



Commission on Ore Mineralogy

International Mineralogical Association

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Annual report 2024-2025 of the IMA-COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY

The Commission on Ore Mineralogy of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) was set up in 1962 to serve the interests of ore mineralogists in universities, research institutions and the minerals industry across the world. Our goals are to promote ore mineralogy within the scientific community, to train fellow members in investigative skills through a series of short courses, and to support the activities of other IMA commissions by providing advice and expert opinion on issues related to our fields of research. Through its regular short courses, regional meetings, scientific sessions, other symposia and field excursions, as well as its website, COM offers a platform to ore mineralogists to share their knowledge with others, exchange information, and to speak with a collective voice on issues that affect our branch of science. As one of the commissions of IMA, the COM supports the goals of international cooperation and collaborative research in pure and applied mineralogy.

ORGANISATION

Chair: PD Dr. Malte Junge (Berne, Switzerland)
Vice-Chair: Dr. Jakub Ciałła (Wrocław, Poland)
Secretary: Prof. Nicola Mondillo (Napoli, Italy)

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The national representatives are:

Argentina: Dr. María Florencia Márquez-Zavalía and Natalia Maffini

Austria: Dr. Phillip Gopon

Belgium: Prof. Stijn Dewaele

Bulgaria: Prof. Kamen Bogdanov, Dr. Ralitsa Sabeva

Czech Republic: Dr. Marek Tuhý

Egypt: Prof Hassan Helmy

Finland: Tapio Soukka

France: Dr. Guillaume Estrade and Dr. Stéfano Salvi

Germany: PD Dr. Malte Junge, Dr. Tom Járóka
Italy: Prof. Nicola Mondillo
Poland: Dr. Jakub Ciężela
Portugal: Dr. Ana Jesus
Russia: Dr. Olga Plotinskaya, Dr. Polina Leibham
South Africa: Dr. Igor Tonzetic
Spain: Prof Ruben Piña
Turkey: Prof. Dr. Gülcan Bozkaya
USA: Dr. Simon Kocher

One aim for the next period is to include further national representatives. Currently, additional individuals participate in the regular meetings but are not finally approved by their national organization.

MEETINGS

The group meets online on a bi-monthly basis (about 20 meetings in 2024/2025). These meetings include scientific exchange and presentations by group members, as well as discussions about outreach activities, IMA COM conference sessions and special issues. During the EMC meeting in Dublin, Ireland 18 to 23 August 2024 we held our official in situ meeting.

OUTREACH-ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA: ORE MINERAL OF THE YEAR

We identified one of the key missions of IMA-COM as enhancing public awareness of ore mineralogy. An important aspect of this mission is outreach in education—particularly in schools, where geoscientific topics are often underrepresented worldwide. We have invited experts in the field to exchange ideas and develop strategies during our meetings.

Since 2023, we have launched the Ore Mineral of the Year initiative. Each year, one ore mineral is selected and featured across our social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, and Mastodon). Regular posts share scientific insights, striking images, and intriguing facts about the chosen mineral. The Ore Mineral of the Year 2024 was sphalerite, followed by spodumene in 2025. COM members translated the official English poster into their respective languages, and the posters were distributed among member countries to promote wider engagement.

For the 2026 selection, COM is collaborating with the team behind the MineralCup, an initiative that began in 2017 and has attracted a large international following on platforms such as X, Mastodon, Bluesky, and Instagram, where participants vote for their favorite minerals. Within this collaboration, COM has nominated eight candidates for the Ore Mineral of the Year 2026. Beginning in November 2025, the public will be able to vote in a dedicated Ore Mini Cup tournament.

This partnership aims to involve a broader audience in the selection process and to raise awareness of ore minerals through interactive public engagement. An additional benefit is that background information on the eight preselected minerals will be shared throughout the one-week tournament, fostering both education and enthusiasm for mineralogy.

Webinars are planned for 2026, where experts of the field make scientific presentations related to the ore mineral of the year.

WEBSITE

For better visibility and documentation of data related to ore mineralogy the members of the COM are currently discussing to organize a separate page for the COM withing the new IMA website (<https://mineralogy-ima-wordpress.website/com-home/>). The information hosted on the current webpage will be moved (<http://projects.gtk.fi/com/index.html>). It is not possible to update the former COM webpage. The aim is that this webpage will be put offline afterwards.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The commission was involved in chairing the following ore-related sessions on national and international conferences (COM members in bold):

- 1) Mining Seminar Rare Earth of the Society of Metallurgists and Miners (GDMB) 20. – 21 March 2024, TU Clausthal, Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, Session 1: Resources and Deposits, **Prof. Dr. Christoph Gauert**), Keynote talk: „Rare Earth Elements: Minerals, Major deposits, Magnets“
- 2) EMC-2024, Dublin, Ireland, 18 – 23 August 2024, Applied Mineralogy – Critical metals: Micro- and nano-mineralogy of critical metals), **Malte Junge**, Eduardo Mansur, Jose-Maria Gonzales-Jimenez
- 3) EMC-2024, Dublin, Ireland, 18 – 23 August 2024, Applied Mineralogy – Primary ore deposits: Understanding the geology and formation of ore deposits – new constraints on the enrichment process of metals), **Malte Junge**, Max Korges, Philipp Rieger, Hilde Koch
- 4) MinPet2025, Leoben, Austria, 21– 23. September 2025, **Phillip Gopon**, Clifford Patten, Mineral Raw Materials
- 5) 18th Biennial SGA meeting in Golden-Colorado-USA, 'Ore Deposits associated with magmatic systems: Porphyry/ Epithermal deposits, 5-7 August 2025, Colorado, USA, **Gülcan Bozkaya**

For the IMA Congress in Nanjing in August 20 – 24, 2026, IMA COM submitted session proposal titled “Chalcophile and highly siderophile elements in ore-forming systems: a mineralogical perspective” (Conveners: **Jakub Ciazela**, **Malte Junge**, Kunfeng Qiu)

WORKSHOPS

The commission organized the following workshops:

- 1) Ore Microscopy, Golden, Colorado, SGA 2025, 18th Biennial Meeting **Simon Kocher**, 2 days
- 2) Organisation and moderation of „Lecture event of Working Committee for Ore Deposit and Raw Materials Management“, GDMB, 13. – 14. 2.2025, Geological Survey of Saxony Anhalt, Halle/Saale Spate and non-ferrous metal deposits, Carbonatites, genesis of SEE mineralisations, Recycled raw materials, project evaluation, **Prof. Dr. Christoph Gauert**. 2 days

SPECIAL ISSUES

Members of COM act as guest editors at special issues:

- 1) Ore Formation and Critical Metal Deposits: Geological Contribution to the Clean Energy Transition, *Frontiers in Earth Sciences*, **Jakub Ciałęza, Malte Junge, Hassan Helmy**
- 2) Special section on Tethyan Belt (TB), *Geochemistry* (formerly known as *Chemie der Erde* or as *International Journal for Chemical Topics of the Geosciences*), **Gülcan Bozkaya**

A contribution to a textbook on ore geology published by Elsevier is under consideration.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER MINERALOGICAL GROUPS

We started a connection with the Applied Mineralogy Group (AMG) of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

Kind regards



PD Malte Junge, chair



Dr. Jakub Ciałęza



Prof. Nicola Mondillo, secretary