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International Mineralogical Association

'BONDS AND BRIDGES' IN 2010: CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS FOR NEXT IMA GENERAL MEETING



The next IMA General Meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 21–27 August 2010 and will have the title 'Bonds and Bridges'. Joining the country with the famous bridge over the Danube are seven other East European countries, and this consortium is now busy making preparations for the conference. The organizations involved are the Mineralogical Society of Austria, the Mineralogical-Geochemical Branch of the Hungarian Geological Society, the Mineralogical Society of Romania, the Geochemical-Mineralogical Branch of the Geological Society of Slovakia, the Czech Geological Society, the Croatian Mineralogical Association, the Mineralogical Association of Poland, the Slovenian Geological Society, and Eötvös L. University, Budapest. This is the first time such a consortium has hosted the IMA General Meeting, and it shows that smaller member countries can become involved in hosting a major international conference. The general chairman and chairman of the scientific committee is Ekkehart Tillmanns from Vienna (ekkehart.tillmanns@univie.ac.at), and the chairman of the international organizing committee is Tamás Weiszbürg from Budapest (weiszbürg@ludens.elte.hu). Session proposals are now being sought, and you can register to receive further details on the website at www.ima2010.hu. The second circular will be published in summer 2008.

NEW MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY IN JAPAN

On 22 September 2007, the Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences (JAMS) was created by combining two pre-existing Japanese societies, the Mineralogical Society of Japan (MSJ) and the Japanese Association of Mineralogists, Petrologists, and Economic Geologists (JAMPEG). These two societies, both more than 50 years old, have been leaders in the mineralogical and petrological sciences. Recent research developments within the Earth and planetary materials sciences have required more interactions among the disciplines covered by both societies, thus leading to their merging into a larger association. JAMS takes over all of the functions

from MSJ as the supporting organization representing Japan in the IMA. The *Journal of Mineralogical and Petrological Sciences (JMPS)*, which has been published by MSJ and JAMPEG, is now the official journal of the new society JAMS. Contact Eiji Ohtani, ohtani@mail.tains.tohoku.ac.jp, for further details.

NEW MINERALS RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE IMA-CNMNC

The IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification publishes details of new minerals on its website for comparative purposes and as a service to mineralogists working on new species. The listing of new minerals approved up until December 2007 is now available. The names of these approved species are considered confidential

information until the authors have published their descriptions or released information themselves, so no other information will be released by the Commission. You can access the list via the main IMA website at www.ima-mineralogy.org/ or go to it directly at www.geo.vu.nl/users/ima-cnmnc/ and click on 'Recent New Minerals'.

SLOVENIA – NEW IMA MEMBER COUNTRY

Although Slovenia is a member of the consortium hosting the 2010 IMA General Meeting, it is in fact a newcomer to IMA. When the IMA Council met in June 2007, we were pleased to approve the joining of Slovenia as the 39th member of IMA. There are only about 20 mineralogical scientists in the Slovenia group, of whom the national representative is Dr. Meta Dobnikar of the

University of Ljubljana (meta.dobnikar@ntf.uni-lj.si). They jump straight in at the deep end as co-organizers of the General Meeting (!). We warmly welcome them to IMA and hope that their joining will improve international contacts and relationships and help promote their science. Now, is there another country that would like to bring the membership to an even forty?

LAST CALL FOR IMA MEDAL NOMINATIONS



This is the last call to nominate someone for the prestigious IMA Medal for excellence in mineralogical research, as represented primarily by scientific publications of outstanding original research in mineralogy (see the October issue of *Elements* for full details). The deadline for nominations is 1 April 2008, so there is still time to take part and nominate a scientist from an IMA member country. If you would like to receive more information or make a nomination, please contact Joel Grice, Chairman IMA Medal Committee (jgrice@mus-nature.ca).

NEW ADDRESS FOR IMA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Please note, should you wish to communicate with the IMA Communications Officer, Frances Wall now has a new address:

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MINERALOGY AND MUSEUMS CONFERENCE

The 6th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums (M+M6) took place on the Colorado School of Mines campus in Golden, Colorado, September 7–9, 2008. Some 90 persons from 16 countries attended, representing Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Romania, Russia, the UK, and the USA. Two days of technical sessions included 32 oral and 28 poster presentations. Field-excursion participants visited the mining town of Leadville, viewed granite pegmatites in the Pikes Peak batholith near Florissant, and examined the Sloan diamond-bearing kimberlite pipe in the Colorado-Wyoming State Line kimberlite district. Other events included an opening reception at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, a poster session and reception hosted by the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals, and a closing banquet and museum tour sponsored by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Occurring during the weekend following the conference was the Denver Gem and Mineral Show, one of the world's largest such events; many conference participants chose to stay to attend it and brought exhibits from their institutions.

During the conference, the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) and the IMA Commission on Museums held committee meetings. Previous M+M meetings have taken place in Paris (2004), Melbourne (2000), Budapest (1996), Toronto (1992), and London (1988). Possible sites for the next M+M meeting, in 2012, were discussed. They include Dresden (a presentation was made by Renate Schumacher, Bonn, about how a meeting there could include tours of mineral museums throughout southern and northern Germany) and Edinburgh. Decisions about the next M+M meeting will be made at the 2010 IMA meeting in Budapest.

I'll describe some of the highlights from the oral presentations. One recurring theme related to the varied challenges faced by mineral museums and ways in which these challenges are being met. Topics included the difficulties of moving a collection (Paul Carr and Penny

Williamson, Wollongong); sources of potential damage to collections, physical (Jean DeMouthe, California Academy of Sciences) and chemical (Chris Tacker, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences); creative ways to build a constituency to support and finance small museums (Virgil Lueth, New Mexico Tech, and Anton Chakhmouradian, Winnipeg); plans to modernize and revitalize the Royal Museum of Scotland (Vicen Carrio, Edinburgh); and a project to reestablish the Afghan Geological Survey Museum no less (Brian Jackson, Edinburgh). Online curation and databases were discussed by Carl Francis (Harvard) and George Harlow (New York). The uses of historic and modern collections for research and other *raison d'être* of a museum were described by Peter Downs, Perth (the Argyle Diamonds' Pink Diamond Collection); Mark Mauthner, Gemological Institute of America (the Edward J. Gubelin Memorial Gem Database); Lin Sutherland, Sydney (the Barrington ruby project); Lidia Trushnina, Boulder, Colorado (the Natural History Museum in Magadan); and Renato Pagano, Milan (the Camillo Gualteroni Collection). François Farges (Paris) described new studies bearing on the history of the Hope/French Blue diamond.

Field trips and their relation to museums were discussed by Renate Schumacher (building stones in Bonn) and Maria Alferova, Moscow (field trips to Baikal and Transbaikal). Historical aspects of mineral studies and mineral nomenclature were discussed by Lydie Touret, Paris (connections between the development of mineralogy in North America and Europe), and Erzsébet Tóth, Budapest (the historical evolution of celadonite and glauconite). Several papers addressed current issues in mineral nomenclature, and others dealt with novel aspects of unusual mineral occurrences. A presentation I found particularly insightful was that by Igor Pekov (Moscow State University) entitled "Amazing New Minerals: Freak of Nature or the Key for Solution of Nature's Enigmas?" The author pointed out lessons, connections, and insights from the chemistry, structure, and environment of occurrence of a number of newly discovered mineral species.

The titles of all papers given at the conference are available on the M+M6 conference website, www.mines.edu/outreach/cont_ed/ICMM6/.

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M+M6 conference attendees at the Green Center, Colorado School of Mines campus, Golden, Colorado. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GARY BAUGHMAN