreed to stand for 3 years.

Research in Progress Meeting
The postponed March meeting was held, on the 25th September 2014. The meeting was jointly held with the Environmental Mineralogy Group and held at the Department of Earth Sciences, Durham University. There were 48 attendees, covering all aspects of clay science and its applications. Presentations were given by 14 early career researchers and two keynote speakers (Prof Jon Lloyd, Manchester; and Prof L. Bizzarri, Diamond!). There were also 10 posters registered.

CMG-Sponsored Activities
CMG sponsored a keynote at the Cements and Concrete Science, 2014 meeting in Sheffield. Andrej Kalincic ev was invited and spoke on simulating rad waste immobilization in clays. CMG have also sponsored Mark Wilkins as a speaker at the Mid European Clay Conference, held in Dresden in September.

Euroclay 2015
The Euroclay Conference working group has continued to make good progress. A workshop has been organised by Reiner Dohrman (ECGA), Thorsten Schaffer and Chris Greenwell (CMG) on multi-scale pore structure in shales.

CMG-Future Activities
Two further meetings are suggested for consideration for 2015-2016. These are:
• Redox processes at mineral surfaces: This has potential to bridge a number of the SIGs, EMG, CMG, MRI, AMG, Microbiology etc. Richard McCabe (CMG) and Anke Neumann (Newcastle) have been asked to look at this. RSC may be a good partner.
• Shale & Clays in Soil Slope, Tunnel, Hydraulic Fracturing & Borehole Engineering: Will cover swelling, adhesion, fracking etc. Being followed up by Harry Shaw and Chris Greenwell.

Committee:
• Chair: Chris Greenwell (chris.greenwell@durham.ac.uk)
• Secretary: Simon Kemp (sjk@bgs.ac.uk)
• Treasurer: David Wray (david.wray@greenwich.ac.uk)
• Editor of Clay Minerals: G.E. Christidis
• Board Members: Jenny Huggett Frances Clegg
• Steve Hiller
• Chris Jeans
• Richard McCabe
• Harry Shaw
• Kevin Taylor
• Nick Tosca
• Jeff Wilson

By Chris Greenwell December / 2014
The 7th Mid-European Clay Conference was held at Dresden-Radebeul, September 16th to 19th, 2014.

Clay groups from East- and Mid-European countries established in 2001 the first joint meeting called “Mid-European Clay Conference” (MECC). Originally the purpose was to substitute the small national annual meetings by a bigger one, offering a broader scientific perspective and allowing students to present their first scientific work to an international audience. Beginning with the first MECC in Stará Lesná / Slovakia, six meetings were held and the conference evolved to a lively and fruitful meeting filling the gaps in the schedule between the AIPEA ICCs and the Euroclay conferences. In 2014 the German-Swiss-Austrian clay group - “Deutsche Ton- und Tonmineralgruppe” (DTTG) - was in charge of the organization of the 7th MECC.

The place of the conference was the Radisson Blu Park Hotel, situated in Radebeul close to Dresden, the capital of the State of Saxony. Dresden was chosen for its rich regional clay industrial history such as the development of the European porcelain in the beginning of the 18th century as well as the important clay and kaolin industry in the surrounding areas.

With 255 participants, 72 of which were students, the conference was very well attended. The delegates came from 38 (!) countries. More than 2/3 of the participants originated from outside the six national MECC groups.

A total of 230 contributions, including five plenary lectures, six keynote talks, 129 regular orals and 90 posters, filled three days of exciting new clay research presentations in three parallel sessions.

The program was organized in eleven topics:
- Stability of engineered clay barriers in radioactive waste disposal
- Clay minerals in diagenetic and low temperature metamorphic environments
- Clay minerals in hydro- and geothermal systems
- Analytical tools for improved characterization of clays and clay minerals
- Industrial clays
- Clays and clay-sized minerals in soils and in young sediments
- Properties and processes at the aqueous interface of clay minerals
- General session

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

Recent Workshop volumes are:
- Volume 17, Clays of Yellowstone National Park, CMS Workshop Lectures, $30 (Paul Schroeder, ed.),
- Volume 16, Clays in geological processes, $30 (Michal Skiba, ed.),
- Spectroscopy of clays, $30 (Georgios Chrysikos, ed.),
- Molecular simulation of clay minerals and reactions, $30 (Xiandong Liu and Andrey Kalinichev, eds.),
- Crystal structure of clay minerals, $30 (Helge Stanjek, ed.),
- Interactions of clay minerals with microorganisms and biomolecules, $30 (Qiaoyun Huang and Deb P. Jaisi, eds.),
- Teaching clay mineralogy, $30 (Paul A. Schroeder, ed.),
- General session, $30 (Bruce Herbert, ed.).
The responsible conveners did a great job, putting together the program quite early, which may also have contributed to the high participation. All abstracts were evaluated and summarized in a program and abstract booklet, still available at https://www.mecc2014.de.

The morning and afternoon sessions were opened by plenary talks given by invited speakers and representing the wide spectrum of fields in clay science. The first lecture was presented by Fernando Nieto Garcia (University Granada, ES). In his talk on the physical meaning of clay mineral indices and reaction progress in pelitic rocks he summarized the results of different modern analytical methods improving our understanding of the processes in diagenesis and metamorphism. Boris Salzhavar (Akademija Nauk, Moscow, RUS) summarized the value and success of the simulation of XRD patterns of clay mineral defective structures. Steve Hillier (Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, UK) presented an elucidating talk on the mineral vermiculite and the complications in its analysis and nomenclature.

The DTTG introduced the new Gerhard Lagaly Award recognizing an outstanding mid-career researcher in clay science. The first awardee, Dr. Juraj Bujdák from the Comenius University at Bratislava and the Slovak Academy of Science, presented a fascinating lecture on the interaction of organic dyes and clay minerals. The British Clay Minerals Group (CMG) dedicated their “Clay Minerals Group Lecture” to the MECC. This talk was presented by Mark Wilkinson from the University of Edinburgh. He discussed the methods of estimating rates of mineral reactions in diagenetic systems, an important subject in sedimentology, and for the application of new technologies like carbon capture and storage.

Four fieldtrips were organized in addition to the technical sessions. Albert Gilg (Technical University of Munich) guided a three-day excursion from Munich to Radebeul and back, showing a number of clay-, kaolin-, and bentonite deposits and outcrops in Bavaria. Additionally three one-day excursions led to classical kaolin- and clay deposits in the Meissen area (by Reinhard Kleeberg and Jan-Michael Lange), to the clay- and kaolin industry in Lusatia (Ralf Diedel and Katrin Kleeberg), and to landmarks of mineralogy and mining in Freiberg/Saxony (TU Bergakademie Freiberg). The fieldtrips were well attended, directly related with colloids and clay science are also presented in many Ukrainian universities, e.g. “Surface phenomena and dispense systems”, “Solid state chemistry”, and (Khmelnitsky National University), “Physical and colloidal chemistry” (Lviv National Medical University named Daniel Galician), “Surface phenomena” (Kherson State Technical University), “Physical and Colloid Chemistry” Lviv Polytechnica, etc.

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By Nikolai Lebovka
December / 2014

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY (NORTH AMERICA) - CMS

The Clay Minerals Society’s (CMS) 51st Annual Meeting was held at Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, U.S.A. from 17-21 May 2014. The theme of the meeting was “Everything is big: From nanoparticles to planets.” The general chair of the meeting was Youjun Deng with Gary Beal, Sam Fesley, Bruce Herbert, William Jaynes, and Li Zhang as the Organizing Committee. Dr. Will P. Gates, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia and SmeTech Research Consulting, 24 Chapel Road, Moorabbin, Victoria, received the Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Science Award and presented a lecture entitled “Treading the applied-based research road: two routes to enhanced hydraulic barrier performance of bentonites.” The Pioneer in Clay Science Award was presented to Dr. Douglas W. Ming, Astro-materials Research and Exploration Science Directorate, NASA Parkway, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, who gave a lecture entitled “Clays and clay minerals on mars: indicators for aqueous processes and habitable environments.” In addition, Dr. Jin-Ho Choy, Center for Intelligent Nano-Bio Materials, Department of Chemistry and NanoScience and Department of Bioinspired Science, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Republic of Korea, presented a special plenary lecture entitled “Anionic clay-biomolecular interaction self-assemblies: Multiphunctional nano-bio hybrid materials for gene and drug delivery”.

Participants of fieldtrip 1, guided by Albert Gilg (in yellow boots), visiting the bentonite mine Rehbach near Gammelsdorf/Bavaria (photo courtesy of Sofia Lessovaia)
sociated with worsening of their unique properties. The increased dispersion degree results in drastic changes in dielectric and electro-optical characteristics of the suspensions. Dispersing and insulating effects of the Laponite platelets on CNTs lead to the absence of classical percolation of conductivity, linear growth of dielectric constant with CNT concentration, as well as reduction of Frederiks threshold and significant growth of contrast ratio of the E7+CNTs suspensions. It was shown that adding of a small amount (0.1 wt. %) of organomodified laponite (LapO) nanoplatelets resulted in drastic changes in dielectric and electro-optical characteristics of the suspensions of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) in nematic liquid crystal 5CB. Addition of LapO leads to the absence of classical percolation of conductivity and dielectric constant of 5CB-CNTs composites, as well as reduction of Frederiks threshold and significant growth of the contrast ratio of the 5CB-CNTs samples.

Representative publications and participation at conferences:


Conferences:


Embedded in the conference, a round table discussion on problems in “Kübler index” standardization was organized by Rafael Ferreiro Mahlmann and Laurence Warr. While the MECC and ECGA board meetings and the DTTG assembly took place, the other participants could choose one of the two sightseeing bus tours to Dresden.

The conference dinner was held on Thursday evening in a historical storage of the narrow gauge railway station, in walking distance from the conference hotel. Despite eating the delicious buffet, drinking and dancing into the night, the participants were highly motivated and listened numerously to the plenary session on Friday morning.

During the conference the 59 student contributions were evaluated by up to five referees each. The three best oral and poster contributions were awarded a trophy in the closing ceremony. Poster awards went to Lukáš Petra and Peter Boháč (Bratislava) and to Florian Schnetzer (Karlsruhe). The best oral contributions were presented by

with 57 participants. Assisted by dry and sunny days in autumn, the visits of clay pits and outcrops, including sampling, were well received by the participants.

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Vincent Trincal (Besaçon), Ben Laurinch and Christian Weber (Aachen). This year there have been many excellent student presentations reaching similar evaluations to the ones named above, demonstrating the high quality of the student presentations at the conference.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I want to express my gratitude to all colleagues for contributing to the 7th MECC, to the teams of Conventus and the Radisson Blu Park hotel for their technical organization, to our sponsors for the generous support, and to all participants for coming.

The next, 8th MECC will be held in 2016, July 4-8, in Košice/Slovakia, organized by the Slovak Clay Group.

By Reinhard Kleeberg, TU Bergakademie Freiberg

October/2014
National and Regional Clay Groups

This session of the AIPEA Newsletter brings together all the reports sent by its Affiliated Societies up to December 2014. It represents an effort to coordinate communication among all the National Clay Group members and the individual members of AIPEA. It aims to become a key vehicle for communication of all clay scientists.

This issue of AIPEA Newsletter has received reports from several affiliated societies / groups. However some countries do not have yet formal clay societies and, in these cases, AIPEA count with the collaboration of liaison-officers, who gracefully accepted this invitation. We are very grateful to everybody who answered our call for cooperation. We would like still to remind you that reports from some traditional affiliated societies are still missing and to encourage their representatives to publish their reports next year.

Unfortunately, AIPEA has received formal information that the Nordic Society for Clay Research and the Dutch Clay Group are no more in activity. Therefore, AIPEA gathers by now twenty-two affiliated societies from worldwide.

The readers will notice that the content of each report are particular from each society which brings together their national flavor. Some reports included some photos and we had to make a selection of them in order to keep the size of this edition easy to be accessed by digital means. All has been done with much care and interest. So we wish you a pleasant reading.

Daisy Barbosa Alves
AIPEA Secretary-General

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY

The year immediately following the biennial Conference of the Australian Clay Minerals Society is always a quiet one in terms of Society activities. Over this time Society members reflect and act on the concepts put forward at the Conference.

One important development for the Society is that the current President (Will Gates) has held discussions with the Asian Clay Science Group (ACSG) about possible collaborations between the ACSG and the ACMS. The feasibility of a joint ACSG and ACMS Conference is the subject of ongoing discussions.

A recent development in Australia that is of considerable interest to ACMS members is that Australian regulatory bodies (notably Environmental Protection Agencies) have placed stringent requirements on clay materials use for site remediation and for impervious purposes. This is a reflection of a greater interest in the properties of clays from both government departments and private industry including the mining industry. For ACMS members this increase in interest has meant a greater demand for the testing of colloids in various forms including sedimentation-consolidation experiments and (ii) permeate volume and filter cake dryness on centrifugation time and centrifugal acceleration in filtration-consolidation experiments. The combined analysis of these curves yields the pressure dependencies of local cake dryness, speciﬁcal aeration and consolidation coeﬃcient in the wide range of solid/liquid pressure ratios (5x103 - 5x105 Pa). Application of MC requires a relatively small quantity of suspension (about 2 ml). The method was tested for suspensions with different filterabilities and compressibilities: calcium carbonate, kaolin and yeast suspensions. The pressure dependencies of cake dryness, speciﬁc cake resistance, and consolidation coeﬃcient, determined by MC, were in correspondence with those determined in the series of conventional constant pressure dead-end ﬁltration-consolidation experiments.

5. Liquid crystal suspensions of carbon nanotubes assisted by organically modified Laponite (O. Yaroshchuk)

A simple and effective approach for dispersion of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) into liquid crystals (LCs), suitable for a wide range of CNT concentrations, was developed. It consists in doping of LC-CNT suspensions with Laponite, which shows high affinity to the nanotubes. The organo-modified Laponite platelets surround CNTs and hamper their aggregation. At the same time, they do not hinder orientational ordering of CNTs imposed by LC matrix. This approach avoids problems of direct organo-modification of CNTs as...
During the last General Assembly Meeting that took place on January 22nd, 2014 in Ankara, the Executive Committee Members were elected for the term 2014-2015. The original Statutes of the Turkish National Committee on Clay Science was re-approved to include the amendments for changing the National Committee’s title as “Clay Science Society-Turkey” and restructuring the Executive Committee. For information about our Clay Science Society, please visit our website at http://claysciencesociety.org.

The Executive Committee Members for 2014-2015 are as follows:

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Activities in 2014
No clay meetings or workshops were organized during 2014. Most of our efforts were directed to national and international clay meetings planned for the coming year.

Our Clay Science Society was represented by Prof. Dr. Selahattin Kadir, the member of the Executive Committee, at the Council Meeting that took place during the 7th Mid-European Clay Conference-MECC-2014, Radeboel, Germany.

Activities Planned for 2015
1. The 16th National Clay Symposium will be held during 2-5th September 2015 at Çanakkale, Turkey. Çanakkale 18 Mart University will host the Symposium. Çanakkale is a town and seaport in Turkey, on the southern coast of the Dardanelles. In the surrounding region, economical kaolin deposits including kaolinite, halloysite and alunite are hosted by andesitic tuffs. These clays are utilized as raw materials for Turkish ceramic industry e.g. Kale Ceramic is one of the 17 companies comprising the Kale Group which is Europe’s 3rd and the world’s 12th largest ceramics manufacturer.


2. During 2014, the activities related to the organization of the 3rd Mediterranean Clay Meeting at İzmir, Turkey in 2016 have been initiated and its preliminary announcement was made in the Council Meeting which took place during MECC-2014. There has been a long time break since the last Mediterranean Clay Meeting. 4th MCM, which was held in Ankara, Turkey in September, 2006. As shall also be supported by the AIPAE, we hope that the organization of the 5th MCM will be as successful as the previous ones.

By Asuman G. Türkmenoğlu
December / 2014

BRAZILIAN CLAY GROUP

The Brazilian Clay Group (GBA), a branch of the Brazilian Geochemical Society (SBGq), began its activities around 2009, gathering clay scientists interested in the clays and clay minerals.

Technical Meetings
During 2014, Brazilian clay scientists presented the results of their researches in two main national events, as follows:

a. The 58th Brazilian Congress on Ceramics, which took place at Bento Gonçalves (RS) from May 18 to 21st, 2014. There were 436 participants from 21 Brazilian states, besides participants from other countries (Germany, Argentina, Cuba, Portugal and USA). A fair was organized with 10 firms which sponsored the event (http://www.abceram.org.br).

3. Activities Planned for 2015
4. There were a total of 505 technical papers (50 oral and 446 posters), 11 conferences, 2 plenary lectures and 3 round tables. Three short courses, one workshop and a technical visit also took place.

Awards were delivered to:
- Fernando Scotti by the Best Paper of Post-Graduated Student - Catalytic potential of Sr, K, TiC(MZ3O) doped glasses, where x=0.2, 0.3 e 0.5, in the preparation of biodiesel’ (in Portuguese).
- Francisco Pirmino Neto for the Best Work on Ceramicogy - ‘Microscopic characterization of ZrO2 doped by addition of YNbO3 sintered in air’ (in Portuguese).
- Rafael Salomão et al. by the Best Paper - ‘Microstructures with hierarchised porosity produced from continuous Al2O3/Al(OH)3/quitosane fibres’ (in Portuguese).
- Antonio Carlos da Silva et al. by the second Best Paper - Glasses with percolative effect: possible compositional model’ (in Portuguese).
- Edmilion Ricelli dos Passos et al. by the third Best Paper - ‘Understanding the influence of rutania in the processing of eutremolitic brown alumina and its characterization for abrasive applications’ (in Portuguese).

b. The 47th, Brazilian Geological Congress, which took place in Salvador (Ba) from September 21 to 26th. A list of contributions follows:
- Environmental impact produced by the extraction of clays for civil construction in the São Felicis, Metropolitan region of Marabá, SE Pará - Figuere, R.L et al. (in Portuguese).
- Preliminary analysis on the identification of kaolinite in the Rio Campim Area (PA) by remote sensing - Almeida, R.C et al. (in Portuguese).
- Preliminary analysis on the identification of kaolinite in the Rio Campim Area (PA) by remote sensing - Almeida, R.C et al. (in Portuguese).
- Mineralogical, chemical and textural analyses of clay deposits from the Tambau County (SP) - Figueira, V.A.A et al. (in Portuguese).
- Geological parameters for the search of vermiculite in the Southern Alkaline Province of the Bahia State - Torres, J.D.P et al. (in Portuguese).
- Using the Amigo index in the characterization of cry stallinity of kaolinites from deposits of the Alter do Chão Formation, Felipe II Hill, Amazon Basin - Machado, J.R.M. et al. (in Portuguese).
- Petrographical aspects of the kaolinitic deposits from

emitted spectrum (ONES) and emissivity ASTE data - Senna, J.A et al. (in Portuguese).
- Adsorption of methylene blue in water using sanitary clays and industrial waste modified by Niobium per- toxide - Reo, E.L et al. (in Portuguese).
- Evaluation of the potential and quality of clays from metropolitan region of Fortaleza - CE - Gomes, I.P et al. (in Portuguese).
- Sustainability in the mining industrial clays activities in Iranduba County (AM) - Souza, M.M. (in Portuguese).
- Study of clays from the Doce and the Mucuri Rivers valleys - Salvo, L.P.P et al. (in Portuguese).
- Occurrence of halloysite associated to hydrothermalized altered facies of the Madeira Granite, Ptinge Mine (AM) - Pereira, C.B. et al. (in Portuguese).
- Determination of industrial parameters of the clays from central region of the Baixo Jaguaribe (CE) - Souza, A.C et al. (in Portuguese).
- Influence of teconic charge on ilite from the Serra de Santa Helena Formation, Bambuí Group - Barroso, R.H.G et al. (in Portuguese).
- Structural study of kaolin deposits from Amazons by Rietveld refinement method - Pereira, W.L et al. (in Portuguese).
- Analysis of clay layers from the Sete Lagos Formation in the Bezeria region (GO) by X-ray fluorescence and diffraction - Sampaio, L.F et al. (in Portuguese).
- Mineral panorama of the extraction of clays in the Cedro de São João County (SE) - Barros, V.A et al. (in Portuguese).
- Mineral and metamorphic analyses of clay minerals of samples from drilling cores of the Vazante and the Canastra Groups, NW Minas Gerais - González, S et al. (in Portuguese).
- Mineralogical, textural and mineralogical composition of clay deposits from the Paraná Basin - Viana, A.A et al. (in Portuguese).
- Environmental impact produced by the extraction of clays for civil construction in the São Felix District, metropolitan region of Marabá, SE Pará - Figuere, R.L et al. (in Portuguese).
- Preliminary analysis on the identification of kaolinite in the Rio Campim Area (PA) by remote sensing - Almeida, R.C et al. (in Portuguese).
- Mineralogical, chemical and textural analyses of clay deposits from the Tambau County (SP) - Figueira, V.A.A et al. (in Portuguese).
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- Petrographical aspects of the kaolinitic deposits from

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the Alter do Chão Formation, Northern and Western trenches from Felipe II Hill, Amazon Basin - Lima, R.S. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Chemical, mineralogical and technological analyses of clays from Campos Gerais County (MG) for use in the red ceramic industry - Gaspar Junior, L.A. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Kaolin deposit developed onto the São Gabriel Granite, Mapuara Suite - Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas - Motta, M.B. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Drainage of clay and sand-rich soils by lysimeters and the estimate of underground recharge - Cabrera, M.C.M. et al. (in Portuguese).

- The Rietveld refinement applied to bauxite and clay cover from Juruti (PA) - Negrão, L.B.A. et al. (in Portuguese).


- Effect of sample preparation in the study of minerals by X-ray diffraction and the application of Rietveld method - Freitas, B.G.A. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Smeectite as transport agent for Nitrogen from the sublithospheric mantle - Cedeño, D.G. et al. (in Portuguese).

Publication

Cerâmica is a peer reviewed journal published by the Brazilian Ceramics Society (http://www.abceram.org.br) and is part of isiknowledge.com. All papers published since 1998, belonging to the database Scientific Electronic Library Online, may now be retrieved and referenced at www.scielo.br/ce.

Four issues of Cerâmica are published every year. By the time of preparation of this report only three issues from volume 60 were available: 353, 354 and 355. Several papers published in the year 2014 deal with clay and clay minerals and we recommend their perusal, as follows:

- Dynamic modulus of asphalt mix with sintered calcined clay aggregate - by Silva, C. L. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Popular ceramic Rio Real: technical tradition and art in clay - by Silva, A. C. M. A. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Masonry mortars containing expanded vermiculite and rubber aggregates from recycled tires: relevant properties - Cintra, C. L. D. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Procession methods of a palygorskite clay from S. Luís-Grajatí basin, Alcantara, MA, Brazil, and its use as a phosphorus adsorbent - Rodrigues, G. M. A. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Adsorbent clays applied in vegetable oil clarification - by Patricio, J. S. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Synthesis and characterization of mesoporous vermiculite obtained by modification with aluminum complex salts and lanthanum - Fernandes, M. V. S. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Characterization studies of new deposits of smectite clays from Sossego district, PB, Brazil - Pereira, I. D. S. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Effect of high-energy ball milling in the structural and textural properties of kaolinite - Leonel, E. C. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Synthesis and characterization of smectite clay Zn-stevensite - Hildebrando, E. A. et al. (in Portuguese).

- Evaluation of the effect of different heat treatments on the smectite phases transformation - by Gonçalves, W. P. et al. (in Portuguese).

Opening ceremony of the 58th Brazilian Congress on Ceramics (from www.abceram.org.br).

Rafael Salomão receives the Best Paper Award during the 58th Brazilian Congress on Ceramics (from www.abceram.org.br).

Visit of a Marble stone quarry in North East of Tunisia November 2014. (Photo courtesy of Fakher Jamoussi).

Visit to a Quartz Sand quarry in North East of Tunisia November 2014 (Photo courtesy of Fakher Jamoussi).

Scientific excursion in the North West of Tunisia with Belgium’s colleagues in September 2014. (Photo courtesy of Fakher Jamoussi).

Visit to a Quartz Sand quarry in North East of Tunisia November 2014 (Photo courtesy of Fakher Jamoussi).
The Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) has also organized scientific excursion for the students of the University of Sfax (Tunisia) in the context of the valorization of Clays, Quartz sand and carbonates organized in November 7-8th, 2014.

For further information, please contact:
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Internet: www.tcg.tn

Activity of the Tunisian Clay Group during 2014

Participation to congress and symposium:
Some members of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) participated during 2014 to the following congress and symposium with the presentation of several communications:
• The 12th international association of engineering geology and the environment congress. IAGX XII seminar. Torino. 15-19th, September 2014. Hammamer, Tunisia.

In December 8th, 2014 some members of Tunisian Clay Group have participated to study day on “Gaz de schiste et de charbon, quelques aspects d’ingénierie” Mons Belgium December 8th, 2014. (Photo courtesy of Fakher Jamoussi).

Organization of scientific excursion:
The Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) has organized a scientific excursion in the North West of Tunisia with a Belgian’s colleagues in September 8-13th, 2014 for the valorization of clay in this region.
The 21st IMA Meeting, Johannesburg (South Africa), September 1-5th
Several GFA members acted as convenors for the 21st General Meeting of IMA, September 1-5th, 2014, Johannesburg (South Africa). Jean-Louis Robert and Maguy Jaber (with Birgit Schampera, Rosa Torreses and Sabine Verry) have been in charge of the “General Session: Clay Science”, and Bruno Lanson and Eric Ferrage (with Douglas McCarty), have managed the session “Structural characterization of lamellar compounds”.

International Master in Advanced Clay Science (IMACS), Graduation ceremony, 11th September
The third graduation ceremony of the IMACS was held in Poitiers (France), on 11th September. Congratulations to the new IMACS graduates: Audrey Merleau (FR), Zane Pruse (IWA), Kyriaki Kiskira (GR), Anna Claudia Vecchione (IT), Fabrizio Pelosi (IT), Eleonora Bakker (NZL), Natal, Brasil) and Yayoi Matsumoto (JAP). Several GFA members acted as convenors for the 21st General Meeting of IMA, September 1-5th, 2014, Johannesburg (South Africa). Jean-Louis Robert and Maguy Jaber (with Birgit Schampera, Rosa Torreses and Sabine Verry) have been in charge of the “General Session: Clay Science”, and Bruno Lanson and Eric Ferrage (with Douglas McCarty), have managed the session “Structural characterization of lamellar compounds”.

Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC’14), Dresden (Germany), September 16-19th
About twenty members of the GFA joined the Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC 2014), in Dresden (Germany), September 16-19th. During this meeting, the session ”Crystal structure of clay minerals” was organized by Eric Ferrage (with Kristian Ufer), and Anne-Claire Gaillot has been invited (with Victor Drats, Alain Manseau, Martine Lanson and Bruno Lanson) to give a lecture entitled “The phyllomanganates, crystal structure of a large family”.

12th Annual Symposium of the GFA, Pau (France), October 28-29th
This Symposium, organized by François Martin and Jean-Louis Robert, was paired this year with the 24th French Earth Sciences Biannual Meeting (24ème RST). About fifty people attended.

Spain

SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY
The Sociedad Española de Arcillas (SEA - Spanish Clay Society) organized the XXIII Scientific Meeting at Toledo (Spain) in the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha on September 10th-12th, 2014, with contributions from sixty participants.

The Organiser Committee was formed by SEA members from the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, coordinated by Dr. Emilia García-Romero (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid).

The Conference program included:
- Plenary letures:
  • “Clays in Mars”, Dr. Javier Cuadros (Natural History Museum, London, UK).
  • “Bionanocomposites based on fibrous clays as adsortents aqueous environments” Dr. Ana C. S. Alcántara (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, Brazil).

- Scientific sessions of oral and poster presentations.
- Round Table on “Quantitative analysis of clays”, with Dr. Emilio Galán and Dr. Mercedes Suarez as speakers. Dr. Suarez introduced the preliminary results of an interlaboratory test organised by SEA with participation of SEA members and Dr. Galán led the discussion.
- Geological excursion to visit some quarries of ceramic and special clays in the area of Toledo.
- Announcement of the winners to the awards offered by SEA:
  • Young Researchers’ Award 2014 to Cristina Fernández Barranco (Universidad de Jaen).
  • “Initiation to Clay Studies Award 2014” for a Masters Thesis to Javier Garcia Rivas (Universidad de Salamanca) and Ines Aguilar (Universidad de Sevilla).

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By Jana Madejová
December / 2014

-Annual General Meeting of the SEA. During the Annual General Meeting the new SEA Council was elected. The Executive Committee is formed by:
  • President: Dr. F. Javier Huertas
  • Past President: Dr. Mercedes Suarez
  • VicePresident: Dr. Fernando Nieto
  • Secretary: Dr. Patricia Aparicio
  • Treasurer: Dr. César Vieras
  • Members of the Council: Dr. Jacinto Alonso
Plans for 2015

The third Russian workshop on clay and clay minerals “Clays-2015”. The fourth Russian School on clay minerals “Agilia Studium-2015”. Updating of the Russian Clay Group website, including information about the members of the group, their publications and researches.

By Victoria Krupskaya

December / 2014

SLOVAKIA
SLOVAK CLAY GROUP

Main activities of the Slovak Clay Group (SCG) in 2014 included

1. The workshop "Novelty in the Slovak research of clays and selected non-metallic raw materials" was held in Modra, Slovakia on 29 - 30 May 2014. The main goal was to provide the PhD students and young scientists the possibility to present and discuss their results among themselves and with senior scientists. The project activities of the SCG members were debated as well. The workshop was partly supported financially by the “Council of the Scientific Societies at the Slovak Academy of Sciences”.

2. The SCG members presented 18 contributions on the 7th Mid European Clay Conference held at Dresden-Radebeul, 16th - 19th September, 2014. Dr. Juraj Bujdák, as a first awardee, was honored with the Gerhard Lagaly Award introduced by the DTTG for an outstanding mid-career researcher in clay science. The PhD students from Bratislava, Lukáš Petra and Peter Bohač were awarded in the Poster competition.

3. The SCG members presented their scientific contributions on the "Vth International Workshop on Layered Materials: From the bulk to nanosheets" held in Mulhouse, France, on 27th - 29th August, 2014. The Best Poster Award was attributed to PhD student Valeria Bizovská from Bratislava.

4. SCG co-organized the lecture of Andras Fehervari from the Monash University in Melbourne: "Modification of geosynthetic clay liners for enhanced containment of calcic and hypersaline leachates”.

SCG Council is formed by:
- President: Jana Madejová
- Vice-president: Peter Komadel
- Secretary: Iveta Strytáková
- Members: Adrián Bírský and Peter Uhlik

Two plenary lectures were presented (in French):
- "Fluid-rocks interactions in asteroids: formation of chondritic serpentines" by Agnès Elmaléh, University Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris and
- "Characterization of clayed formations through a multiscale and multidisciplinary approach", by Claire Fialips, TOTAL Exploration, Pau.

At the end of the Meeting, three students were rewarded for their research work:
- Ameni Gharaouni (with Emmanuel Joussein, Basma Samet, Samir Boulou and Sylvie Rosigniol): “Study of the reactivity of an aluminosilicate source consisting of a metakaolin and Tunisian clay in the presence of alkaline solutions” (in French). Imerys Ceramics funded award.
- Marie Claverie (with François Martin, Jean-Paul Tarby, Martin Cyr, Philippe de Parsval, Olivier Grauby and Anne-Magali Seydoux-Guillaume): “Study of morpho-crystal-chemical transformations of various kaolin clays in a flash calcination” (in French). GFA award for oral presentation by a Master student.
- Flavien Choulet (with Martine Buatier, Régis Guégan, Luc Barbanson and Aomar Ennaciri): “Characterization and origin of clays in non-sulphide Zn ore deposits: example from the Bou Arhous ore deposit (Morocco)”. GFA award for poster presentation.

Material 2014, Montpellier (France), November 24-28

This major congress was organized by the French Federation of Materials (FFM), which includes 28 societies, including the GFA. More than 1700 attendees followed the 19 parallel sessions.

The GFA has been particularly active in the session "Porous, granular and high specific area materials” (in French).

Project: Euroclay 2019 in Paris

The GFA was mobilized for the preparation of Paris application, to the organisation of Euroclay 2019, July from 1 - 5th, 2019.

A Local Organizing Committee and an International Advisory Board have already been established. The salient topics have been defined. This event is supported by many institutional and industrial partners.

On the occasion of the ECOA meeting in Dresden, during MECC’14, September 18th, Jean-Louis Robert, presented the draft of this project.

French Clay Group (GFA) - Executive Committee Members (2014)

President: Jean-Louis ROBERT - Université Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris
Vice-President: Frederic Villéras - University of Lorraine
Treasurer: Nicole Liewig - Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, University of Strasbourg
Secretary: Gaëlle Dufour - CNRS, Paris

By Jean-Louis Robert
November / 2014

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

In 2014 the DTTG was extremely busy in the preparation of the 7th Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC) held at September 16-19th, 2014, in Dresden, Germany. The conference was well attended and a great success for our society. A detailed report will be given separately in this newsletter.

The general meeting of the DTTG was held at September 18th. The assembly enacted some changes in the bylaws and elected a new executive and advisory board. The new president PD Dr. Katja Emmerich appreciated the successful work of the former president Prof. Helge Stanjek, the treasurer Dr. Reiner Doehrmann, and the secretary Dr. Michael Ploetze.

The newly introduced Gerhard Lagaly Award of the DTTG, recognizing outstanding research of mid-career clay scientists, went to Dr. Juraj Bujdák from the Comenius University at Bratislava and the Slovak Academy of Science. The awardee presented a plenary lecture at the MECC.

There was no nomination for the Karl Jasmund Award in 2014.

The DTTG supported some student members with travel grants for the 51st CMS Annual Meeting and the 7th MECC. Moreover, some plenary speakers of the MECC were invited by the society.

In 2014 the 7th Reynolds Cup in quantitative clay mineral analysis took place, organized by Michael Ploetze, ETH Zurich. The results were presented at the 51st annual meeting of the CMS from 7 - 21st May at College Station, TX, USA. See: http://www.clays.org/SOCIETY%20AWARDS/7thRCresults.html. Members of the DTTG performed very successfully, finally occupying five of the top six positions. The 4th rank was shared by Annett
Steudel and Katja Emmerich from Karlsruhe and Rieko Adriaens and Gilles Mertens from Leuven/Belgium. At the third position tied the Hannover group (Kristian Ulér, Stephan Kauthold and Reiner Dohrmann) with our young members Jan Dietel and Jasmin Woitaschke from Greifswald. The group from Aberdeen/Scotland, consisting of Steve Hillier, Helen Pendowski, Nia Gray and Ian Phillips, reported a total bias identical with that of the winning group from Freiberg (Reinhard Kleeberg, Robert Möckel, and Ulf Kempe). The next Reynolds Cup is scheduled for 2016 and will be organized by Reinhard Kleeberg, Freiberg.

The international DTTG-Workshop “Qualitative and quantitative analysis of clays and clay minerals” is organized every second year, see http://www.dttg.ethz.ch/workshop2015.html This workshop combines lectures and lab work. The 6th workshop will be organized by Drs. Katja Emmerich and Annett Steudel from 9 - 13th March 2015 in Karlsruhe, Germany. (Contact: annett.steudel@kit.edu )

Topics of the workshop will be:
- Clays and Clay minerals
- Mixed layer minerals
- Diagnostic Intercalation
- Qualitative and quantitative X-ray diffraction analysis, Rietveld analysis
- Simultaneous thermal analysis
- Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy
- Electron microscopy
- Cation exchange capacity and layer charge measurements
- Surfaces
- Water binding
- Sorption processes

The DTTG is involved in the organization of several sessions of the Euroclay 2015 meeting in Edinburgh, scheduled for July 5-10th 2015. This conference will be joined with the 52nd Annual Meeting of the CMS.

For further updated information: http://www.dttg.ethz.ch or contact Reinhard Kleeberg, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, e-mail: kleeberg@mineral.tu-freiberg.de

By Reinhard Kleeberg
October / 2014

ITALY
ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS - AISA onlus

2014 Activities
AISA members were mainly involved during 2014 in the presentation of research results at international and national conferences and in the participation on research programs.

This year Dr. Michele Dondi, researcher at the Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologia dei Materiali Ceramici - ISTEC-CNR in Faenza, was appointed liaison-officer of our Association. He replaced Dr. Saverio Fiore who resigned as he was elected President of AIPEA, in July 2013.

The general Assembly and the Clay Day 2014, constituted a time of consolidation and scientific discussion for AISA members. They were held in Titò Scalò-Potenza at the CNR-JMAA (Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis) on the 8th of April. The subject of the Clay Day was “Landslides: protective measures efficiency through mineralogical and chemical research”. Two reports were presented, respectively, by Dr. Salvatore Margiotta (CNR-JMAA) on “The influence of particle size, geochemical and mineralogical composition on the landslide at Verdesca site in Alta Val d’Agri, Basilicata, and by Dr. Mara Cesarano (University of Naples) on “Clay minerals, formations of complex structure and slow slope movements: a case study in Termini Imerese” (South Italy).

SANTE
E.V. Shein (Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute, Lomonosov Moscow State University), K.M. Gerke (Lomonosov Soil Science Institute, IDG RAS), D.V. Korot (Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute, Lomonosov Moscow State University): X-ray microtomography for soils
- I.I. Tolpeshta (Moscow State University, Lomonosov): Alteration of clay minerals in the pedogenesis in different climatic conditions
- T.A. Sokolova, A.V. Kirilushin (Lomonosov Moscow State University): Influence of treatment with hydrogen peroxide and sodium citrate-bicarbonate-dithionite on XRD patterns and the cation exchange capacity of clay fraction from different types of soils
- M.V. Shaldybin (TomskNIPIneft): Clay minerals as a cement of terrigenous oil and gas reservoirs
- L.A. Novikova (VGLTA): Adsorption of industrial toxicants natural and activated clay minerals

Roundtables were held in a form of combined lection and practical parts with discussions and debates where every participant could be involved.
- Round table n. 1: Basic principles of classification and identification of clay minerals
  - V. V. Krupskaia (IGEM, I. Virca (TU): Classification of clay minerals (basic principles). Identification of clay minerals with XRD (basic principles). Mixed layer clay minerals (basic understanding of the composition and structure). Calculation and analysis of mixed clay minerals in Sybilla software
- Round table n. 2: Quantitative analysis of clay rocks, ores and materials
  - S.V. Zakusin (IGEM RAS, Lomonosov Moscow State University), V.V. Krupskaia (IGEM RAS) N.V. Zubkov, D.A. Kienfonovt (Lomonosov Moscow State University): Review of quantitative mineral analysis methods. Reynolds Cup - 2014 results overview and basic principles of X-ray diffraction. Rietveld method. Sample preparation and measurement conditions used for clay samples for quantitative analysis. Rietveld method for the analysis of rocks and ores.

By Nurit Taitel-Goldman
December / 2014

HUNGARY
HUNGARY CLAY GROUP
Report not available.

Third Russian School on clay minerals participants after the closing ceremony in IGEM RAS. (Photo courtesy of Victoria Krupskaia)
DUTCH CLAY GROUP
AIPEA has received information that Dutch Clay Group is no more in activity.

NORDIC COUNTRIES
NORDIC SOCIETY FOR CLAY RESEARCH
AIPEA has received message from Vibeke Ernsten, former president of the Nordic Society for Clay Research, informing that this society is closed since January, 8th 2014.
She also sent the following announcement which has been disclosed in the AIPEA website: "Two travel grants (NSCR-travel grant) for candidates presenting research in the field of Clay Science and Technology at the Nords geographical Winter meeting will be offered by the Geological Society of Sweden. The grants are eligible for students from universities and colleges of the former member countries of the Nordic Society for Clay Research (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden). "There is no restriction with regard to nationality."

POLAND
POLISH CLAY GROUP
Report not available.

PORTUGAL
PORTUGUESE CLAY GROUP
Report not available.

ROMANIA
ROMANIAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS
Report not available.

RUSSIA
RUSSIAN CLAY GROUP
The Russian Clay Group (RCG), related to European Clay Group Association (ECGA), was created in 1994. More than 15 years the Group operated due to the efforts of Dr. Tatiana Alekseeva, who had been a permanent secretary of RCG. Now it has 63 members. Council of Group was created at the Russian Clay Conference in 2011. • Honorary President: Prof. Victor Drits, Geological Institute RAS.
• President (2014-2018): Dr. Victoria Krupskaya, Institute of Ore Geology, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry RAS.

The Group organized the 3rd Russian Clay School - ARGILLA STUDIUM-2014, Moscow (in Russian) www.tyulay.com together with the Institute of Ore Geology, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry RAS (IGEM RAS) and by financial support of Russian Foundation of Basic Research (#14-35-10235), Federal Agency of Scientific Organizations (PASO) of Russian Federation, and E-Globalede Corporation.

The main purpose of the regular School meetings is the improvement of both methodological and scientific basis of specialists, young researchers and students who are working within the field of clay science, including geology, chemistry, ecology, nano-technology, etc.

The program of the 3rd Russian School on Clay Minerals ‘Argilla Studium’ was divided in two parts: lectures of the leading Russian scientists in the clay science and roundtable discussions which included introduction lectures on the basic principles of clay minerals’ classification and quantitative mineral analysis.

The lecture part consisted of several courses: 1) Lectures on crystal structure investigation of clay minerals • B.B. Zvyagina (GIN RAS): Crystal-chemical peculiarities and identification of aluminoceladonites. • B.A. Sakharov (GIN RAS): XRD patterns simulation of disordered clay minerals 2) Lectures on the study of clay minerals with electron microscopy • A.P. Zhukhlistov (IGEM): Study of clay minerals with a transmission electron microscopy • V.N. Sokolov (Moscow State University, Lomonosov): Microstructural study of clay rocks with a scanning electron microscopy 3) Lecture on the study of clay minerals with thermal analysis • N.M. Boeva (IGEM): Study of silicates with thermal analysis 4) Lectures on the application of new methods for the study of the soils’ and clay minerals’ microstructures • E.B. Skvortsov (Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute), K.N. Abrosimov (Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute), AISA organized DUST 2014, the first International Conference on Atmospheric Dust. The meeting was held at the Calanè Conference Centre, in the Nova Yardinia Resort, just a few kilometres from Castellana Marina, from June 1-6th. The meeting was co-organized with the Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis of National Research Council of Italy (IMAA - CNR). The aim of the conference was to bring together mineralogists, physicists, geochemists, engineers, volcanologists, chemists and many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of atmospheric particles.

No fewer than 365 delegates from 50 countries contributed to the six topics proposed for DUST 2014: • Chemical & Mineralogical Studies • Geological Records • Health & Environment • Instruments & Measurements • Modelling & Field Studies • Transport & Deposition Thirty-two sessions, 467 accepted abstracts, 5 plenary lectures, 307 free talks and 155 posters testify scientific community interest in multidisciplinary approaches to atmospheric dust.

Five daily plenary lectures were given by distinguished guest speakers: • Fifty years of African dust studies in Barbados: What we learned and what must we do next? - Joseph M. Prospero (University of Miami, USA). • Dissolution of dust mineral particles in human and environment. A geochemical perspective - F. Javier Huertas (CSIC - University of Granada, Spain).
• Mineral dust mapping from space with NASA Earth Observing System instruments - Ralph A. Kahn (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, USA).• African dust outbreaks and air quality in Southern Europe: Is it only dust that matters? - Xavier Querol (CSIC Barcelona, Spain). • Accelerator based techniques for aerosol analysis - Franco Lucarelli (University of Florence, Italy).

The design of the conference centre ensured that the lecture rooms were all within a few meters from each other making it easy to move between the rooms hosting the sessions. Accommodation, restaurants and leisure areas were all nearby. Although the location was far from the town (it is in a resort), delegates appreciated the opportunity to stay in touch with one another in addition to the time they spent together attending sessions.

One of the most relevant aspects of DUST 2014 was the participation of a number of students (18%). Many of them participated in the DUST 2014 Prize for Best Oral Student Presentation and Best Poster Student Presentation. The level of the competition was very high and the choice was rather difficult. The Best Oral Presentation Award was given, ex aequo, to Pilar Gumà-Claramunt (National Research Council, Potenza, Italy), Milena Machado De Melo (Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Brazil) and Tim Ulens (Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Belgium). The Best Poster Presentation Award went to Laura Korte (Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Netherlands).

The book collecting the abstracts ISBN: 978-88-7522-095-2 is available at http://www.aipea.it/pubb_soci.html. Extended abstracts has been published in open access conference proceeding series (ProScience; ISSN: 2283-7954). Information is available at www.sciencevents.com/proscience/

The 2nd International Conference on Atmospheric Dust will be held in June 2016. Information will be posted on www.sciencevents.com/dust2016/

At the end of this year, the AISA members were 62, of whom 54 ordinary and 8 juniors. In addition to this, there are also 9 life members and 2 honorary members.

Maria Luigia Giannossi resigned her position as secretary and an AISA directive has nominated Vito Summa as temporary secretary.

Work Plan For 2015
Some members of the Italian Clay Group (Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille - AISA onlus) are organizing the 1st International Conference on Applied Mineralogy & Advanced Materials (AMAM 2015) which will take place in Castellana Marina (TA, Italy) from 7 to 12th June 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr. Saverio Fiore. Scientists in mineralogy, materials science, physics, biology, chemistry and cultural heritage are invited to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of crystalline and non-crystalline solid state. AMAM 2015 will provide a truly global platform for researchers and engineers from academia and industry.

We are planning to organize the next Clay Day 2015 in occasion of AMAM 2015 in Castellana Marina. The aim is to involve some AISA group members to participate in some of the Conference Sessions.
List of executive members of AISA onlus

- President: Aldo MIRABELLA (Previously, Ist. Sper.le Studio e Difesa del Suolo, Firenze)
- Vice President and Secretary: Vito SUMMA (Istituto di Metodologie per l’Analisi Ambientale, CNR, Tito Scalo, Potenza)
- Treasurer: Rocco LAVIANO (Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Univ. Bari)
- Councillors:
  - Luca ALDEGA (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Univ. Roma Sapienza)
  - Piergiulio CAPPELLETTI (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Univ. Napoli - FEDERICO II)
  - Mauro PALLARA (Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Univ. Bari)
  - Laura Scrano (Dip. Sistemi Culturali, Univ. Basilicata, Potenza)
  - Massimo SETTI (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Univ. Pa- via)
  - Cristina SILIGARDI (Dip. Ingegneria “Enzo Ferrari”, Univ. Modena e Reggio Emilia)
  - Chiara Zanelli (Ist. Scienza Tecnologia dei Materiali Ceramici - ISTEC-CNR, Faenza)
- Liaison-Officer: Michele Dondi (Ist. Scienza Tecnologia dei Materiali Ceramici - ISTEC-CNR, Faenza)

Administrative address:
AISA - onlus
c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali
Via Orabona, 4, 70124 Bari - Italia

By Vito Summa
December / 2014

JAPAN
CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY OF JAPAN

Committee
The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2014 and 2015:
- President: Prof. K. Kuroda, Waseda University
- Vice presidents: Prof. A. Yamazaki, Waseda University and Dr. T. Hatta, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural science
- Secretary: Dr. M. Kawano, Kagoshima University
- Principal Editors: Dr. M. Suzuki, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Nendo Kagaku) and Prof S. Takagi, Tokyo Metropolitan Univ. (Clay Science)

The 58th annual meeting of the Clay Science Society of Japan was held at Fukushima City A★O★Z (AOUZE) from 24 to 27th, September 2014. It was principally organized by Prof. M. Suzuki. 94 papers including 39 posters were presented. The program also included plenary (presidential) lecture by Dr. Hirohisa Yamada, National Institute of Material Sciences and invited lectures (Y. Miyoshi, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; S. Inoue, Univ. of Tokyo; Y. Kuroda, Waseda Univ.; N. Fukuhara, Hokkaido Univ.; S. Yamazaki, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology) and a symposium entitled “Radioactive Contamination and Future”.

Awards
The society presented awards to the following members at the occasion of the annual meeting:
- Clay Science Society of Japan Award was given to M. Nanjo, Tohoku University;
- Distinguished Achievement Award was given to Kurosaki Hakudo Kougyo KK;
- Young Scientist Awards were given to N. Miyamoto, Fukuoaka Institute of Technology and Y. Ito, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology;
- Best Technological Award was given to Taiheiyo Cement Cooperation; and
- Best Paper Awards were given to R. Nakabayashi et al., Central Research Institute Electric Power Industry and to S. Higashi, Kochi University.

Publication
Clay Science Society of Japan publishes three issues of Nendo Kagaku (Journal of the Clay Science Society of Japan in Japanese), and four issues of Clay Science every year. In the fiscal year 2014, Vol. 53, No. 1, 2 and 3 for Nendo Kagaku, and Vol.18, No.1 and 2 for Clay Science were published.

For further updated information: http://www.cssj2.org/index_e.html or contact Tsutomu Sato, Hokkaido University, e-mail: tomsato@eng.hokudai.ac.jp.

By Tsutomu Sato
December / 2014

KOREA
KOREAN CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY
Report not available.

Netherlands

Galerry of Award winners of Clay Science Society of Japan in 2014 (Photos courtesy of Tsutomu Sato).