Dear fellow clay scientists,

2017 promises to be a fruitful year for the Clay World. From 17 to 21 July the AIPEA meeting, the XVI International Clay Conference (ICC), will take place in Granada (Spain). The organisers are spending a lot of time and imagination in the preparation of the conference that is expected to be really a great event. At this time, more than 600 abstracts have been submitted and the chairperson, Dr. Alberto Lopez Galindo, is quite sure that there will be more than 800 contributions. Many of these contributions has been presented by students and, therefore, a high level competition is expected for the Student Best Speaker & Poster Awards. You already know that the AIPEA conferences are an excellent occasion to contribute and share ideas and knowledges on clay minerals and other micro and nano-minerals. There will also be several social activities planned in the wonderful scenario of Granada and Andalusia. You shouldn’t lose such a wonderful opportunity! Join us!

The announcements of the awards that AIPEA traditionally assigns during the ICCs (AIPEA Medal, Bradley Award, AIPEA Fellows, Student Travel Funds) were made through the AIPEA list-serv but they were also posted on the AIPEA website (www.aipea.org) and are included in this newsletter. In spite of the fact that many AIPEA members are worldwide acknowledged scientists, there was submitted only a nomination for the AIPEA Medal. I am quite sure that many of us missed the deadlines and a great opportunity to propose and support the nomination of outstanding colleagues. We should pay more attention to AIPEA activities.

AIPEA welcomes two new affiliated societies: The Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI) and the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC). Unfortunately, the proposal sent by the Haiti, Queensland University (UQ), was not considered mature enough to meet the standard of AIPEA affiliated societies and was overruled with.
AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

• Algerian Clay Group (ACG)
• Australian Clay Minerals Society (ACMS)
• Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC)
• Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society (GB and Ireland)
• Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI)
• Clay Science Society of Japan (CSSJ)
• Croatian Clay Group
• Czech National Clay Group (CNCG)
• French Clay Group (GFA)
• German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG)
• Korean Clay Science Society (KCSS)
• Hungarian Clay Group (HCG)
• Israel Society for Clay Research
• Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA)
• (North American) The Clay Minerals Society (CMS)
• Polish Clay Group (PCG)
• Portuguese Clay Group (APA)
• Russian Clay Group
• Slovak Clay Group
• Spanish Clay Society (SEA)
• Tunisian Clay Group (TCG)
• Clay Science Society-Turkey
• Ukrainian Clay Group

suggestion to expand its activities in that country. AIPEA Council also approved the request of ECGA, the European Clay Group Association, to be affiliated society.

There are now 23 Affiliated Societies or groups from worldwide. Our plan for the 2017 is to encourage the formation of new national and regional clay groups and the affiliation of existing active clay groups, expanding AIPEA activities to countries without formal clay societies/groups. The new candidates should fill the form available at the AIPEA website (www.aipea.org) and send their application to secretary@aipea.org, preferably before the ICCs, when the AIPEA Council gathers for deliberating these requests.

It is important to share with clay scientists around the world all information available on past and future activities, projects and events. In this regard, it is desirable that all AIPEA Affiliated Societies do better effort for continuously updating their websites. I also encourage all national society representatives to respond promptly to our Secretary-General’s requests for information which will be published at AIPEA Newsletter. Please take some time to check if your society/group has effectively sent report to AIPEA. If not, I would like to encourage you to contact your representative and reinforce the importance of doing this small gesture of international cooperation. I also hope that a greater percentage of our affiliated societies can contribute to our next Newsletter.

AIPEA is continuing to publish reports on the Society’s life on Elements. Our affiliation to this very important magazine is a powerful means to communicate with the mineralogical and geochemical community. Please let Dr. Barbosa Alves or me know if you have information that deserves the attention of the scientific societies. We can include it on our six-month report on this Journal.

AIPEA also continues to be an affiliated society to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and provides information for the IUSG bulletin, another excellent way to communicate with the scientific societies all around the world and to integrate AIPEA into international geological activities.

Hope to see you all in Granada,

By Saverio Fiore
February / 2017
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
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**AIPEA Council Members for 2013-2017**

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Hazardous Minerals Committee, Chair
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Head of the Microminerals, Health & Environment Research Group
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Representative of the 16th ICC
Dr. Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO
Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, Director
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Av. de las Palmeras - 18100 Armilla (Granada) - Spain
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Committees
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Nomenclature Committee, Chair
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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 to help AIPEA fulfills its main purposes.

AIPEA website was created to provide dynamic and continuous announcement of activities directly related to clay sciences. General information about the organization of AIPEA can also be easily found, such as: mission, purposes, organization, statutes and by-laws, membership, council, publications, newsletters, 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 (NCG) websites as well as to that one from the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), which AIPEA is affiliated to. It also discloses permanently all volumes of the AIPEA Newsletter in a searchable way (a few specimens are missing or incomplete and we expect to have contribution to fill in these gaps). Please inform us if errors are noticed so that we can make the proper corrections.

Recently, AIPEA president has received an important message from Dr. Bruno Lanson, president of French Clay Group (GFA), providing evidences for facts related to the early history of CIPEA. Bruno has found a mail exchange from 1979 among Helene Suquet, Simone Caillere, and A. Breeuwsma, who was the AIPEA secretary at the time, about the name of the first president of CIPEA. Accordingly, the first president of CIPEA was Dr. Hénin (1948-1950), followed by Prof. J. Orcel (1950-1952) and finally by Prof. R. Grim. Thus this letter corrects the wrong information published at AIPEA Newsletter 1967, which stated that Prof. R. Grim was the first president of CIPEA. We are thankful to Bruno for his kind interest in keeping a reliable AIPEA historical overview.

Back to our theme… Many relevant technical activities around the world are continuously being announced through the website, updated by the AIPEA Webmaster, Dr. Saverio Fiore. It offers a long list of events (conferences, courses, projects, etc.) for 2017 and following years in a complementary page (http://www.aipea.org/conferences.html). This list can also be found in the traditional way, at the end of this newsletter.

AIPEA website discloses also a link for the payment of the AIPEA annual fee by credit card or PayPal account. Regular members are encouraged to pay quadrennial fees (equivalent to 4-years) in order to benefit for reduced fees to participate in events organized by AIPEA, such as International Clay Conferences (or those endorsed by AIPEA), and to be included in the AIPEA member-list, receiving continuous news from the international clay community. This facility can be found at http://www.aipea.org/membership.html
AIPEA fees for individual members who do not belong to any AIPEA Affiliated Society are:
• Full professional: $30.00 USD (per 4-years).
• Student or retiree: $15.00 USD (per 4-years)

AIPEA fees for corporate sponsors are: 100.00 USD (per 4-years).

New candidates to become AIPEA Individual Members should download the membership application form at http://www.aipea.org/membership.html and make the payment using the mentioned specific link. After filling the form in, please send it both to the AIPEA Treasurer (jeanne.percival@canada.ca) and President (president@aipea.org). Please notice that students must prove their status through an official document provided by their university.

Members of AIPEA Affiliated Societies are also AIPEA members, as their dues are paid by their national or regional clay groups / societies. However to benefit from the same advantages as those of AIPEA individual members, these groups /societies must provide yearly the corresponding payment. Please check with your society/group if the annual payment to AIPEA has been made.

Applications from National or Regional Clay Societies / Groups wishing to become affiliated to AIPEA shall be made to the secretary-general by addressing the e-mail secretary@aipea.org The candidates must download the “Affiliation Form for National Clay Groups” at http://www.aipea.org/membership.html and furnish the requested relevant information. The proposal will be submitted to the AIPEA Council and, if approved, the Society shall become affiliated on payment of the appropriate membership fee. The fees are $3.75 USD/year per full member and $2.50 USD/year for each student.

We encourage all AIPEA members and sympathizers to undertake a systematic perusal of the contents of the AIPEA website in order to become updated with the many opportunities that are available around the world. Several technical events related to clays and clay materials and their applications take place continuously all around the world. Please remain in contact with us by sending news of relevant activities and events to the AIPEA Webmaster (webmaster@aipea.org) and to the AIPEA Secretary-General Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (secretary@aipea.org).

Finally, we would like to stress that AIPEA has dedicated most investment on keeping its website continuously updated. This is important in order to fill its mission of share all information available on past and future activities with clay scientists around the world. We would recommend that the same disposition be adopted by all AIPEA Affiliated Societies. Some websites are no longer being updated and even their links can not work properly. It would also be desirable that English version could be available in order to spread their information for a greater number of clay scientists.

Daisy Barbosa Alves
December / 2016
One of the principal aims of AIPEA is to stimulate and excite excellent young clay scientists. Under ideal circumstances, this would be achieved by face to face interaction between these young scientists and more established clay scientists during the International Clay Conferences (ICC), which take place every four years.

The two last ICCs included the AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS) in their program. These short courses were dedicated to topics of clay sciences which are of worldwide interest. Unfortunately, it is not always possible for every young clay scientist to attend this conference and/or to the ASYS shortcourse. Consequently, in 2013 AIPEA started its Educational Series (AES) by publishing the material presented during ASYS 2009. By now, this Series has already two volumes linked to the ASYS shortcourses.

The first edition of AES Volume 1 has already been sold out and an electronic copy of it is now available for free download. Just send a request to info@aipea.org and we will provide a link for downloading the file.

In 2015, the AES Volume 2 has been delivered to the public and is now available for purchase. More information follows.

Magnesian Clays
Characterization, Origin & Applications
AIPEA Educational Series - Publication No.2
Editors: Manuel Pozo & Emilio Galán

Lectures held at the:
2nd AIPEA School for Young Scientists
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 6-7th, 2013
Digilabs Pub., Bari, Italy - pp. 380 + XII
ISSN: 2283-687X

The book is an overview and update on the main issues related to magnesian clays. It is accessible to students, providing the basics and the latest information on the several topics and including key literature references.

Contents
1. Introduction to Mg-rich clay minerals: Structure and composition (Stephen Guggenheim)
2. Methodology for the identification and characterization of magnesian clays (Emilio Galán and Patricia Aparicio)
3. Geology of magnesian clays in sedimentary and non-sedimentary environments (José Pedro Calvo and Manuel Pozo)
4. Magnesian clay deposits: Mineralogy and origin (Manuel Pozo and Emilio Galán)
5. Madrid Basin (Spain): a natural lab for the formation and evolution of magnesian clay minerals (Manuel Pozo and José Pedro Calvo)
6. Geochemical pathways to Mg-silicate formation (Nicholas Tosca)
7. Properties and applications of magnesian clays (Julio Santarén)

This book, not in the sale, was financed by Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille (AISA). AISA distributes personal e-copies and hard copies in return to an economic support to the Association:
e-copy: €5.00
Print copy: €20.00
Shipping costs: Italy: €12.00 (tracking). Other Countries: €15.00 (no tracking) or €25.00 (tracking). The package may contain up to 10 copies.

You can donate by credit card (use the form at www.aipea.org/publications.html) or wire transfer:
Bank name: Fineco Bank
Account name: Associazione Italiana per lo Studio delle Argille - onlus
IBAN: IT81M0301503200000003445310
Swift: UNCRITMM
Details of payment: Donation for AES2
Note: Payment must include all the applicable bank wire fees.

Interstratified Clay Minerals
Origin, Characterization & Geochemical Significance
AIPEA Educational Series - Publication No.1
Editors:
Saverio Fiore, Javier Cuadros & F. Javier Huertas

Lectures held at the:
1st AIPEA School for Young Scientists
University of Bari, Italy, June 12-13, 2009
Digilabs Pub., Bari, Italy - pp. 175
ISSN: 2283-687X

Hard copy sold out (copies printed on demand: € 40.00, international shipping included)
E-copy free of charge - mail info@aipea.org

The book is an overview and update on the main issues related to interstratified (or mixed-layer) clay minerals, with a clear educational scope. It is accessible to students, providing the basics and the latest information on the several topics and including key literature references.

Contents
1. Introduction to Mixed-Layer Clay Minerals (J. Cuadros, S. Fiore and F.J. Huertas)
2. Crystal-Chemistry of Mixed-Layer Clays (J. Cuadros)
5. Identification and Characterization with Microscopic Methods (F. Nieto and X. Arroyo)

Saverio Fiore
December / 2016
16th International Clay Conference
July 17 - 21, 2017 / Granada / Spain

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- MINERALOGY
- GEOLOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY
- ENVIRONMENT AND SOILS
- CLAYS, ORGANIC MOLECULES AND ORGANISMS
- CERAMICS, ZEOLITES
- NANOMATERIALS AND CLAY TECHNOLOGY
- MISCELLANEOUS

www.16icc.org
info@16icc.org
Editors:
Pooria Pasbakhsh, PhD
Lecturer, School of Engineering, Monash University, Selangor, Malaysia
G. Jock Churchman, PhD
Adjunct Senior Lecturer, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide, Australia; Centre for Environmental Risk, Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia.

This new book will provide a wide introduction on the history, mineralogy, geology, and the characteristics and application of different natural nanotubes. It is the first book to discuss natural nanotubes, particularly halloysite nanotubes. The book will be useful mainly for postgraduate students and researchers working on the application of natural nanotubes. It will also be useful for those companies or researchers that will be focusing on the design of materials and composites for sustainability.

This book:
• provides updates on the diverse and expanding applications of natural mineral nanotubes (including halloysite, sepiolite, and palygorskite) in various industries, and polymer nanocomposites for medical, health and environmental applications
• provides a comprehensive review of the modification and intercalation of different natural mineral nanotubes
• reviews recent studies of the mechanical properties of halloysite nanotubes
• provides an up-to-date background on the structure, identification, and nomenclature of various natural mineral nanotubes, including halloysite, palygorskite, sepiolite, chrysotile, and erionite
• gives comprehensive global information on the mineralogy, geology, and occurrence of natural mineral nanotubes
• discusses the current understanding of the health risks of natural mineral nanotubes and also carbon nanotubes

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• Chapter 2: The Identification and Nomenclature of Halloysite (A Historical Perspective)
  G. Jock Churchman
• Chapter 3: The Identification and Nomenclature of Sepiolite and Palygorskite (A Historical Perspective)
  Emilio Galán and Patricia Aparicio
• Chapter 4: The Identification and Nomenclature of Chrysotile (A Historical Perspective)
  Saverio Fiore and F. Javier Huertas

Part 3: Mineralogy, Geology and Occurrence of Natural Mineral Nanotubes
• Chapter 5: The Mineralogy, Geology and Occurrences of Halloysite
  John L. Keeling
• Chapter 6: The Mineralogy, Geology and Main Occurrences of Sepiolite and Playgorskite Clays
  Emilio Galán and Manuel Pozo
• Chapter 7: The Mineralogy, Geology and Main Occurrences of Chrysotile
  Saverio Fiore and F. Javier Huertas

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• Chapter 8: Polymer Nanocomposites Reinforced by Halloysite Nanotubes: A Review
  Vahdat Vahedi and Pooria Pasbakhsh

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• Chapter 9: Bionanocomposites of Sepiolite and Polygorskite and Their Medical Issues
  Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky, Margarita Darder, Francisco M. Fernandes, Bernd Wicklein, Ana C. S. Alcântara, and Pilar Aranda
• Chapter 10: Biopolymer Nanocomposites: Poly Lactic Acid/Halloysite Nanotube Composites
  Rangika T De Silva, Pooria Pasbakhsh, and Kheng Lim Goh
• Chapter 11: Halloysite-Poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) Nanocomposites for Biomedical Applications
  Mingxian Liu, Peng Ao, Qi Peng, Binghong Luo, and Changren Zhou
• Chapter 12: Current Research on Chitosan-Halloysite Composites
  Kavitha Govindasamy, Pooria Pasbakhsh and KL Goh

Part 6: Mechanical Properties of Halloysite and Other Nanotubes
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  Gustave Kenne Dedzo and Christian Detellier

Part 8: Natural Mineral Nanotubes as Nanoreactors used in Industrial and Agricultural Applications
• Chapter 17: Organopolygorskites Prepared From Quaternary Ammonium Compounds and Their Environment-
Since 2014, the Clay and Clay Minerals International Community has been benefitted by dynamic announcements and warnings through the two AIPEA list-servers. They are intended to make available quickly information on all areas of clay sciences.

The first AIPEA listserv (members@aipea.org) contains the e-mail address of all AIPEA members and from those of its Affiliated Societies / Groups. These e-mails are yearly updated. All members are automatically included in the AIPEA Members-list.

If you are a member of any AIPEA affiliated society and are not receiving messages, please check whether your NGC has sent an updated list of e-mails to the AIPEA webmaster. If your National Group is not yet associated to AIPEA, please encourage those in charge to make contact with the AIPEA President (president@aipea.org) or Secretary (secretary@aipea.org) for information. Alternatively, please also check the SPAM box of the browser you usually use to check e-mails and see if AIPEA messages have been misdirected to it.

Besides, AIPEA organized as well a “talk list” (talk@aipea.org) for people interested in Clay Science ‘lato sensu’, but who are not yet engaged in NCGs or AIPEA. Those interested in participating 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 just by sending a message to talk.unsubscribe@aipea.org.

We take this opportunity to remind all AIPEA members about the importance of paying their membership fee on time. Since 2015, payment of the AIPEA annual fee can be done via credit card or PayPal using a link added to the AIPEA website (http://www.aipea.org/membership). 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 the participation in all AIPEA activities for longer period. According to the AIPEA statute and by-laws, if the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled and excluded from the AIPEA Member-List.

Besides, if you want to share with AIPEA members information about any topic related to clay and clay minerals please send a synthetic message (preferably without attachments) to the AIPEA webmaster (webmaster@aipea.org) and/or to the AIPEA Secretary-General Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (secretary@aipea.org).

Daisy Barbosa Alves
December / 2016
During 2016, some topics have been treated by the AIPEA Executive Officers and the AIPEA Council:
The AIPEA Ordinary Council Meeting on July 5th 2015 meeting at Edinburgh (UK) was not conclusive about the petition of the Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI) to become an AIPEA Affiliated Society and complementary material has been requested. Later, this additional information has been supplied by the candidate and the proposal has been evaluated again by the Council. Final decision was for unanimous acceptance of its affiliation. Therefore, Dr. Saverio Fiore, AIPEA president, has officially communicated this decision to Dr. S.K. Singh, CMSI president, and mailed him the AIPEA Memorandum #1/2016 with its formal acceptance as new AIPEA affiliated society. We welcome the CMSI to AIPEA.

The AIPEA Ordinary Council Meeting on July 5th 2015 meeting at Edinburgh (UK) evaluated the proposal from Queensland University (QU) of Haiti to become AIPEA Affiliated Society. The councilors considered that by now the QU proposal did not fit the requirements of an AIPEA Affiliated Society. Therefore, Dr. Daisy B. Alves, AIPEA secretary-general, has officially communicated this decision to Dr. Jean-Claude Dorsainvil, QU representative, and mailed him the AIPEA Letter #1/2016 with formal communication of this decision and recommendation for further expansion of activities.

At end of 2016, AIPEA received a petition from the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC) to become affiliated to AIPEA. This request has been discussed virtually with all the AIPEA Councilors and Officers and in January 6th 2017, they unanimously agreed that CASC became a new AIPEA Affiliated Society. Dr. Saverio Fiore, AIPEA president, has officially communicated this decision to Prof. Hongping He, CASC president, and mailed him the AIPEA Memorandum #1/2017 with its formal acceptance as new AIPEA Affiliated Society. Therefore we also welcome the CASC to AIPEA.

The next AIPEA Council Meeting and the AIPEA General Assembly will take place in Granada (Spain), during the 16th International Clay Conference (July 17-21, 2017).

Daisy Barbosa Alves
January / 2017
Treasurer’s Report  
(Jan.-Dec. 2016)

Financial statements show that AIPEA is being well supported by our affiliated societies. The PayPal system initiated last year by our president, Dr. Saverio Fiore, is making life much easier for AIPEA as well as individuals. I encourage members to nominate their colleagues for the AIPEA awards (Gold Medals, Fellows, Bradley) as the funds we receive are meant to support these awardees. In addition, travel grants for students are made possible by this continued support. We are currently reviewing the dossiers and abstracts of students who have applied for a travel grant.

We contributed to Elements Magazine which ensures that we have access to promoting AIPEA to the larger mineralogical community.

National Clay Groups  
Dues notices were sent to the supporting societies late in the year and so far we have received funds from two societies but expect the remaining societies to transfer funds this month. New for 2017 will be to integrate funds from our newly affiliated societies. We want to welcome them to AIPEA and hope that their members will participate in the upcoming ICC.

Individual Membership  
AIPEA welcomes 16 new individual members including undergraduate and graduate students from around the world. We look forward to meeting them at the next ICC. Dues notices for the members who joined or renewed at the last ICC in Rio will be sent out shortly.

Website Support  
The website is supported by AIPEA. We continue to acknowledge the enormous contributions of Dr. Saverio Fiore and the Italian Clay Group for keeping it up to date.

Financial Statement  
The Balance Sheet and Profits & Loss statements are provided for 2016. Elements Magazine support is under “Books etc.”

By Jeanne Percival  
January / 2017
REPORTING FORM FOR IUGS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS 2016

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 centers of clay research and technology;
Publication of issues on clay research and technology; and
Publication of a periodical Newsletter to inform members of activities concerning clay researches.

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

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@petrobras.com.br)
Dr. Jeanne B. PERCIVAL, Treasurer - treasurer@aipea.org (or jeanne.perciva@canada.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 STANJÉK (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)

Interaction with other International organizations and projects:
AIPEA has three committees working on key themes of clay international interest: Nomenclature, Teaching, and Hazardous Minerals.

AIPEA co-operates in international programs for excellence in Clay Science, such as the International Master in Advanced Clay Science – IMACS, jointly delivered by: the University of Poitiers (France); the Technical University of Crete (Chania - Greece); the University of Aveiro (Portugal); the University of Ottawa (Canada), and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre – Brazil).

Chief products:
The International Clay Conference (ICC), which takes place every four years, is the AIPEA main activity. The 16th edition of this event will take place in Granada (Spain), from July 7-11th, 2017.

Besides, AIPEA continues to further improve its website as a source of information and support for the worldwide clay community (www.aipea.org).

AIPEA also produces an annual Newsletter which circulated among its members via e-mail and is also made accessible via the AIPEA Website.

AIPEA has published two monographs of the book series AIPEA Educational Series (AES; ISSN: 2283-687):
Interstratified clay minerals. Origin, characterization & geochemical significance;
Magnesian clays: Characterization, origin and applications.

Electronic copy of the 1st AES volume, 2nd edition, is available for free download. Information can be found at www.aipea.org

Chief accomplishments of 2016 and plans for 2017:
AIPEA is being organized to adapt itself for the use of new media with the purpose of keeping better communication with clay scientists all over the world. Two AIPEA list serves are currently been used. AIPEA will continue to produce its Annual Newsletter in digital format (e-ISSN: 2421-0757), available at the Association website.

Specify how any IUGS Allocation for 2016 was used:
AIPEA is financially independent and receives income from individual members and affiliated societies and from registrations to the International Clay Conferences.

Budget request with justification for 2017 (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:
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CEP: 21941-915 - Brazil

By Daisy Barbosa Alves
December / 2016
The XVI International Clay Conference (16 ICC), which takes place every four years, will be held in Granada, Spain, from 17 to 21 of July 2017. Information is available at www.16icc.org. The logotype for the Conference brings together the environments in which clay minerals are found: “Clays, from oceans to space”.

The Conference Venue is the Science Park (Parque de las Ciencias), an interactive museum over 70.000 m² in size. Located a few minutes on foot from the historic city center of Granada, it has one of the most varied offers for cultural and scientific leisure in Europe, and includes an Auditorium, 5 modern and well equipped halls, extensive space for installation of posters, meeting rooms, and broad areas for meetings and exchanges among participants. Besides the restaurant inside the Conference Venue, there are many other restaurants and bars in the surrounding area.

The Conference is planned to cover five days (four days for the forty sessions and one day for fieldtrips). The length of abstract should not exceed ONE full page. Abstracts will be published in Scientific Abstracts Research (ISSN: 2464-9147). Moreover, a special volume in Applied Clay Science is being prepared.

The online abstract submission is opened since November 1st. and closes on February 15 2017. We invite you to submit an abstract on the following topics:

I. Mineralogy
MI-01. Out of this world! – Clays as decoders of extraterrestrial environments
MI-02. Advanced structural characterization of clays
MI-03. Clay mineral reaction progress in very low-grade temperature petrologic studies
MI-04. Diversity of chlorites
MI-05. Alkali activation of clays and geopolymers

II. Geology and geochemistry
GG-01. Clays in faults and fractures
GG-02. Effect of clays in the mineral processing value chain
GG-03. Role of clay minerals in the quest for mineral resources
GG-04. Clay minerals in sediments: palaeoenvironment, geodynamic evolution and sedimentary basins

III. Environment and soils
ES-01. Mineral-life interaction
ES-02. Environmental applications of clay minerals
ES-03. From soils to shallow groundwater: the influence of clays on the critical zone
ES-04. Clay barriers performance in the long-term isolation of waste: thermal, hydro-mechanical and chemical interactions

IV. Interaction between clays and organic molecules and organisms
OM-01. Clay/polymer nanocomposites: from flame retardants to tissue engineering
OM-02. Drug delivery systems based on layered materials
OM-03. Clay-based bionanocomposites: a meeting point of life and the mineral world
OM-04. Clays in health care
OM-05. Computational modeling of clay minerals and related materials
OM-06. Biogeochemical processes at the microbe/clay interface and their synergy with radionuclide/organic interactions

V. Ceramics, zeolites
CZ-01. Clays for ceramics
CZ-02. Waste valorization in clay ceramics
CZ-03. Environmental uses of natural zeolites and clayey diatomite

VI. Nanomaterials and clay technology
NT-01. Natural and synthetic layer materials for green chemistry
NT-02. Clay nanomaterials for polymer degradation and stabilisation
NT-03. Synthetic clay minerals and derivatives: synthesis, features and applications
NT-04. Clays in biomaterial design and regenerative medicine
NT-05. Calcined clays for sustainable supplementary cementitious materials
NT-06. Clays, organoclays and nanocomposites in water treatment
NT-07. Clay minerals in solution systems: from aqueous to non-aqueous
NT-08. Properties and applications of natural and synthetic nanotubes (halloysite, imogolite) and of fibrous clay minerals
NT-09. Self-organization from clay particles: from nano to macro
NT-10. Recent advances in applications of industrial clays
NT-11. Material’s challenges for clay scientist
NT-12. Photo- and optical functionalities of clay-based hybrid materials
NT-13. Clay mineral colloids for liquid crystals and soft materials
NT-14. CO₂ or methane capture by clays

VII. Miscellaneous
MISC-01. LDHs: from design and characterization to applications
MISC-02. Clay-water interaction
MISC-03. Clay applications in the oil industry
MISC-04. General session

Three fieldtrips are being arranged (19 July):
Bentonite deposits of the Cabo de Gata (Almeria): volcanism and alterations. Dr. F. Javier Huertas (Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences, CSIC-UGR).
Guadix Basin: A giant clay store in central Betics. Dr. César Viseras Alarcón (Stratigraphy and Paleontology Dept, University of Granada).
Active tectonics and clay-rich sediments in western Sierra Nevada. Dr. Juan Ignacio Soto Hermoso (Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences, CSIC-UGR).

The AIPEA School for Young Scientist (ASYS) will be held on July 15-16th 2017 under the supervision of Dr. Claro Ignacio Sainz Díaz (Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences, CSIC-UGR), with the subject: “Computational modelling in clay mineralogy”.

Publication
A special issue of Applied Clay Science (ACS) is being arranged for the International Clay Conference. All participants are kindly invited to submit their paper during the 16ICC.

All selected papers, recommended by a scientific committee, will be considered for publication in ACS and will be further reviewed as regular papers. Topics are those included in this conference: http://www.16icc.org/sessions

About the city of Granada:
There are few cities in the world with a history as far-reaching, as diverse, and so well reflected in its streets and monuments. As capital of the last Muslim kingdom of the Iberian Peninsula, the city chosen by the Catholic Monarchs to be their final resting place and the temporary residence of the Emperor Carlos V, Granada has enriched its cultural heritage throughout the years, and has become one of the most attractive and magnificent cities in Spain. Its community of museums, imposing monuments, and districts full of local color means that
it is impossible to take in everything that Granada has to offer in just one day.

**How to reach Granada:**
Granada is located in the heart of Andalusia (Spain), at the foot of the Sierra Nevada and quite close to the Mediterranean Sea. It is easily accessible by plane, bus, train or road (see web page for details).

**Hotel accommodation:**
From hotels with more services to simple and comfortable rooms, Granada has numerous and varied accommodation adapted to all needs (more than 200 hotels and hostels, more than 13,000 hotel rooms). Many hotels are located within easy walking distance of the venue location. The Organizing Committee is not responsible for accommodations. Nevertheless, we recommend the following possibilities:

a) Hotels (Viajes El Corte Inglés)

b) University Residences (to be booked before May 31st, 2017):
   - Carmen de la Victoria
   - Colegio Mayor Isabel la Católica
   - Corrala de Santiago

c) Convent of the Mother of God (Comendadoras de Santiago)

For detailed info please visit: http://www.16icc.org/housing/

**Dates to remember:**
1 November 2016 Abstracts submission opens
15 February 2017 Abstracts submission closes
15 March 2017 Abstract acceptance notification
15 March 2017 Definite list of sessions
1 April 2017 End of Early registration
15 July 2017 ASYS starts
17 July 2017 16 ICC opening ceremony

**Organizers:**
Spanish Clay Society (SEA) on behalf of AIPEA. Contact: chair@16icc.org and/or secretariat@16icc.org

We hope to see you in Granada!

Alberto López Galindo
January / 2017
The 8th Mid-European Clay Conference (http://www.mecc2016.sav.sk/) was held on 4 - 8 July 2016 in the Yasmin hotel in Košice, the second largest city of Slovakia, close to several clay and zeolite deposits and to the delightful Tokaj wine region. The conference was organized by the Slovak Clay Group, on behalf of the clay groups of Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany-Austria-Switzerland, Hungary and Poland. The first joint meeting of clay groups from East- and Mid-European countries called “Mid-European Clay Conference” (MECC) took place in September 2001 in Stará Lesná (Slovakia), followed by the conferences in Miskolc (Hungary, 2004), Opatija (Croatia, 2006), Zakopane (Poland, 2008), Budapest (Hungary, 2010), Průhonice (Czech Republic, 2012) and Dresden (Germany, 2014). The main objective of these internationally recognized conferences is to bring together researchers, students and industrial partners and to discuss various aspects related to clays, zeolites and other layered materials.

The conference attended 170 participants, 40 of which were students. The delegates came from 29 countries from all over the world. A total of 70 lectures (14 students) including four plenary lectures, six keynote talks and 87 posters (26 students) were presented in two parallel sessions.
**Plenary lectures**
Chris Breen (UK): Clay hydrogels and composites - potential medical and commercial applications
Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky (Spain): Ecological advanced applications of clay minerals
Sabine Petit (France): Relevance of clay synthesis for environmental studies - Gerhard-Lagaly-Award 2016 of DTTG, for recognized outstanding mid-career researcher in clay science

**Keynote talks**
Pierre Barre (France): Clay minerals and organic carbon persistence in soils
Chris Greenwell (UK): Simulating the clay mineral-brine-organic interface: implications for understanding enhanced oil recovery
Guillaume Habert (Switzerland): Tuning clay properties for new development in sustainable building materials
Corina Ionescu (Romania): Studying ancient ceramics: interplay between mineralogy, physics, chemistry and geology
Joe Michalski (UK): Clay minerals on Mars: Global scale mineralogy and geologic context
Patrik Sellin (Sweden): Bentonite in waste repositories – a new application

**Technical sessions with the conveners**
Theoretical methods and structure of clay minerals, M. Pospíšil (Czech Republic), E. Ferrage (France)
Analytical tools and methods for characterization of clays, M. Janek (Slovakia), Z. Rozynek (Poland)
Modifications and synthesis of clays, J. Matusik (Poland), J. Brendlé (France)
Organoclays and nanocomposites, J. Kristóf (Hungary), F. Clegg (UK)
Clays in medicine, biological systems and the environment, R.M. Torres Sánchez (Argentina), C. Viseras Iborra (Spain)
Application and treatment of clays and other industrial minerals, S. Kaufhold (Germany), P. Aranda (Spain)
Clay minerals in soils, M. Mileusnić (Croatia), M. Skiba (Poland)
Clays in sedimentary-metamorphic systems, B. Raucsik (Hungary), D. Tibljas (Croatia)
Clays in hydrothermal and ore-forming processes, P. Uhlík (Slovakia), J. Cuadros (UK)
Zeolites, layered and porous materials, D. Koloušek (Czech Republic), F. Kovanda (Czech Republic)
Archaeological ceramics – from clays to vessels, F. Kristály (Hungary), F. Rocha (Portugal)

Clays in building materials and geotechnics, M. Plötze (Switzerland), I. Janotka (Slovakia).

All abstracts were evaluated by the conveners and are summarized in a Book of abstracts, still available at [http://www.mecc2016.sav.sk/](http://www.mecc2016.sav.sk/)

**Field-trips**
Industrial Mineral Deposits and Hydrothermal Alteration via Slovakia, 3 and 4 July 2016, leaders: P. Uhlík and P. Kodéra;
Industrial minerals and Tokaj wine – products hosted by East Slovakia volcanic rocks, 6 July 2016, leaders: P. Uhlík and P. Bačo.

During the conference the 40 student contributions were evaluated and three best oral and poster contributions were awarded during the closing ceremony. The best oral contributions were presented by P. Boháč (Slovakia), A. Kuligiewicz (Poland) and F. Schnetzer (Germany). Poster awards went to A. Táborosi (Hungary), J. Škoda (Czech Republic) and to A. Trubaca-Boginska (Latvia). J. Dietel (Germany) was awarded with DTTG Karl Jasmund Prize for young scientist.

For accompanying persons, four half-day trips were offered to the beautiful surrounding of the Košice city. The most important sights of Košice downtown were presented to participants during a half-day guided tour. All delegates also enjoyed the Conference Dinner in the Yasmin hotel.

In addition, the MECC and DTTG board meetings took place. The MECC representatives accepted the offer of the Croatian Clay Group to organize the next, 9th MECC in 2018 in Zagreb.

We want to express our gratitude to all colleagues for contributing to the organization of the 8th MECC, to our sponsors for the generous support, and to all participants for coming.

By Jana Madejová and Helena Pálková
January / 2017
The participants showing beautiful conference bags hand-painted by the members of the voluntary organization ArtEst (education of disabled youth) and by the members of non-profit organization Maják n.o. (association of deafblind adults) (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).

S. Petit, at the Gerhard-Lagaly-Award lecture 2016 (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).

Auditorium enjoying the scientific lectures (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).

Performance of Slovak folk group (Čarnica) during the Conference dinner (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).

The best student poster award (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).

The best student oral presentation award (photo courtesy of Jana Madejová).
The 3rd Asian Clay Conference has been held successfully from November 17th to 20th, 2016 in Guangzhou, China. The conference was hosted by Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIGCAS), co-organized by Southwest University of Science and Technology, Chinese Society for Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry, National Natural Science Foundation of China, and Guangzhou Association for Science & Technology.

The intention of this conference is to promote international and interdisciplinary exchange of information, to foster collaboration among researchers, and to stimulate growth and advances in the research of clays and clay minerals. There were more than 260 attendees from 14 countries including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, United States of America, Australia, France, Italy, Russia, and Latvia.

Prof. Ian Mackinnon from Queensland University of Technology hosted the opening ceremony. Prof. Yigang Xu, the President of Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (GIGCAS), made an opening speech on the ceremony. Presented plenary lectures on the conference:

- Prof. Saverio Fiore (the President of AIPEA),
- Prof. Faiza Bergaya (the Editor-in-Chief of Applied Clay Science),
- Prof. Jin-Ho Choy (the Chair of the 2nd Asian Clay Conference),
- Prof. Joseph W. Stucki (the Editor-in-Chief of Clays and Clay Minerals),
- Prof. Sabine Petit (Université de Poitiers), and
- Prof. Hongping He (the Deputy President of GIGCAS and Chair of the conference).

The slogan of the conference was “Small Size, Big Science”. Recent advances in the research of clay science were displayed on this conference. 155 abstracts of research works covering topics on earth sciences, environmental sciences, clay-based materials, and so on were accepted. Seven sessions were included in this conference:

1. Clays in earth science;
2. Clays and environments;
3. Clay-based functional materials;
4. Clays, nanoparticles and health;
5. Clay and micro-organisms;
6. Molecular simulation and characterization techniques; and
7. General session.

More than 100 oral presentations and 64 posters were exhibited on these sessions. 10 excellent oral presenters and 6 excellent poster presenters were awarded at the closing ceremony.

By Meng Chen and Hongping He
November / 2016
Prof. Ian Mackinnon hosted the opening ceremony (photo courtesy of Meng Chen).

Prof. Hongping He (Chair of the conference) gave a plenary lecture at the opening ceremony (photo courtesy of Hongping He).

Conference attendees discussed about the posters (photo courtesy of Meng Chen).

Awardees of excellent oral and poster presentations (photo courtesy of Meng Chen).

The 3rd Asian Clay Conference
Nov 17-20, 2016, Guangzhou, China

Group photo (photo courtesy of Hongping He).
This session of the AIPEA Newsletter brings together the reports about the many activities developed by its Affiliated Societies/Groups up to December 2016. It represents an effort to coordinate communication among all National (Regional) Clay Group (NCG) members and the individual members of AIPEA. It aims to become a key vehicle for communication of all clay scientists.

As pointed out in other part of this newsletter, AIPEA Council has approved the affiliation of The Clay Minerals Society of India (CSMI) and of The Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC). Therefore, AIPEA gathers by now twenty-three affiliated societies around the world in activity.

For this issue, AIPEA Newsletter has received reports and/or announcements from almost every AIPEA affiliated societies/groups. We are very grateful to all our collaborators for accomplishment of this important task.

The readers will notice that the content of each report are particular of each society, bringing together their national flavor. Some original reports included many 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

**ALGERIA**

**ALGERIAN CLAY GROUP**

I am very delighted and highly honoured to have the opportunity to represent the Algerian Clays Group (ACG) established on June 2002, and disclose our activities that we have undertaken throughout the period between 2015 and 2016, to the Association International pour l’Étude des Argiles” (AIPEA). Besides, we provide you details of our project plans for the year 2017.

1. Main activities

1.1 National activity and Cooperation during the year 2016:
Algerian university and national industries collaboration
Scientific research and students supervision (Engineers, Master and PhD) in the field of:
1. Characterization of Clay minerals (Geology and deposition conditions).
2. Problems during drilling (shale stability).
3. Catalysts and adsorbents from clays.
4. Clays Problems in oil reservoir.
5. Preparation of organoclays and their applications.
7. Clays in Pharmaceuticals and cosmetics application.
8. Clays and building projects.
Participation of our groups including Algerian Clay Group members, Algerian Chemical Engineering Group (GAGEP: Groupe Algérien de Génie des Procédés) and National Oil Group Sonatrach in some national and international meetings and workshops on the clays characterization, treatment and industrial valorization
Took part in scientific activities and research programs.

1.2 International Activity and Cooperation during the year 2016:
Programmes and projects involved between Algerian and European universities, research laboratories and others scientific research organisations: ERANETMED, Tassili.
2. Activities proposed for 2017

In the first semester of 2017, we plan to organize a national day for the reorganization of the Algerian Clay Group and the election of a new office.

In the second semester of 2017, we plan to organize an international day on Clays and Petroleum Exploitation (clays and shale gas problems), in which the experts of AIPEA will contribute and participate.

3. Algerian Clay Group Council:

President: Mr A. Bengueddache, (Oran, University)
Vice Presidents: Mrs H. Chemani, (Boumerdès University)
Mr B. Touahri, (Bental/ ENOF Algiers)
Mr M. Belkadi, (Sonatrach Central Research Director)
General Secretary: Mr M. Khodja, (Sonatrach, Central Research Directorate)
Assistant General Secretary: Mr A. Bakhti, (Mostaganem University)
Mrs F. Kaouah (USTHB University, Algiers)
Treasurer: Mr B. Boualem, (USTHB University, Algiers)
Assistant Treasurer: Mr B. Adhabi, (Faïencerie Algérienne, Algiers)
Mr K. Kherdjidj, (Sonatrach/ Exploration Division Boumerdès)

4. Further information:

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By Mohamed Khodja
December / 2016

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY

Report not available.

BRAZIL
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 clays and clay minerals.

1-Technical Meetings

During 2016, Brazilian clay scientists presented the results of their researches in three main national events, as follows:

1a. The 2nd Workshop on Applied Clays (2RAA) took place at Rio de Janeiro (RJ) from March 31st to April 1st 2016 (http://www.cetem.gov.br/ii-simposio-argilas-aplicadas). The chairs were Dr. L.C. Bertolino (CETEM) and Dr. S.B.C. Pergher (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte). The program included 14 invited lectures, 25 papers (poster) and 1 round-table. The invited lectures were:

- Clays and petroleum - S.M.C. Anjos (in Portuguese).
- Researches of clay minerals in Brazil - D.B. Alves (in Portuguese).
- Clays, clay minerals and why one Brazilian Society of Clays - R.S. Angelica (in Portuguese).
- Clays-based polymer nanocomposites - M.C.G. Rocha (in Portuguese).
- The importance of the characterization of lateritic clays in the mineral processing - E. Mano (in Portuguese).
- Bionanocomposite for application in environmental remediation and biomedicine - A. Alcantara (in Portuguese).
- Preparation and characterization of palygorskite / polystyrene-based magnetic nanocomposite - A. Middea (in Portuguese).
- Bionanocomposite for application in environmental remediation and biomedicine - A. Alcantara (in Portuguese).
- Preparation and characterization of palygorskite / polystyrene-based magnetic nanocomposite - A. Middea (in Portuguese).
- Geological aspects and potential uses of clays from the NE of the Amazonas state - R.H.C. Lima (in Portuguese).

The proceedings of this event can be found at http://www.cetem.gov.br/images/eventos/2016/ii_saa/anais_ii_saa.pdf The list of papers follows (in Portuguese):

- Bernardo, M.P. et al. Controlled release of phosphate intercalated into layered double hydroxides.
- Campos, V.M.J.S. et al. Mineralogical identification and purification of kaolin from Equador (RN) and
Junco do Serido (PB), with emphasis in the relationship between iron ion (III) and the whiteness index.

- Franca, D.B. et al. Intercalation of 1,8-octildiamine in H-magadiite through different routes.
- Nascimento, J.V.A. et al. Preparation of natural and synthetic pillared clays using aluminum polyhydroxocations both commercial and prepared in the laboratory.
- Oliveira, L.H. et al. Regional bentonite as a tiabendazole release system.
- Pereira, W.L. et al. Mineralogical, structural and chemical analyses of clay minerals from the Alter do Chao Formation in the Amazonas.
- Plotegher, F. et al. Mechanical characterization of pectine / vermiculite bionanocomposites produced by continuous casting.
- Santana, M.V. et al. Synthesis and characterization of attapulgite nanocomposites / metallic nanoparticles for biotechnological applications.
- Rodrigues, P.V. et al. Mineralogical characterization and purification of the palygorskite from the Guadalupe Region (PI), seeking industrial applications.
- Setta, F. et al. Identification of the clay minerals of the Tremembe Formation, Taubate Basin.
- Simoes, K.M.A. et al. Technological characterization and purification of a palygorskite from Piauí for application as adsorbent of heavy metal effluents.

In 2017, the 3rd Workshop on Applied Clays (3RAA) will take place at Sao Paulo (SP), probably from 27th to 29th April. The chair of this event will be Dr. Vera Regina Leopoldo Constantino [vrlconst@iq.usp.br], from Chemistry Institute of State University of Sao Paulo.

1b. The 60th Brazilian Congress on Ceramics, organized by the Brazilian Society of Ceramics (ABCeram), took place at Aguas de Lindoia (SP), from May 15th to 18th, 2016 (http://www.abceram.org.br). There were 325 participants from 21 Brazilian states, besides participants from other countries (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and USA). A fair was organized with the 6 companies which sponsored the event.

The program included 289 technical papers (38 orals and 251 posters), 11 conferences, 6 plenary lectures, 3 round tables, 2 short-courses and one workshop.

The following papers based on clay topics have been presented:

- Barcelos, J.L. et al. Making light-weight concrete by substitution of part of the large aggregates by expanded clay (in Portuguese)
- Baruel, A.F. et al. Organophilization of bentonite clay through a phosphorus salt (in Portuguese)
- Boschi, A.O. et al. Effect of the starting raw material in the performance of geopolymers (in Portuguese)
- Brito, E.M. et al. Assessment of chemical and technological properties of the clays from the middle-north region of Brazil as potential for application in formulations for the production of red ceramics pressed roof tiles (in Portuguese)
- Christofoletti, S.R. et al. Facies, composition and technology of the Corumbatai Formation, Permian of the Parana Basin and its application in the ceramic industry of northeastern of the Sao Paulo State, Brazil (in Portuguese)
- Correia, S.L. et al. Preparation and characterization of geopolymer cements from precursors of different
metakaolinite sources (in Portuguese)

- Francisco, M.A.C.O. et al. Physical-mechanical characterization of kaolin from the Espírito Santo State, seeking industrial application (in Portuguese).
- Pereira, K.R.O. et al. Use of impregnated clay as catalysts in the reaction of esterification for preparation of biodiesel (in Portuguese).
- Pereira, R.T. et al. Studying the effect of chemical, mineralogical and size characteristics of a red ceramic mass in the loss of brick production (in Portuguese).
- Rodrigues, M.G.F. et al. Kinetic study of the adsorption of the heavy metal cadmium using the natural Brasgel clay as adsorbent (in Portuguese).
- Silva, D.L. Study of the correlation between the sorption of surfactant in organophilic clays and their rheology in oil-base fluid (in Portuguese).

1c. The 48th Brazilian Geological Congress (48CBG), organized by the Brazilian Geological Society (SBG), took place at Porto Alegre (RS) from October 09th to 13th, 2016 (http://www.sbgeo.org.br). There were more than 2500 participants from Brazil and other countries. The Expogeo fair was organized with 17 companies which sponsored the event.

The program included 2418 technical papers (758 orals and 1660 electronic-posters), 68 thematic conferences, 4 plenary lectures, 11 round tables, 15 short-courses, 4 field-excursions and 24 cultural activities about geological themes.

The proceedings of this event can be found at http://sbg.sitepessoal.com/anais48cbg
A list of papers about clays and/or clay minerals follows (in Portuguese):

- Alves, D.B. Mineralogical modeling for characterization of mixed-layer clay minerals of Brazilian basins applied to the petroleum exploration.
- Costa, H.S. et al. Paleoclimatic evaluation of the Taciba Formation (Parana Basin), Santa Catarina, based on gamma-radiation signature and clay minerals.
- Daher, A.P. Hydrothermal alteration modeling of the auriferous deposit of Alvo Córrego do Ouro at Papagaio, MG.
- Driemeyer, D. et al. Development of microanalysis and quantification techniques for mineral studies of epith-
eral deposits from Rio Grande do Sul (in Portuguese).


• Iop, G.T.C. et al. Chlorite geothermometry: application in rocks from shear zones (in Portuguese).

• Lima, C.A.A. et al. Mineralogy and weathered products of ultrapotassic rocks from Santa Cruz das Lajes alkaline province (in Portuguese).


• Negrão, L.B.A. et al. The Belterra clay under the bauxite deposits of Rondon do Para (in Portuguese).

• Quinteiro, R.V.S. et al. Structural changes of celadonite under high pressures and temperatures, and their influence on the hydration and incompatible elements re-enrichment in subduction zones (in Portuguese).

• Ruppel, K.M.V. et al. Composition of the chlorite from the Ibare Lineation (RS) by using electronic microprobe and infrared spectrometry (in Portuguese).

• Silva, A.F. et al. Characterization of magmatic minerals associated to the bentonite from the southern part of the Itat Formation, Paraná Basin (in Portuguese).


• Silva, R.G. et al. Chlorites from the Faina and the Serra de Santa Rita Greenstone Belts (Goias, Brazil) (in Portuguese).

• Sousa, A.C. et al. Technological characterization of clays from the Baixo do Jaguaribe Region, Ceará State (in Portuguese).

• Souza, F.G. et al. Identification of clay minerals in vesicles from rocks of the Serra Geral Formation in the Panama County (GO), using XRD and SEM techniques (in Portuguese).

• Souza, T.L. et al. Preliminary results of the serpentinites from the Passo Feio Complex, RS (in Portuguese).


2. Publications

Some Brazilian journals /reviews have published papers on researches with clay and clay minerals which can be retrieved for free at www.scielo.br

Cerâmica
(on-line version ISSN 1678-4553 - www.scielo.br/ce):


Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society (On-line version ISSN 1678-4790 - www.scielo.br):


Materials Research (on-line version ISSN 1980-5373 - www.scielo.br):


Polímeros – Ciência e Tecnologia (on-line version ISSN 1678-5169- www.scielo.br):
• Em, M.C.C. et al. PF/CLAY hybrid materials: a simple method to modulate the optical properties. Polímeros, São Carlos, 26(1), 38-43, 2016.

3- Invitation
We would like to invite all clay scientists to participate both in 3rd Workshop on Applied Clays (3RAA) that will take place at São Paulo (SP) on April 27-29th; and in the 61st Brazilian Congress on Ceramics (61CBC) that will take place at Gramado (RS) on June 04-07th, 2017.

By Daisy Barbosa Alves
November / 2016
Closing Ceremony of conference in Košice as a host of next MECC 2018.

According to the 2016 plan of activities, the CCG was updated and improved its website.

Preparation of MECC 2018 included:
• Establishing the Organizing Committee of this conference;
• select the hotel where it will be held;
• definition of the conference fieldtrips;
• preparation of conference workshop.

Due to increased activities of its members, the CCG was not adequately active regarding to planed lectures in this year.

Plans for 2017:
• Future lectures would be in accordance to fieldtrips on MECC 2018.
• Participation at conferences related to clays (16th ICC 2017, Granada, Spain).
• Preparation for MECC 2018, Zagreb (Croatia).

By Anita Grizelj and Nikolina Ilijanic
December / 2016

CZECH REPUBLIC
CZECH NATIONAL CLAY GROUP

The Czech National Clay Group (CNCG) published two numbers (57–58) of the “Informátor” bulletin in Czech language with information about clay science in the Czech Republic and in the world. ISSN of printed version is 1802-2480; ISSN of internet pdf version is 1802-2499.

Informátor published information about seminars together with abstracts of lectures, overview of published books and interesting papers and summary of previous conferences. We are announcing upcoming conferences in the next years.

We organized two seminars:
The spring meeting was organized in Prague on May 12.
Program of the seminar:
Dimitrios Papoulis (University of Patras, Greece): Clay-based nanocomposites possibilities and limitations
Konstantinos Nikolakopoulos (University of Patras, Greece): Unmanned aerial vehicles for geological and geoarchaeological applications.

The autumn meeting was organized in Prague on November 24.

Program of the seminar:
Martin Štastný (Institute of Geology AS CR, v. v. i., Prague), Josef Dudek (Elementary Art School Prague 10): Has been the secret of Loštice cups revealed?
Martin Štastný, Miroslav Coubal (Institute of Geology AS CR, v. v. i., Prague): Tectonic clays and clay minerals
Pavel Hájek (Techfloor): Techfloor products presentation


Members of CNCG participated at the Mid European Clay Conference in Košice and Ph.D. student Jakub Škoda obtained the best poster presentation award.

In the year 2017 we will plan to organize spring and autumn seminars and together with zeolite group one day conference meeting during September at the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague.

Contemporary board of CNCG in 2017:
Chairman: Miroslav Pospíšil
Vice-chairman: Martin Štastný
Treasurer: Petr Kovář
Board members: Soňa Jarková
Pavel Hájek
Martin Hořý
Petr Praus
Representative of zeolite subgroup: David Koloušek

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For other information about CNCG, we recommend you to visit our www pages:
www.czechclaygroup.cz

By Miroslav Pospíšil
December / 2016

FRANCE
FRENCH CLAY GROUP

2016 was again an active and successful year for the French Clay Group (GFA). Following the ECGA choice of Paris to host the next Euroclay meeting in 2019, a local organizing committee, chaired by Jean-Louis Robert, has been set up. This committee is working hard to make this
Euroclay 2019 a successful and unforgettable event. Our next “rendez-vous” with possible contributors and attendees will take place in Granada next July during the ICC meeting. See a lot of you there!

1. French Clay Group 14th annual meeting – Poitiers, May 18-20

The Annual Meeting of the GFA was organized in Poitiers by Eric Ferrage and the faculty members from the HydrASA group of the IC2MP. This year, our annual meeting gathered more than 110 persons (that is about the number of members of the French Clay Group!!), with ~60 contributions (both oral and poster in similar proportions) dealing with a variety of lamellar compounds going from phyllosilicates to layer double hydroxides, cementitious CSH phases, lamellar oxides, and tubular oxides. Plenary lectures were given by Alain Baronnet (on CSH high-resolution imaging), Isabelle Batonneau-Genner (on the fine-tuning of porous material hydrophobicity-hydrophilicity), and Pierre Delage (on the impact of water content in smectites on their mechanical properties).

Ample room was made also to student presentations, three of these student presentations being singled out for their quality (Adrian Beda and Eloi Le Floch for their posters on “Dye-LDH hybrids and their use in photochemistry” and “Sorption of dyes on LDH”, and Maxime Lainé for his oral presentation on the “Impact of irradiation on swelling clays”).

2. MECC 2016 meeting – Košice (Slovakia), July 4-8th

A group of ~12 French participants attended this year’s MECC meeting, bringing our contribution to these increasingly attractive meetings. Former active and efficient secretary of the GFA for many years, Sabine Petit (IC2MP, Poitiers), was awarded the Gerhard Lagaly Award by the German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG) during this conference (see photo). On this occasion, Sabine Petit gave a plenary lecture on the “Relevance of clay synthesis for environmental studies”. Pierre Barré (Geology Lab., ENS, Paris) was invited also to give a keynote lecture on “Clay minerals and organic carbon persistence in soils”.

Eric Ferrage (together with Miroslav Pospíšil from the Czech Republic), and Jocelyne Brendlé (together with Jakub Matusik from Poland) also acted as session conveners for the sessions devoted to “Theoretical methods and structure of clay minerals” and to “Modifications and synthesis of clays”, respectively.

3. International Master in Advanced Clay Science (IMACS)

The fifth graduation ceremony of the IMACS took place in Poitiers (France), on September 13-14th. Congratulations to the 2016 IMACS graduate students.

This fifth graduation ceremony was the last of this international Master Program in its Erasmus Mundus form. Over the last five years, this program has seen the graduation of ~60 international Master students from a variety of countries from all 6 continents (in addition to ~40 French trainees). An important part of the international students have undertaken a Ph.D. thesis throughout the clay world (Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, UK, USA,…). We strongly believe that this unique clay-oriented Master was a fantastic opportunity for students to obtain a solid formation on techniques allowing the characterization of clays, the determination of their reactive properties, the optimization of their synthesis, but also insights in their different domains of application. I am sure all current advisors of these Ph.D. students would agree with me on the quality of the initial formation provided through this program.

Although EC funding was cut, the future of this program remains international with a strong support from associated universities from Brazil (U. Federal Rio Grande do Sul), Greece (Techn. U. Crete), and Portugal (U. Aveiro), but also from all over France. This Poitiers-based formation has been initiated indeed through the French Clay Group and remains strongly supported with a sustained involvement of its members—and of foreign teachers—from various universities teaching classes in their respective areas of expertise.

4. Miscellaneous.

The GFA supported also other actions such as the 4th French-Speaking Seminar on Geopolymers which was organized at the Ceramics European Center (CEC) in Limoges on June 16th and 17th, just after the 1st Seminar of the European Geopolymer Network organized at the same place on June 15th. Members of the GFA were involved also in the organization of the International Workshop on Advanced Ceramics held on September 26-28th, in Limoges and more especially in that of the sessions devoted to bio- and eco-materials.

By Bruno Lanson
December / 2016
The 2016 DTTG activities started with the organization of a 2-day workshop "Rietveld analysis with BGMN", held on March 1st and 2nd at the Freiberg Technical University. The workshop was fully booked and 24 participants exercised the use of the BGMN and PROFEX software in XRD analysis. This year the focus was put on the optimization of instrumental settings and on the new features of the PROFEX graphical user interface, presented by Reinhard Kleeberg (Freiberg) and Nicola Doebelin (Bettlach, Switzerland), respectively. Despite this subject was not exclusively related to clay science, a number of PhD students and scientists working in our field also participated and learned about these methods.

The importance and power of the XRD analysis in clay science was once more demonstrated in the 8th Reynolds Cup in Quantitative Mineral Analysis, organized by the Clay Minerals Society and supported by the DTTG. The results were presented at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the CMS in Atlanta/Georgia at June 5-8. Within the standing of the 69 participants, the eleven teams from the DTTG performed extremely well. So, eight of the German-Swiss-Austrian laboratories have been placed within the best thirteen ranks. Namely, the places 4 and 5 went to the Greifswald University and BGR Hannover teams, and also the winners, Rieko Adriaens and Gilles Mertens from Leuven/Belgium, are members of our society. The second and third place went to Mark Raven and Peter Self (CSIRO Australia), and to the team of Steve Hillier from the Hutton Institute, Scotland, respectively. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all participants for their efforts in improving the quality of our analytical methods!

A number of members of the DTTG participated at the CMS meeting in Atlanta, as mentioned above. There will be a separate report in this newsletter, presented by the CMS. From the DTTG perspective it should be mentioned that Xiaoli Wang from Freiberg University received a CMS Student Travel Grant and was also awarded for the best student oral presentation of her talk "Rietveld refinement of selected structural parameters of dioctahedral smectites". Our members Michael Plötze, Reiner Dohrmann, and Georg Grathoff worked hard as conveners and contributed actively to the scientific success of this conference.

In the frame of the scientific program of the MECC the DTTG also presented the Gerhard Lagaly Award to Dr. Sabine Petit (University of Poitiers), recognizing her scientific work and her efforts in education in the field of clay science. Dr. Jan Dietel (BGR Hannover) was awarded with the Karl Jasmund Award for his PhD thesis "Mineralogical and chemical properties of thermally treated and ground illitic clays as precursor materials for geopolymer binders". The DTTG is grateful to the organizers of the MECC for integrating our awards in this great and well organized conference. A special report on this meeting is available in this issue.

As ongoing activity, the DTTG is currently preparing the 7th International Workshop “Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Clays and Clay Minerals”, to be held 20.-24.02.2017 at Greifswald University and organized by Georg Grathoff and Laurence Warr. The workshop is already fully booked, and we expect to have interesting talks, exercises, and scientific discussions.

By Reinhard Kleeberg
December / 2016
HUNGARY
HUNGARIAN CLAY GROUP

1. Election of the board
The board of the Clay Mineralogy Section, affiliated to the Hungarian Geological Society (HGS) (in the following, for simplicity, the Hungarian Clay Group) worked for its second year in the three-year term 2015–2018. New Honorary Member of the Committee, due to the death of Géza Szendrei in 2015, has not been elected. The board consists of the following:
President: Erzsébet Tóth (Eötvös Museum of Natural History, Faculty of Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
Secretary: Ferenc Kristály (Department of Mineralogy and Petrography, Institute of Mineralogy and Geology, Faculty of Earth Science and Engineering, University of Miskolc)
Members of the Committee: Izabella M. Farkas (MOL Plc., Group E&P Production Management, Applied Materials, Technologies & Laboratories, Geoscience Thematic Unit, Budapest)
Viktória Kovács-Kis (Thin Film Physics Group, Centre for Energy Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences - HAS, Budapest)
János Kristóf (Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary)
Tibor Németh (Department of Mineralogy, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest; Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)
Béla Rauscik (Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology, Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged, Szeged)
Péter Sipos (Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)
Etelka Tombácz (Department of Physical Chemistry and Materials Science, Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged, Szeged)
Mária Foldvári (retired from the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary, Budapest)
István Vicizáni (Department of Mineralogy and Geology, Debrecen University, Debrecen)
Honorary President of the Committee: Ernő Nemecz (HAS Veszprém/ Budapest)

In 2016, the Hungarian Clay Group had 5 meetings.

2.1- 11th January (Budapest) (organised jointly with the Mineralogical-Geochemical Branch of the Hungarian Geological Society, abbreviated as HGS MGB in the following):
The conferences with clay mineralogical relevance were the following:
• Szakmány, Gy.: 13th European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics (EMAC), September 24-26th, 2015, Athens, Greece.
• Gergely, F.: Euroclay 2015, July 5-10th, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Among the forthcoming meetings, the 8th Mid-European Clay-Conference (MECC2016, see below) was introduced by E. Tóth.

2.2- 15th February (Budapest): Clay mineralogy workshop to promote the participation of young scientists and students at the MECC2016 conference
The new initiative aimed at helping young researchers to finalise their abstracts for the conference by reviewing the current state of their research by the more experienced Hungarian clay scientists. The reviewed papers:
• Bartók, Á.: Clay mineralogical study of the metabasalts at the Upper Szinva headwaters.
• Kovács, I.: Hydrothermal clay alterations in the Velence Mountains.
• Schimek, É.: The geologic origin of industrial fluoride emission of a brick factory.
The results of Kovács and Schimek have finally been presented at MECC2016 (see below).

2.3- 21st March (Budapest): Géza Szendrei (1942-2015) memorial meeting (organised jointly with the HGS MGB; Sub-Committee on Environmental Geochemistry, Committee on Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Soil Mineralogy Section of the Hungarian Soil Science Society; Institute for Soil Sciences and Agricultural Chemistry, Centre for Agricultural Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Hungarian Natural History Museum):
• Papp, G.: Scientific career in a biographic frame.
• Tóth, T.: Activity in soil science – as seen by a colleague.
• Vicizáni, I.: Scientific achievements.
Science organisation:
• Vicizáni, I.: Hungarian Geological Society.
• Vető, I., Gondi, F.: Sub-Committee on Environmental
Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
• Németh, T.: Soil Mineralogy Section of the Hungarian Soil Science Society.
• Tóth, E.: The university lecturer.
• Császár, G.: The man – as only a few people knew him.

2.4- 3rd October (Budapest): Quo vadis Clay Mineralogy? – round-table discussion on the occasion of two meetings (MECC2016, JTACC+V4 – 2017)
The meeting had a round-table discussion in the first part, dealing with the role the Hungarian Clay Group plays in the international clay science. The regional MECC 2016 (July 4-8th, Košice, Slovakia, https://mecc2016.sav.sk/) offered an overview of the regional clay science results and the possibility to evaluate the role of the HCG in it. The MECC2016 meeting had 195 participants, and among them 15 Hungarian delegates. Out of the 12 sessions, 3 had Hungarian convenors, too.

2.5- 17-18th November (Miskolc): 3rd Workshop of Earth Sciences Related Higher-Education Institutions
(organised jointly with the HGS MGB; HGS Education and Training Section; Higher Education Working Committee, Committee on Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Institute of Mineralogy and Geology, Miskolc University)
The yearly meeting helps networking and collaboration of earth-sciences related higher-education institutions and introduces each time a certain institute, this time the Institute of Mineralogy and Geology of the Miskolc University, with special focus on education issues and research projects.

3. Clay-related presentations at other meetings in Hungary, in 2016
Papers dealing with clay minerals, were presented also in several other organisations, in other sections of Hungarian Geological Society (HGS) and in various branches of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). The meetings were held not only in Budapest but in other places too (in the following report these locations and organisations are specially indicated). The following meetings and presentations related to clay problems were held:

• Németh, T. et al.: The transformation of clay minerals under atmospheric conditions: the effect of wetting and drying
• Kovács-Kis et al.: Electron diffraction studies on montmorillonite

3.2- 19 April (Szeged, organised by the Alföld Regional Section of HGS): Calcareous marl meeting
The one-day meeting was devoted to the formation conditions, sedimentology, potential hydrocarbon source rock and reservoir role of the marl member of the Endrőd Formation, representing the start of Pannonian transgression.

3.3- 23 June (Pécs, organised by the Pécs Regional Section of HAS; with a complete proceedings volume, in Hungarian with English abstract):
New results of the Boda Claystone Formation (BCF) research
• Tunghi, Gy et al.: Geological investigation of the Boda Claystone Formation
• Máthé, Z.: Depositional environment of the Boda Claystone Formation (BCF)
• Halmai, Á. et al.: The Depth of Colors – Quantitative Analysis of Drilling Cores
• Majoros, Gy. et al.: The attempted integrated interpretation of the structure of Mecsek Mts. and its surroundings in the light of our geological knowledge
• Konrád, Gy. et al.: Geological mapping in the Boda Claystone research area (1995-2016)
• Vágó, Z. et al.: Drilling activity in the Boda Claystone Formation
• Konrád, Gy. et al.: Geological results of the boreholes BAF-1, -1A and -2
• Somodi, G. et al.: Rock mass classification and rock mechanical laboratory investigations in BAF-2 borehole
• Fedor, F. et al.: Results of mineralogical, petrological, geochemical and petrophysical laboratory measurements carried out on samples of BAF-2 and BAF-1,1A drillholes
• Bernáth, Gy. et al.: Well logging of BAF project 2014:
some results and conclusions

- Mázik, J.: Results of the VSP survey in the BAF-2 borehole
- Andrássy, M. et al.: Hydraulic packer testing in the boreholes BAF-2 and BAF-1, –1A
- Korpai, F. et al.: Multipacker system in the borehole BAF-2
- Dankó, Gy. et al.: In-situ stress measurements in the borehole BAF-2
- Földing, G. et al.: Water chemistry of BAF-2, BAF-1, -1A boreholes
- Földessy, J. et al.: Hydrothermal fingerprints on the rocks of the Boda Claystone Formation
- Vétesy, L. et al.: Geological-geophysical Preparation of B-3 Trench
- Hámos, G. et al.: Tectonic stability study with exploration trench in the vicinity of the Boda Claystone Formation (Preliminary results of the geological logging of B-3 exploration trench)
- Csurgó, G. et al.: BCF hydrogeological reambulation 2015 – BCF exploration, surface exploration phase I, stage 2

3.4- 24-26 August: Natural Resources in North Hungary (Annual meeting and expo of the Hungarian Geological Society, Sárospatak)

- Hágen, A.: Sedimentation of Pleistocene sand and loess, revealed by the Katymár loess section
- Viczián, I.: What was the so-called “Tokaj earth”?
- Bujdosó, É. et al.: Results of the passive seismic monitoring system of the Boda Claystone Formation
- Gártner, D. et al.: Core geophysical results of the deep drillcores BAF-2, BAF-1 and BAF-1A

4. Relevant Hungarian PhD defences in 2016:

- Máthé, Zoltán. (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): Results of mineralogical, petrological and geochemical investigation of the Boda Claystone Formation, 3rd March.
- Horváth, Adrienn (University of West Hungary, Sopron): Investigation of urban and peri-urban soils in the area of Sopron and Szombathely, 7th July.
- Sárközi, Edit (Szent István University, Gödöllő): The effect of heavy metal stress in soil-plant systems, 11th November.
- Barta, Gabriella (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): Analysis of secondary carbonates from the young loess-paleosol sequences of the Carpathian Basin – especially regarding their paleoenvironmental role, 12th December.

5. International activity: MECC 2016, 8th Mid-European Clay Conference, 4-8 July, Košice, Slovakia

Hungary, as a traditional organiser country delegated 15 researchers to this 195-participant meeting. Three sections (Organoclays and nanocomposites; Clays in sedimentary-metamorphic systems; Archaeological ceramics – from clays to vessels) had Hungarian convenors (János Kristóf, Béla Raucsik, Ferenc Kristály, resp.), too. The (at least partly) Hungary-related contributions:

- Baláz, R. et al. (poster): Influence of clay and iron mineralogy on copper sorption by meadow soils
- Buzetzky, D. et al. (oral): Trivalent cations modified bentonites against eutrophication
- Farkas, I.M. (poster): The effects of short-time interaction of potassium- and sodium chloride with Na-montmorillonite and illite-smectite mixed-layer clay minerals
- Kovács, E.M. et al. (oral): Surface species of lanthanum ion on montmorillonite
- Kovács, I. et al. (poster): Argillic alteration of Permian granite intrusion (Velence Mts., Hungary) by Triassic and Paleogene hydrothermal fluids
- Kovács Kis, V. et al. (poster): Nanostructural changes in montmorillonite upon cyclic wetting-and-drying: An electron diffraction study
- Kristóf, J. et al. (oral): Nanokaolinites/halloysites as potential photocatalysts
- Lakatos, A. (oral): Heat transfer investigations carried out on brick based wall.
- Mészáros, E. et al. (poster): Very low-grade metamorphism of the Cisuralian basement formations (Korpád Sandstone, Győr? Rhyolite) near Kelebia, Békés-Újvidék Unit, Hungary
- Németh, T. et al. (oral): Change of the metal sorption properties of clay minerals due to laboratory and natural pedogenic alterations
- Raucsik, B. et al. (poster): Very low-grade metamorphism of the Cisuralian basement formations (Korpád Sandstone, Győr? Rhyolite) near Kelebia, Békés-Újvidék Unit, Hungary
- Rózsa, P. et al. (oral): Archaeometric study on Turkish ceramic water pipe from Rudas Bath, Budapest, Hungary
- Schimek, É. et al. (poster): The origin of industrial fluo- rine emission of a Hungarian brick factory
- Sipos, P. et al. (poster): Effect of iron oxyhydroxide removal on the metals’ partition at particle level following their sorption in soil
- Szilágyi, R. K. et al. (oral): Quantum Mechanical Engineering of Exfoliated Kaolinite
- Táborosi, A. et al. (poster, winner of the poster session award: Development of molecular cluster models for nano-kaolinite from crystalline structures
INDIA
CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY OF INDIA

The Annual Convention and National Symposium by The Clay Minerals Society of India will be held at Nagpur on February 17-18, 2017.

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Head Div. of Soil Resource Studies
ICAR-NBSS & LUP, Nagpur 440 033
Maharashtra – India
E-mail: pchandran1960@yahoo.co.in or orgsecmsi2017@gmail.com
Internet: www.theclaymineralsocietyofindia.co.in/events

By Samar C. Datta
December / 2016

ISRAEL
ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR CLAY RESEARCH

Israel Society For Clay Research consists of approximately 40 members. Our members are active in international activities around the world: For example, Prof. Shlomo Nir presented his recent studies in the 5th Mediterranean Clay Meeting (MCM2016) that took place in İzmir-Çeşme, Turkey, in September 25-29th, 2016. Prof. Shlomo Shoval and Prof. Giora Rytwo participated at the 8th Mid European Clay Conference – MECC’16 in Košice, Slovakia. Several researchers from our society (e.g. Dr. Mikhail Borisover, Prof. Yael G. Mishael) are very active in soil sciences societies and meetings around the world.

Several studies of some Society members focus on environmental aspects, for example: Prof. Nir published and presented recent studies on the application of micelle-clay composites for “grey water” purification and biocidal activity. Dr. Ahmed Nasser and Prof. (emer.) Uri Mingelgrin demonstrated in the past the efficiency of Al- and Cu- montmorillonite as catalysts in the mechanochemical breakdown of various organic pollutants such as imazquin and PAHs, and recently demonstrated that effective degradation of carbamazepine. Prof. Rytwo delivered a short course on Environmental Applications of Clays, Organoclays and Nanocomposites to students of the International Master Degree in Clay Sciences Program (IMACS), Poitiers (France) in February-March 2016. Collaboration on the issue is ongoing: the course will be delivered again by remote learning, and two students of the program are expected to perform an internship in Israel for 5 months during 2017.

We are planning the next annual meeting of The Israel Society for Clay Research, that will take place during Fall 2017. The location will be determined during the next weeks.

For more information contact:
Giora Rytwo, Tel Hai College & MIGAL Research Institute, Upper Galilee, Israel. Tel: 972-4-6953553
Email: rytwo@telhai.ac.il
We wish you all a happy and fruitful year.

By Giora Rytwo
December / 2016

ITALY
ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS – AISA

1. Activities of 2016:
The activities of AISA members concern the presentation of research results at international and national conferences and the participation to national and international research programs.

During the annual general Assembly and the Clay Day 2016, the AISA members exchanged their scientific experiences. This year the two events were held in Modena at the Department of Engineering “Enzo Ferrari” of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. The Clay day was organized and coordinated by Prof. Cristina Siligardi. The following presentations were given:
“Geopolymeric materials for stone restoration: features and applications”, by Dr. Elena Soragni;
“Porosity in geopolymers based on metakaolin”, by Dr. Valentina Medri;
“Geopolymers based on metakaolin for inertization of hazardous waste”, by Prof. Isabella Lancellotti;
“Materials activated in alkaline environment by kaolinitic clays of volcanic origin” by Dr. Roberta Occhipinti;
“Thermal conductivity properties and possibilities of shaping of geopolymers” by Prof. Marcello Romagnoli.

The subjects of the presentations were very interesting and clay scientists had the opportunity to interact with researchers applying clays in the field of material science.

The Second International Conference on Atmospheric Dust (DUST-2016) was organized by the Italian Association for the Study of Clay (AISA), in cooperation with the Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis of the National Research Council of Italy (IMAA-CNR). Chair of the Conference was Dr. Saverio Fiore (IMAA-CNR). DUST 2016 offered a unique opportunity for
mineralogists, physicists, geochemists, engineers, volcanologists, chemists and for many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of the atmospheric particles. The conference was based on, but not limited to, the following topics:
• impact on health & environment
• instrumentations & measurements
• modelling & field studies
• transport & deposition
• the universe of atmospheric dust

The 45 scientific sessions were focused on sampling methods, analytical techniques, effects of anthropogenic or natural dust on health and the environment.

Next edition of DUST will be held on June 2018.

Dr. Laura Scrano, member of the AISA Board of Directors, has organized, in collaboration with GRIFA - Italian Research Group on Pesticides and Environment and SCI - Italian Chemical Society, the Summer school - Natural minerals and synthetic surrogates for the environment and health safeguard: Medicine, veterinary, agriculture and ecological issues, that was held in Bari, 20-22 June, at the Department of Earth and GeoEnvironmental Sciences, University "Aldo Moro". The topics of the 5 planned Sessions were, respectively: Basic information, Environmental applications, Biotech applications, Med applications and Innovative and future perspectives.

At the end of the year, the AISA members were 59, 48 ordinary, 9 juniors and 2 Societies. In addition to this, there were also 5 life members and 2 honorary foreign members.

2. Work Plan For 2017
Some members of the AISA are organizing the next edition of AMAM, that will be held on June 2017 in conjunction with the 13th International Congress of Applied Mineralogy. Information can be found at www.amam-icam2017.org website.

3. 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 (Ist. Metodologie per l’Analisi Ambientale, IMAA-CN, Tito Scalo, Potenza)
Treasurer: Rocco LAVIANO (Dip. Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Univ. Bari)
Counsellors: Luca ALDEGA (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Univ. Roma Sapienza)
Counsellors: Luigi CAPPELLETTI (Dip. Scienze della Terra, dell’Ambiente e delle Risorse, Univ. Napoli - Federico II)
Massimo PALLARA (Dip. Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Univ. Bari)
Laura SCRANO (Dip. delle Culture Europee e del Mediterraneo, DICEM, Univ. Basilicata, Matera)
Massimo SETTI (Dip. Scienze della Terra, Univ. Pavia)
Cristina SILIGARDI (Dip. Ingegneria “Enzo Ferrari”, Univ. Modena e Reggio Emilia)
Liaison-Officer: Michele DONDI (Ist. Scienza Tecnologia dei Materiali Ceramici – ISTEC-CNR, Faenza)

4. Administrative address:
AISA – onlus, c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali, Via Orabona, 4, 70125 Bari – Italy

By Aldo Mirabella
December / 2016

JAPAN
CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY OF JAPAN

1. Committee
The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2016 and 2017.
President: Prof. T. Hatta, Chiba Institute of Science
Vice presidents: Dr. H. Chino, Obayashi Cooperation
Prof. T. Kogure, The University of Tokyo
Secretary General: Prof. M. Kawano, Kagoshima University
Principal Editors: Dr. T. Hibino, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Nendo Kagaku)
Dr. T. Ebina, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Clay Science)
2. The 60th Annual Meeting
The 60th Annual Meeting of the Clay Science Society of Japan was held at Kyushu University from 15 to 17, September 2016. It was principally organized by Prof. S. Wada, of Kyushu University. A total of 95 papers including 35 posters were presented. The program also included a symposium entitled “Past and future of Clay Sciences” with following invited speakers:

T. Nakato (Kyushu Institute of Technology): Liquid crystallinity and extraneous control of clay colloids
N. Miyamoto (Fukuoka Institute of Technology): Synthesis of novel clay/polymer composite using clay colloids with liquid crystallinity
T. Ebina (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology): Designing of clay composites nipping brilliant organic and inorganic properties
M. Suzuki (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology): Development of energy-saving clay adsorbent recyclable at low temperature
K. Kuroda (Waseda University): Role of silicates for the development of novel materials
T. Kogure (The University of Tokyo): Structure of clay minerals – Known and unknown sights over the past 20 years
M. Najo (Tohoku University): Role of clays and inorganic materials for soils, fertilizer, and agriculture and forestry
T. Sato (Hokkaido University): Reconsideration of Clay-sphere: past, present and future
A. Yamagishi (Toho University): separation technology of optical isomer by clay column – motivation, progression and present status
T. Nakato (Kyushu Institute of Technology): Liquid crystallinity and extraneous control of clay colloids
N. Miyamoto (Fukuoka Institute of Technology): Synthesis of novel clay/polymer composite using clay colloids with liquid crystallinity
T. Ebina (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology): Designing of clay composites nipping brilliant organic and inorganic properties
M. Suzuki (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology): Development of energy-saving clay adsorbent recyclable at low temperature
K. Kuroda (Waseda University): Role of silicates for the development of novel materials
T. Kogure (The University of Tokyo): Structure of clay minerals - Known and unknown sights over the past 20 years
M. Najo (Tohoku University): Role of clays and inorganic materials for soils, fertilizer, and agriculture and forestry
T. Sato (Hokkaido University): Reconsideration of Clay-sphere: past, present and future
A. Yamagishi (Toho University): separation technology of optical isomer by clay column – motivation, progression and present status

3. 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 A. Yamazaki, Waseda University.
Young Scientist Award was given to Y. Miyoshi, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology.
Best Technological Award was given to Kunimine Industry, Co. Ltd.
Best Paper Awards were given to J.T. Kloprogge and B.J. Wood (Clay Science, 19, 39-44) and to Y. Date et al. (Clay Science, 19, 85-90).
Young Student Awards were given to the following students:
• H. Ishibashi (Kanazawa Institute of Technology)
• N. Kudo (Tokyo Metropolitan University)
• K. Muramatsu (Waseda University)
• S. Suzuki (Tokyo Metropolitan University)
• H. Nishina (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

4. 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.
For further updated information: www.cssj2.org/index_e.html or contact Tsutomu Sato, Hokkaido University, email: tomsato@eng.hokudai.ac.jp

By Tsutomu Sato
December / 2016
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)
KOREAN CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY

1. Committee
Korean Clay Science Society (KCSS) was launched September 2012, when the 2nd. Asian Clay Society meeting was held at Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea.

The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2016:
President: Prof. J. H. Choy, Ewha Womans University
Vice presidents: Prof. Byungse. Jun, Kyungnam University
Prof. Hyen Goo Cho, Gyegsang National University
Secretary: Prof. Jinwook Kim, Yonsei University
Board members: Prof. E. S. Kim, Kyonggi University
Dr. In Park, Korea Institute of Industrial Technology (KITECH)

2. Annual Meetings
(1) 8th Annual Meeting
The 8th annual meeting of the Korean Clay Science Society (KCSS) was held at Ewha Womans University, Seoul in May 25, 2016. It was organized by KCSS committee and sponsored by Ewha Womans University, Center for Intelligent Nano-Bio materials (CINBM), and Global B&M. Total 33 papers including 11 oral presentations and 22 posters were presented. The program included a keynote lecture by Prof. Ajayan Vinu (Australia), 7 invited lectures and 3 oral presentations.
The 9th Annual Meeting of the Korean Clay Science Society (KCSS) was held at Hurom Village, Sancheong, Korea during Nov. 4-5, 2016. It was organized by KCSS committee and sponsored by Rakwoo Co. Ltd., Kyungnam University and Global B&M. Total 28 papers including 14 oral presentations and 14 posters were presented. The program included a plenary lecture by Prof. Masahiro Yoshimura (Taiwan), 5 invited lectures and 8 oral presentations. The symposium was entitled, “Clay minerals and materials: from nature to industries”.

3. Academic activities

The International Advisory Board Committee for Asian Clay Society including Korean Clay Science Society was established during “The 3rd Asian Clay Conference 2016”, which was held from November 18th to 20th in 2016 at Guangzhou, China. Prof. Jinwook Kim and Prof. Jae-Min Oh attended the meeting to initiate the “Board Meeting of Asian Clay Society” and discussed activities of Asian Clay Society.

For further updated information: please access to the following link, http://www.korclay.org or contact with Prof. Jinwook Kim, Yonsei University, e-mail: jinwook@yonsei.ac.kr

By Jin-Ho Choy
December / 2016

POLAND
POLISH CLAY GROUP

The report of the Polish Clay Group in 2016.

The Polish Clay Group (PCG) is a branch of the Mineralogical Society of Poland. The PCG consists 41 members. The president of the Polish Clay Group of the 2016 – 17 term of office is Czeslaw August (Ph.D, Wroclaw University), vice-president - Sylwia Kowalska (Ph.D, Oil and Gas Institute, Cracow).

In 2016 the members of the Polish Clay Group took part in the 8th Mid-European Clay Conference in Kosice (Slovakia). Five lectures as well as 13 posters were presented by Polish delegation. Three Polish participants were also conveners of the thematic sessions. The Polish Clay Group has organized the 20th Annual Symposium Clays and Clay Minerals. The symposium was held in Cracow on 2nd December 2016. During the Symposium 4 lectures was presented on:
• crystal chemistry of smectites,
• photo-induced activity of nanopartical,
• a new spectroscopic method in research of smectites and
• mineralogy of glauconite from soil.

During the accompanying meeting of the members of the Polish Clay Group, memories of late professor Leszek Stoch († 20 January 2015) honorary member of Mineralogical Society of Poland were recalled. The group discussed also problems related to the organization of the 10th Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC’2020) in Poland.

The participants of the Symposium noted with pleasure the nomination of professor Jan Srodoiń for the position of the new president of The Clay Minerals Society and of Arkadiusz Derkowski on the member of Standing Committee for Publications of the CMS for 2016-17.

By Czeslaw August
December / 2016

PORTUGAL
PORTUGUESE CLAY GROUP

Activities of the Portuguese Clay Group (APA) during 2016

APA members were mainly involved during 2016 in the:
• presentation of research results at international and national conferences;
• participation on the organization of some Conferences and Meetings;
• participation on IMACS;
• participation on short courses; and
• participation on research programs.

Several members presented a total of 47 oral and poster presentations on several international conferences, such as MECC 2016 (Kosice, Slovakia), DUST 2016 (Bari, Italy), Goldschmidt 2016 (Yokohama, Japan), Water-Rock Interaction WRI-15 (Évora, Portugal), 35th International Geological Congress (IGC - Cape Town, South Africa), XII Congress of Geochemistry of Portuguese speaking Countries (CGeochPLP - Fortaleza, Brazil), III Congress of Geology of Portuguese speaking Countries (CoGePLiP - Praia, Cape Verde), and ELAAGFA (Maputo, Mozambique).

Some members participated on the organization of international conferences, such as IGC, WRI-15, CGeochPLP and CoGePLiP; others were convenors/chairpersons of sessions (Goldschmidt, MECC, WRI, DUST, ELAAGFA).

APA (or APA members) cooperated on the organization of short courses on geotechnical properties, medical geology, XRD/XRF and SEM as well as on the Aveiro University participation on the Erasmus-Mundus IMACS master.

Among the several research programs in which APA members participated, the following are of paramount importance: MINATURA (H2020), GEOSULF (ERA-MIN), EIP on Raw Materials.

By Fernando Rocha
January / 2017
RUSSIA
RUSSIAN CLAY GROUP


By Victoria Krupskaya
January / 2017

SLOVAKIA
SLOVAK CLAY GROUP

Please see report about MECC 2016 held in Košice (Slovakia) in this newsletter.

SPAIN
SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY

1. Activities of the Spanish Clay Society (SEA-Sociedad Española de Arcillas) in 2016
The SEA organized its XXIV Scientific Meeting in the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid on September 5-7th, 2016, with contributions from 95 participants. The Organising Committee was formed by SEA members, coordinated by Dr. Manuel Pozo. The Conference program included:

Plenary lectures:
Chemical behavior of clay materials under repository conditions in the French context: lessons learned and residual uncertainties for HLW repository implementation - by Dr. Nicolas Michau (Agence Nationale pour la Gestion des Déchets Radioactifs, ANDRA, France).

Arcillas: De su papel en el suelo a su aplicación medioambiental (Clays: From their role in soils to their environmental application) - by Dr. M. Carmen Hermosín (Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Agrobiología de Sevilla, Spain).

Scientific session of oral and poster presentations

Field trips:
Role of clays in treatment of hazardous wastes: Hazardous waste disposal at San Fernando de Henares (Madrid).
Influence of clays in the formation of paleontological traps: Cerro Batallones (Madrid).

Ceramic industry and the use of clays in paleoenvironmental reconstructions in La Sagra area (Toledo).

Awards:
The winner of the Award to Iniciation to Research for Master Students was Elisa Laita Florián from the University of Zaragoza for the Final Project of Master Degree entitled “Transformaciones minerales durante los procesos de cocción de arcillas aluminías y su relación con propiedades físicas de interés” (Minerals transformations during firing process of aluminic clays and their relations with physical properties of interest), directed by Prof. Blanca Bauluz.

The winners of the Young Researchers’ Award offered by the SEA were José Manuel Moreno Maroto (Universidad de Castilla La Mancha) and Daniel González Santamaría (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid).

The winners of the III Scientific Photographic Awards offered by SEA were M. Victoria Villar Galicia and Xabier Arroyo Rey.
During the SEA Annual General Meeting some members of its Council were elected: Dr. Fernando Nieto (Vice President), and as member of the Council were elected Drs. Xabier Arroyo, Jaime Cuevas, Ana María Fernández Díaz and Africa Yebra Rodríguez.

2. Activities of the Spanish Clay Society for 2017
The XVI International Clay Conference 2017 “Clays from the ocean to the space” will be held in Granada (16-21st July, 2017) organized by the Spanish Clay Society and coordinated by Dr. Alberto López-Galindo. The website of this meeting is www.16icc.org

The online abstract submission is open and closes on 15 February 2017. We invite you to submit an abstract on the following topics:

I. Mineralogy
MI-01. Out of this world! – Clays as decoders of extraterrestrial environments
MI-02. Advanced structural characterization of clays
MI-03. Clay mineral reaction progress in very low-grade temperature petrologic studies
MI-04. Diversity of chlorites
MI-05. Alkali activation of clays and geopolymers

II. Geology and geochemistry
GG-01. Clays in faults and fractures
GG-02. Effect of clays in the mineral processing value chain
GG-03. Role of clay minerals in the quest for mineral resources
GG-04. Clay minerals in sediments: palaeoenvironment, geodynamic evolution and sedimentary basins

III. Environment and soils
ES-01. Mineral-life interaction
ES-02. Environmental applications of clay minerals
ES-03. From soils to shallow groundwater: The Influence of clays on the Critical Zone
ES-04. Clay barriers performance in the long-term isolation of waste: thermal, hydro-mechanical and chemical interactions

IV. Interaction between clays and organic molecules and organisms
OM-01. Clay/Polymer Nanocomposites: From Flame Retardants to Tissue Engineering
OM-02. Drug delivery systems based on layered materials
OM-03. Clay-based bionanocomposites: a meeting point of life and the mineral world
OM-04. Clays in health care
OM-05. Computational modeling of clay minerals and related materials
OM-06. Biogeochemical processes at the microbe/clay interface and their synergy with radionuclide/organic interactions

V. Ceramics, zeolites
CZ-01. Clays for ceramics
CZ-02. Waste valorization in clay ceramics
CZ-03. Environmental uses of natural zeolites and clayey diatomite

VI. Nanomaterials and clay technology
NT-01. Natural and synthetic layer materials for Green Chemistry
NT-02. Clay nanomaterials for polymer degradation and stabilisation
NT-03. Synthetic clay minerals and derivatives: Synthesis, Features and Applications
NT-04. Clays in biomaterial design and regenerative medicine
NT-05. Calcined clays for sustainable supplementary cementitious materials
NT-06. Clays, organoclays and nanocomposites in water treatment
NT-07. Clay minerals in solution systems: from aqueous to non-aqueous
NT-08. Properties and applications of natural and synthetic nanotubes (halloysite, imogolite) and of fibrous clay minerals
NT-09. Self-organization from clay particles: from nano to macro
NT-10. Recent advances in applications of industrial clays
NT-11. Material’s challenges for clay scientist
NT-12. Photo- and optical functionalities of clay-based hybrid materials
NT-13. Clay mineral colloids for liquid crystals and soft materials
NT-14. CO2 or methane capture by clays

VII. Miscellaneous
MISC-01. LDHs: from design and characterization to applications
MISC-02. Clay-water interaction
MISC-03. Clay applications in the oil industry
MISC-04. General session

The length of abstract should not exceed ONE full page. Abstracts will be published in Scientific Abstracts Research (ISSN: 2464-9147).

3. Call for Jose Maria Serratosa Award
The SEA calls for the JOSE MARIA SERRATOSA AWARD and offers financial assistance to the winner to attend the XVI International Clay Conference to be held in Granada (Spain) (see http://www.16icc.org/awards-
grants/). The closing date for receiving the manuscripts will be March 1st, 2017. Candidates must submit an electronic copy, preferably a pdf file, of approximately 4000 words, in English, on a topic relevant to one of the sessions of the Meeting. The paper should be written in a format acceptable for international journals. Assessment will be on scientific content only and the winner will be expected to present his/her paper at the Meeting.

The award consists of an honorarium of 1,000 Euros to contribute to the recipient to cover her/his expenses with registration fee to the Meeting, travel and hotel expenses for attending the XVI International Clay Conference, and a certificate. The award will not be made if it is considered that candidates did not reach the required standard. Person eligible for the award must be under 35 years of age on the closing date for submission. No restriction is placed on the sex or nationality of the candidate.

This Award is incompatible with any other prize for the same paper. Therefore, the candidate must declare that the content of the manuscript is original and has not been submitted and, in case of winning, will not be submitted, as candidate to any other prize.

The selection committee shall consist of the President of AIPEA (Chair), three members nominated by SEA, and the President of SEA, who will act as secretary.

The Jose Maria Serratosa Award Application Form is available at http://www.16icc.org/awards-grants/ and should be completed and returned to SEA secretary (secretaria@sea-arcillas.es) with each entry to arrive before the official closing date. The candidates must note that the deadline will be strictly observed. The paper must be in the hands of the selection committee at least three months before the Conference. The winning paper could be submitted for publication in a clay mineralogy journal.

We hope to see you in Granada!

By Patricia Aparicio
January / 2017

TUNISIA
TUNISIAN CLAY GROUP

1. Committee:
The elective general assembly of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) was held on May 28th, 2016 and elected the following new Executive Committee:
President: Fakher Jamoussi
Vice-President: Nouri Hatira
Secretary General: Mondher Hachani
Treasurer: Béchir Moussi
Members: Hédi Ridha Chaftar
Samir Baklouti
Ali Tlili
Emna Fakhfakh
Imen Khiari
Khalil Lazaar

2-1 Participation to congress and symposium:
Some members of the TCG participated during 2016 to the following congress and symposium with presentation of several communications.
• Workshop Resources & Innovatives Geology. Montpellier, France, 4-7 April 2016.
2-2 Organization of scientific excursion:
The TCG has organized scientific excursion for the students of the University of Tunis El Manar on May 3rd, 2016 to the brick factory of Grombalia. The 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 4-5th, 2016. Visit of Enfidha Cement Plant and carry of Clay.

First Atlas Georesources International Congress AGIC 2017:
The Laboratory of Georesources (LGR) of the CERTE & The Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) organize the First Atlas Georesources International Congress AGIC 2017, which will be held in Hammamet, Tunisia (March 20-22nd, 2017). For more detail contact: tunisianclaygroup@yahoo.fr and www.certe.rnrt.tn

For further information, please contact:
Prof. Fakher Jamoussi (President of the Tunisian Clay Group)
Centre de Recherches et des Technologies des Eaux,
Technopôle de Borj Cédria
BP 273, 8020, Soliman
Tunisia
E-Mail: tunisianclaygroup@yahoo.fr
web site: www.tcg.tn

By Fakher Jamoussi
December / 2016

TURKEY
CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY-TURKEY

During the last General Assembly Meeting which took place on February 27, 2016 in Ankara, the Executive Committee Members of the Clay Science Society of Turkey, elected for the term 2016-2017, will be as follows:

President: Asuman Gûnûl Türkmenoğlu
E-mail: t.asuman@gmail.com
Vice-President: Şih Ali Sayîn
E-mail: sasayîn@gmail.com
Secretary General: Haluk Akgun
E-mail: halkgun@metu.edu.tr
Treasurer: Zehra Semra Karakaş
E-mail: karakas@ankara.edu.tr
Committee Members: İsmail Aydın Aras
E-mail: aras5549@yahoo.com
Hüseyîn Yalçın
E-mail: yalçın@cumhuriyet.edu.tr
Prof. Dr. Selahattin Kadir,
E-mail: skadir@ogu.edu.tr

Activities in 2016
After a ten years break in the organization of the Mediterranean Clay Meetings, our Society, in cooperation with Chamber of Geological Engineers of Turkey (CGET) hosted the 5th Mediterranean Clay Meeting (MCM2016) on September 25-29th, 2016. The event took place in the Ilica resort district of the town of Çeşme, near İzmir, a metropolitan city in the western extremity of Anatolia and the third most populous city in Turkey, after İstanbul and Ankara. The scientific program included technical sessions in the form of oral and poster presentations, enriched by invited speakers. The pre-workshop entitled “Hydrothermal Systems: Clay Genesis and Ore Mineralization” was organized by Selahattin Kadir, in collaboration with Hüseyin Yalçın and Cahit Helvaci.
The social program included welcome party, gala dinner
During the opening ceremony the welcome speeches were given by Zehra Semra Karakaş, Asuman Günal Türkmenoğlu, Hüseyin Alan (CGET) and Jean-Louis Robert as president of the ECGA.

There were four plenary lectures:
- Clay/Water Interfacial Models (Kaolinite, Micas, Montmorillonite) to Reproduce Contact Angles and Organic Adsorption, by Hendrik Heinz, University of Colorado-Boulder, USA.
- Purification of greywater by a moving bed reactor followed by a filter including a granulated micelle-clay composite, by Shlomo Nir, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- Holocene clay sedimentation in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, by Mustafa Ergin, Ankara University, Turkey.
- Imogolite and imogolite-like tubular nanocrystals. Formation mechanism, properties and applications, by Antoine Thill, Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire sur l’Organisation Nanométrique et Supramoléculaire, NIMBE, CEA Saclay, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, France.

The main themes of the Meeting spreaded widely in two parallel sessions during the oral presentations, as follows: THM.1 Geology and Geochemistry of Clays, Applications in Geosciences THM.2 Clays of the Mediterranean Basin: Origin, Resources and Industrial Applications HM.3 Mineralogy and Petrography of Clays and Clay Minerals THM.4 Physicochemical Properties of Clays THM.5 Industrial and Engineering Applications of Clays THM.6 Clays in Modern and Ancient Ceramics THM.7 Clays and Health THM.8 Soil Clays and Agricultural Applications THM.9 Nanoclays and Nanocomposites: Synthesis and Applications

The poster presentations on the same themes took place during the three days of the Meeting. In addition to the four Plenary Lectures, a total of sixty seven presentations entailed forty four oral and twenty three poster presentations that were given by the participating clay scientists from France, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Poland, USA and Turkey.

Besides the scientific and social achievements of the MCM2016, yet another significant outcome of the Meeting was the decision given by the council members to organize the 6th MCM (MCM2019) in the leadership of the French Clay Group jointly with EUROCLAY 2019 in Paris during 1-5 July 2019. This decision was announced by Jean-Louis Robert during the Closing Ceremony of the MCM2016.

The local Organizing Committee of MCM2016 highly appreciates the invaluable contributions of the International Organizing and the Scientific Committee members, the Plenary Lecturers, and the participants who attended and presented their latest scientific research results. AIPEA and ECGA Presidents Saverio Fiore and Jean-Louis Robert, respectively, are highly acknowledged for encouraging the organizational activities and providing their support for the realization of the 5th Mediterranean Clay Meeting in Turkey.
Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Kale –as Kale Maden and Çanakkale Ceramic- as Turkish Ceramic Federation and TÜPRAG were the sponsors of the 5th MCM2016.

In terms of the published materials of the MCM2016, an abstract book was published, distributed during the Meeting and announced on the website, www.mcm2016.org. As also announced on the website, selected papers which were presented as oral and poster papers will be published in special issues of Applied Clay Science (ACS) and Clay Minerals (CM) Journals, and the call for papers for submission are already sent to the authors. We appreciate the invaluable contributions of the ACS Editor-in-Chief Faiza Bergaya and the CM Principle Editor Georgios E. Christidis, for their challenging cooperation during MCM2016.

Activities Planned for 2017

In 2017 The Clay Science Society of Turkey will organize the next biannual national clay symposium, The 17th National Clay Symposium. It will take place during 4-7 October 2017 at Muğla, Turkey in collaboration with the Geological Engineering Department of Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University.

Muğla is an ancient Greek city in south-western Turkey. Now, it is the center of the district with the same name, as well as of the Muğla Province, which stretches along Turkey’s Aegean coast. Muğla is the administrative capital of a province that incorporates internationally well-known and popular tourist resorts such as Bodrum, Marmaris and Fethiye and also the smaller resort of Sarıgerme.

Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University (http://mu.edu.tr) was established in 1992 as a state university. Over the past 20 years, the university has grown to include 18 faculties, 4 graduate schools, 5 schools, 13 vocational schools, and 35 research and application centers. Today, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University encompasses a two-million square meter campus surrounded by a spectacular mountain view and smaller university sites and schools across the province. Currently, the university services over 41,805 students and employs over 1,300 full-time academic staff.

The Muğla Province is rich in marble, chrome, bauxite, magnesite, albite, diaspore, olivine, coal and metallic minerals. The participants of the Symposium will have a chance to visit some of these occurrences during the field excursions.

By Asuman Günel Türkmenoğlu
December / 2016

UKRAINE
UKRAINIAN CLAY GROUP

The activity of Ukrainian Clay Group was initiated in 1949 in the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine by academician Fedor Ovcharenko, famous for his studies of disperse systems, clays, colloids and surface phenomena. During the previous year (2016), the activity of the members of clay groups of Ukraine includes different directions.

- Adsorption of dye on hybrid nanoparticles. The kinetic of adsorption and parameters of equilibrium adsorption of methylene blue on hybrid laponite + multi-walled carbon nanotube particles in aqueous suspensions have been determined.
- Magnetic clay sorbent for the removal of dyes from aqueous solutions. Clay particles were magnetized by magnetite. The magnetic modification of saponite allowed obtaining mesoporous sorbents with good sorption and magnetic properties. The detected adsorption capacity of magnetically sorbents for all types of dyes (anionic, cationic and nonionic) was 1.5–2.5 times bigger than that for native saponite.
- Production of highly efficient soil substrates for growth of plants and recreation anthropogenic lands. The studies of colloidal-chemical interactions of sludge bio-gels with heavy metals was done and innovative biotechnological techniques for treatment of sludge wastes were developed.
- Peloids on basis of ferrous clay minerals. Processes of metamorphism in iron-oxide-silicate rocks, their micro-biological, nanochemical and nanostructural transformations. It was demonstrated, that bottom sediments (peloids) of the Black Sea supergigantic deposit, limans, technogenic storage ponds have comparable colloidal-chemical and biocolloid characteristics. Their application in medicine, balneology, in agriculture and for environmental protection was studied. The works on biochemical investigations of peloids with nanoadditives was done at the in Institute of Biocolloid Chemistry in cooperation with Ukrainian Research Institute of Medical Rehabilitation and Balneology.
- Combined micro-flotation of fine minerals. The effectiveness of the combined micro-flotation was theoretically discussed. The findings show that significant enhancement in the efficiency of ultrafine minerals beneficiation is ensured by using the method known as combined micro-flotation based on simultaneous use of both coarse air bubbles (conventionally produced in flotation cells) and micro-bubbles generated by a standalone generator in the form of air in water micro-dispersion. The method was experimentally tested micro-flotation of fine minerals.
- Biopolymers and biotechnological admixtures for eco-efficient construction materials. Development of bioen-
capsulation of clay/soil/particles in order to increase the strength of soft clayey soil through the formation of a strong shell around pieces of soft material8.

- Removal of heavy metals from aqueous solutions by organo-montmorillonite supported iron nanoparticles. A new class of nanoscale zero-valent iron particles supported on natural montmorillonite and organo-montmorillonite were synthesized. The factors that affect the efficiency of heavy metals removal were investigated9,10.

- Impact of montmorillonite on the process of purification of waters containing uranium by ultra- and nanofiltration. It has been shown that maximally possible uranium retention coefficient by a nanofiltration membrane was obtained when a modifier with the molecular weight 2 kDa was used11.

- Polymeric nanocomposites on the base of organic montmorillonite. The possibilities of the method of equal channel multiaxial extrusion have been studied with respect to the modification of the structure and the properties of polymeric nanocomposites12.

- Stabilizing derma collagen structure with modified dispersions of montmorillonite. The structural changes of derma collagen resulting from processing with modified montmorillonite dispersions were investigated13.

- The effect of organoclays on the fire-proof efficiency of intumescent coatings. The thermal transformations of the intumescent systems in the presence of organo-modified montmorillonites were investigated. The data were used for the development of formulations for effective fire-retardant coatings, which do not contain halogen fire retardants14.

- The influence of organoclays on the fungal resistance and biodeterioration of epoxy-clay nanocomposites. The analysis of the biodeterioration degree of nanocomposites was studied15.

The following institutes and universities in Ukraine were involved into the studies: Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Institute of Biocolloid Chemistry, Institute of Physics, Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Technical Thermal Physics Institute, Kiev National University of Technology & Design, Institute for Scintillation Materials of STC “Institute for Single Crystals”, Ukrainian Research Institute of Medical Rehabilitation and Balneology, Chernivtsi ‘Yuriy Fed’kovych’ National University, Ivan Krypiakevich Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ferenc Rákóczi Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, Dumanski Institute of Colloid Chemistry and the Chemistry of Water, Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, National University of Food Technologies, National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kiev National University of Technologies and Design, Kiev National University of Trade and Economics, Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.

The educational courses on clay sciences were presented in many Ukrainian universities, e.g. “Surface phenomena and disperse systems”, “Solid state chemistry”, and (Khmelnytsky 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.

No special clay meetings or workshops were organized during 2016.

References:


5 Kovzun, I. G. et al. in (eds. Fesenko, O. & Yatsenko, L.) 233–244 (Springer, Switzerland, 2016).


88 (2016).

Correspondence address:

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Institute of BioColloid Chemistry
Kiev, Ukraine
E-Mail: lebovka@gmail.com
Internet: https://sites.google.com/site/nlebovka/

By Nikolai Lebovka
January / 2017

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

The 2016 Clay Minerals Society Meeting was held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia and was hosted by Crawford Elliott, Prakash Malla, Robert Pruett, Yuanzhi Tang, and Paul Schroeder. The CMS Council is pleased to report that the Vice-President elect for the coming year is Douglas McCarty and the newly elected members of Council are Carolyn Olson, Youjun Deng, Javiera Cervini-Silva, and Shane Butler. The current members of the Executive Committee are Jan Środoń (President), Prakash B. Malla (Past President), Warren D. Huff (Secretary), Paul A. Schroeder (Treasurer) and Joseph W. Stucki (Editor-in-Chief).

The geographical distribution of CMS membership is illustrated in the following diagram.

The Society is pleased to announce a redesigned website at http://clays.org/cms. It is now suitable for mobile devices.

The Society has appointed an ad hoc committee to consider the possibility of merging its journal, Clays and Clay Minerals, with the European journal, Clay Minerals. This committee has had several rounds of discussions and has reached consensus on several points. They are currently reviewing the final details of their deliberations.

Dr. Sridhar Komarneni, Distinguished Professor of Clay Mineralogy at Penn State was awarded the George W. Brindley Clay Science Lecture Award for his new ideas and innovative contributions related to clays. Dr. Komarneni also has shown creative excellence in the design and synthesis of novel clays, which are expected to have a tremendous impact on environmental quality and clean drinking water worldwide through filtration as well as soil remediation. He has developed several novel synthetic clays and investigated the kinetics, equilibria and thermodynamics of ion exchange in clay and other minerals with publications in Science and Nature, which received world-wide publicity in news media such as NY Times, Wall Street Journal, London Financial Times etc. These novel clays are useful in drinking water filters for elimination of toxic metals. They are also useful for separation of radioactive Ra-226, Sr-90 and Cs-137 from contaminated sites and waste waters at many locations including Hanford, Washington and Fukushima, Japan. Ra-226, a carcinogen is a naturally occurring radioactive nuclide which contaminates drinking and other water supplies worldwide.
The Reynolds Cup competition, named after Bob Reynolds for his pioneering work in quantitative clay mineralogy and his great contributions to clay science, was established in 2000 by Douglas McCarty and Jan Środoń of Chevron and Dennis Eberl of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and later adopted by the CMS. Unlike other round-robin events that used well-ordered, high-symmetry phases or splits from natural samples with unknown mineral composition, the Reynolds Cup competition utilizes mixtures of pure standards that represent realistic sedimentary rock compositions. The first RC competition opened early 2002 and samples were made available to individuals in commercial, industrial, government, or academic laboratories, which could use any method or a combination of methods to obtain the most accurate quantitative phase analysis. The top three finishers are presented with plaques with the champion’s trophy going to the first-place finisher. The competition, run every two years, is sponsored externally by various supportive agencies and the trophy is donated by the USGS. The 2016 Reynolds Cup first place winners are Gilles Mertens & Rieko Adriaens, QMINERAL & KU Leuven / ONDRAF-NIRAS in Heverlee, Belgium. Second place went to Mark Raven & Peter Self from CSIRO Land and Water, Adelaide, Australia, and third place went to Stephen Hillier, Helen Pendlowski, Ian Phillips & Nia Gray from The James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The Clay Minerals Society Source Clay project began in 1969, when Robert W. Rex proposed a “Reference Clay Mineral” bank to be under the auspices of the Society. Thus the Clay Minerals Society set up the Source Clays Project. The Society’s Source Clays Repository offers two series of materials, the Source Clays and the Special Clays. The Source Clays are derived from large, reasonably homogenized stocks. The samples have been carefully selected from the source deposits by professionals to minimize in situ variations.

The Society is also pleased to announce that Volumes 20 and 21 of the CMS Workshop Lectures Series have been published. Volume 20 is entitled Surface Modifications of Clays and Nanocomposites (edited by G.W. Beall), and volume 21 is Filling the Gaps - From Microscopic Pore Structures to Transport Properties in Shales (edited by T. Schäfer, R. Dohrmann and H.C. Greenwell).

These are available through The Clay Minerals Society website (www.clays.org).

The 2017 annual meeting (http://www.cms2017.com) will take place June 5-8, in Edmonton, Alberta Canada and will be hosted by The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, a leading Canadian polytechnic, delivering education in science, technology and the environment; business; health; and trades. There will be field trips to Ft. McMurray (Oil sands), the Drumheller region with preservation of dinosaur fossils in clays, and a lime and clays canoe trip through the valley.

By Warren Huff
November / 2016

UNITED KINGDOM
CLAY MINERALS GROUP OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY (GB and Ireland)

1. Committee:
Chairman: Chris Greenwell (chris.greenwell@durham.ac.uk)
Secretary: Simon Kemp (sjk@bgs.ac.uk)
Treasurer: Francis Clegg (f.clegg@shu.ac.uk)
Board Members: Steve Hillier
Chris Jeans
Helen Pendlowski
Neal Skipper
Kevin Taylor
David Wray
Craig Williams

Meetings in 2015/16
The 2016 Research in Progress meeting was held on the 13th September in Manchester on one of the wettest days the city had ever experienced. There was a good attendance with 45 registrations, in particular from those inte-
rested in sedimentary research. Presentations were given by 11 early career researchers and, a keynote speaker (Dr Nick Tosca, Oxford), and Dr Chris Jeans (Cambridge). There were also 8 posters displayed.

CMG-Sponsored Activities
The CMG also sponsored sessions and speakers at the Geological Society's Geomechanical & Petrophysical Properties of Mudrocks Meeting, London (Nov 2015), the British Sedimentological Research Group's AGM, Keele (December 2015) and at the MECC, Slovakia (July 2016).

The CMG has undertaken a survey to ascertain how members are interacting with the CMG and to establish how the CMG can better meet its community's needs.

The CMG now has its own Twitter feed: @CMG_min-soc.

George Brown Lectures
The 17th annual George Brown Lecture was delivered at the Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC) in Kosice, Slovakia in July by Prof Lynda B. Williams from Arizona State University, USA. The lecture had the title 'Geomimicry: Harnessing the antibacterial action of clays'.

CMG-Future Activities
The venue for the 2017 annual RiP meeting has yet to be agreed but offers have been made by University College London, Manchester and Oxford Universities. Additionally, the CMG will also support sessions at a cross-special interest group meeting on Redox Active Minerals, to be hosted in Manchester in July 2107. Speakers will also be sponsored at the BSRG AGM (Cambridge, December 2016) and the 16th International Clay Conference, Granada, Spain in July 2017.

By Chris Greenwell and Simon Kemp
December / 2016
Obituary:

UDO SCHWERTMANN (1927-2016)

World renowned soil scientist, Dr. Udo Schwertmann passed away on January 20th, 2016 at the age of 88, in his house at Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany. According to the sources mentioned at the end of this report, he was born on 1927, November 27th in Stade, Germany. He studied horticulture and chemistry in Hannover. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1959 and his habilitation in 1961, both in soil science, also in Hannover. In 1964 he became a full professor and head of the Institute of Soil Science at the Technical University of Berlin. In 1969, he moved to Freising-Weihenstephan, as head of the newly founded Institute of Soil Science at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). He held this position until his retirement in 1995. Afterwards he still carried on with several research projects until his death.

Udo Schwertmann developed important internationally recognized work in virtually all fields of soil science: from atomic to mineral and to landscape scales. His scientific achievements include numerous researches on the occurrence, formation, identification, and properties of iron oxides in soils; as well as on soil clay mineralogy, soil erosion, phosphorus in soil, cation adsorption, and soil acidity. He first described the structure, formation, and properties of the mineral “Schwertmannite”, named after him by the International Mineralogical Association (IMA).

During his long and productive career, Udo Schwertmann has published more than 250 research papers, numerous book chapters and several monographs. His 1964 publication on the extraction of poorly crystalline iron oxide minerals from soils with oxalate is the reference for investigating these minerals in soil science laboratories around the world. “The Iron Oxides”, together with R. Cornell is still the seminal book on this topic.

As a notorious scientific leader, Udo Schwertmann served on the editorial board of several soil science and clay mineralogy journals. He was a former editor of Zeitschrift für Pflanzenernährung und Bodenkunde and had been a member of the editorial boards of Clay Minerals, of Clays and Clay Minerals, of Advances in Soil Science, and of Geoderma.

Udo Schwertmann received several scientific awards and honorary memberships of learned societies in and outside Germany, as for instance:

- Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy (1981);
- Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America (1981);
- Member of the “Akademie der Naturforscher” Leopoldina zu Halle, the oldest German Academy of Science since 1987;
- “Pioneer Lecturer in Clay Science” by the Clay Mineral Society (CMS) in 1992;
- Honorary doctorate from the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel in Germany, in 1995;
- CMS Distinguished Member in 1997;
- Honorary member of the German Soil Science Society since 1997; and
- Awarded the Philippe-Duchaufour-medal of the European Geophysical Union in 2005 “for outstanding research in the field of fundamental and applied soil science, with special emphasis on his contributions to soil mineralogy and genesis”.

Udo Schwertmann participated in advisory boards of several technical societies. He was a member of the first council of the “Deutsche Ton-und Tonmineralgruppe (DTTG)” founded in 1972 in Kiel, Germany. He was vice-president of the German Soil Science Society, and member of the International Society of Soil Science (now IUSS) since 1964 and chairman of its Commission VII.

Udo Schwertmann's name is included in the Association International pour l’Étude des Argiles (AIPEA) directory list of members from 1982. A perusal in the old AIPEA Newsletter editions shows that he was a very active AIPEA member, cooperating in internal committees and in the organization of meetings and/or guiding fieldtrips.
He was a notorious speaker, invited to give lecturer in many technical events, in several countries. From 1966 to 1978, he served as Secretary-General of the AIPEA, i.e. for five periods. For twelve years, he has carried the main burden of AIPEA administration in a time without internet, e-mails and other facilities which are available today.

AIPEA would like to express its gratitude to Dr. Udo Schwertmann by his constant cooperation and joint the international community in this plain tribute, sending sincere condolences to his family.

By Daisy Barbosa Alves
November / 2016

Sources:
Obituary:

JIRI KONTA Former President of AIPEA (1922-2017)

A rich and fruitful life of the excellent scholar has expired on the 22 of February 2017 at his 95 years. Born in 1922, after having been totally ordered and later committed to prison (for his participation in the Scout Movement) in the nazi Mauthausen Concentration Camp, he started his studies of Science in the Charles University in Prague in 1945-1948. In 1952, he was named Assistant Professor and 1961 Professor, one of the youngest ones in the Czech Republic (w. part of former Czechoslovakia). He became to be a real promoter of sedimentary petrology and especially of clay mineral science in his country. Extremely important for his professional life were the invitations for universities and institutions in Moscow (I. I. Ginzburg), Urbana in Illinois (R. E. Grim) and as Visiting Professor to the Pennsylvania State University (G. W. Brindley) during 1961-1965. His and Professor’s B. Hejtman „Rock-Forming Minerals“ (1953) were one of the most important text-books for Czech students of geology, as well as Konta’s “Clay Minerals of Czechoslovakia”. In his professional beginning, Jiri Konta invented an easy method of the rapid identification of clay minerals by means of absorption of various liquids, imbibometry, which presented in the 10th Jubilee Conference of American Clay Minerals Society in Austin, Texas in 1961. The magazine Applied Clay Science was founded on the proposal of Professor Konta in the 7th Conference of AIPEA in Italy in 1981, and, in 1995, he published there the English version of his monography „Clay and Man: Clay Raw Materials in the Service of Man“. The other international projects, performed or coordinated by him, were e.g. Phyllosilicates in rivers, Sea muds, etc. On the topic of sea clay minerals, he collaborated with the University of Hamburg. As President of AIPEA, he was acting in 1985-1989, after being elected in Denver, USA. In the home field, he was head of a staff (10-15 people) of collaborators, diploma students, RNDr. and PhD. students. He organized many Czech Conferences on Clay Mineralogy and Petrology, the ICC and EUROCLAY conferences in Czechoslovakia, he founded Czech Society for Investigation and Application of Clays, where he was President and later Honorary President. Apart from his main dedications, he was also keen in the study of Czech tektites, moldavites. Excellent friend of all his students and numerous friends, he presented on the occasion of his 90-ties a book of memories called “To hear one’s own heart”. Not only his friends but all the world of clay scientists has lost a perfect and devoted guy and gentle man.

Jiri Jiranek
jirijiranekr@seznam.cz
Recent and Upcoming Meetings

2017

41st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO ON ADVANCED CERAMICS AND COMPOSITES
January 22–27th, 2017, Daytona Beach (FL), USA
Organizer: The American Ceramic Society
600 N. Cleveland Ave., Suite 210
Westerville, Ohio 43082
Phone: 866-721-3322 or 240-646-7054
Fax: 240-396-5637
E-Mail: customerservice@ceramics.org
Internet: http://ceramics.org/icacc2017

20th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARNESING CLAY SCIENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE
February, 17-18th, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
Secretary: Dr. P. Chandran
Head Div. of Soil Resource Studies
ICAR-NBSS & LUP, Nagpur 440 033
Maharashtra – India
E-mail: pchandran1960@yahoo.co.in
E-mail: orgsecmsi2017@gmail.com

WORKSHOP ON ‘QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS’
February, 20-24th, 2017, Greifswald, Germany
Organizers: Georg Grathoff and Laurence Warr
Greifswald University
EMail: Grathoff@uni-greifswald.de
Internet: http://www.dttg.ethz.ch/workshop2017.html

1st ATLAS GEORESOURCES INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS – 1st AGIC
March 20-22, 2017, Hammamet, Tunisia
E-Mail: agic2017@gmail.com
Internet: www.certe.rnrt.tn

3rd WORKSHOP ON APPLIED CLAYS (3RAA)
April 27-29th, 2017, Sao Paulo (SP), Brazil
Chair: Dr. Vera Regina Leopoldo Constantino
Chemistry Institute of the State University of Sao Paulo (USP)
E-Mail: vrlconst@iq.usp.br

54th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CMS
June 5-8th, 2017, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Organizers: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and The Clay Minerals Society
Internet: http://www.cms2017.com

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED MINERALOGY & ADVANCED MATERIALS and 13th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED MINERALOGY–AMAM-ICAM 2017
June 5-9th, Castellaneta Marina, Taranto, Italy
Chair: Saverio Fiore
Correspondence: AMAM-ICAM 2017
c/o Dept. Geoenvironmental & Earth Sciences
University Aldo Moro – Bari
Via Orabona 4, 70125 Bari – Italy
Phone: +39 080 544 2618 (Chair); +39 0971 42 7224 (Secretary); +39 080 544 2614 (Treasurer)
E-mail: info@amam-icam2017.org
Internet: www.amam-icam2017.org
1st JOURNAL OF THERMAL ANALYSIS AND CALORIMETRY CONFERENCE & 6th V4 (joint Czech-Hungarian-Polish-Slovakian) THERMOANALYTICAL CONFERENCE - JTACC+V4
June 6-9th 2017, Budapest, Hungary
Contact: Veronika BÍRÓ (Conference Coordinator)
AKCongress, Hungary
P.O. Box 245
Budapest, Hungary H-1519
Phone: +36 1 464 8215
Fax: +36 1 464 8221
Email: jtacc@akcongress.com
Internet: http://jtac-jtacc.akcongress.com

2017 EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL UNION SCHOOL: MINERAL FIBRES: Mineral fibres: crystal chemistry, chemical-physical properties, biological interaction and toxicity
June, 19-23rd, Modena, Italy
Contact: Prof. Alessandro Gualtieri
Phone: +39 059 2058480
Email: alessandro.gualtieri@unimore.it
Skype: af.gualtieri66
Internet: http://emu2017.unimore.it/

16th INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE – ICC 2017
July, 17-21st, 2017, Granada, Spain
Chair: Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO (alberto@ugr.es)
E-mail: chair@16icc.org or secretariat@16icc.org
Internet: https://www.16icc.org/

GOLDSCHMIDT 2017
August, 13-18th, 2017, Paris, France
Phone: +44 1223 852663.
Email: helpdesk@goldschmidt.info
Internet: goldschmidt.info/2017

WORKSHOP ON LAYERED MATERIALS
September 1st-5th 2017, Castle Hotel, Třešť, Czech Republic
Organizer: Jiří Čejka, J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Department of Catalysis
E-mail: jiri.cejka@jh-inst.cas.cz

7th CLAY CONFERENCE ON CLAYS IN NATURAL AND ENGINEERED BARRIERS FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE CONFINEMENT
September, 24-27th, Davos, Switzerland
Organizers: National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (NAGRA)
Phone: +41 61 686 77 77
Fax: + 41 61 686 77 88
Email: secretariat.clayconference@congrex.com and sonja.mccullough@nagra.ch
Internet: www.clayconference.davos2017.com

17th NATIONAL CLAY SYMPOSIUM OF THE CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY-TURKEY
October, 4-7th, 2017, Muğla city, Turkey
Organizer: Clay Science Society-Turkey

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CALCINED CLAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE CONCRETE
December, 5-7th, 2017, Habana, Cuba
Contact: Dayran Rocha Francisco
Universidad central de las Villas CIDEM
Carretera Camajuani km 5 40382 Santa Clara - Cuba
Phone: +53 42 205872
Internet: www.lc3.ch/conference-2/


2018

EUROPEAN MICROBEAM ANALYSIS SOCIETY (EMAS) 2018 Workshop
End-June 2018, Bristol, UK

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATMOSPHERIC DUST - DUST 2018
Bari, Italy, June 2018.
XXII MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION - IMA 2018
August, 13-17th, 2018, Melbourne, Australia
Chair: Dr. Stuart J. Mills
Phone: +61 (0)3 9320 8600
E-Mail: info@ima2018.com
Internet: http://www.ima2018.com/

9th MID EUROPEAN CLAY CONFERENCE – MECC’18
September, 17-21st, 2018, Zagreb, Croatia
Organizer: Croatian Clay Group

2019
EUROCLAY 2019 & 6th MEDITERRANEAN CLAY MEETING
July, 1-5th, 2019, Paris, France
Chair: Jean-Louis Robert
French Clay Group

8th INTERNATIONAL DTTG WORSHOP
March, 2019, Greifswald, Germany

2020
36th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
New Delhi, India

2024
37th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
Korea
Becoming member of AIPEA is recommended to everybody interested in clays and clay minerals. At the moment, the main mean of communication among all members of this association is its website (www.aipea.org). There, all information is concentrated and made available to 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 (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.: if approved by Council (which shall not be required to give any reason for non-approval) the Society shall become Affiliated on payment of the appropriate membership fee.

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 www.aipea.org/membership.html. Those interested in being part of this organization should fill it out and mail it to the AIPEA Treasurer, who will send information of how to pay the annual fee:

Dr. Jeanne B. Percival  
c/o Geological Survey of Canada  
601 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A0E8  
Email: jeanne.percival@canada.ca
Association Internationale pour l’Etude des Argiles

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Family Name ___________________________  Given Name ___________________________
Title _______________ Phone _______________  Email ___________________________
Institution ______________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________
Type of membership*_________________  Amount of dues __________________ for _______ years
Your Society ______________________________________________________________________
  *If you are an individual member of an affiliated Society, give the name of the Society
Date _______________  Signature _____________________________________________________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

Family Name ___________________________  Given Name ___________________________
Title _______________ Phone _______________  Email ___________________________
Institution ______________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________
Your Society ______________________________________________________________________
Date effective _______________  Signature ____________________________________________

Fees: $30.00 USD/4-year individually; $15.00 USD/4-year student (students must prove their status through an official document provided by their university) or retiree; $100.00 USD/4-year corporate sponsor.
*student/retiree - professional - corporate
Note: Affiliated Societies pay dues on behalf of their members.
Payment by  PayPal and credit card: visit www.aipea.org/membership.html
             Wire Transfer: emailing treasurer jeanne.percival@canada.ca