

Annual report 2024-2026 of the IMA-COMMISSION ON GEM MATERIAL

Dear sir or madam,

This report covers the activities of the IMA Commission on Gem Materials (IMA-CGM) since August 2024. Due to various circumstances, the IMA-CGM had been relatively inactive for several years prior to 2024. Since August 2024, efforts have been made to revitalize the Commission and re-establish its activities and engagement within the gem materials community.

Governance

Prof. Andy H. Shen took over IMA-CGM chair in 2018 and persisted contributing to CGM. Prof. Shen organized the new IMA-CGM commission officers in the same year. The new Vice-Chair Oliver Tschauner is from Department of Earth Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA. Two Secretaries Stefanos Karampelas and Chaowen Wang are from School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China, respectively.

Current officers at IMA-CGM

Position	Name	Year	Affiliations	Predecessor
Chair	Andy Hsi-Tien Shen	2018	Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China	Lee Groat
Vice-Chair	Oliver Tschauner	2024	Dept. Earth Sciences, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA	Wolfgang Hofmeister
Secretary	Stefanos Karampelas	2024	School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece	Jim Shigley
	Chaowen Wang	2024	Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China	

Activities

1. During the 37th International Geological Congress (IGC 2024) held in Busan, Korea (25–31 August 2024), the Commission on Gem Materials assisted in organizing a session on Gem Materials, which included more than 20 oral and poster presentations covering various aspects of this field. A meeting of the Commission also took place during the congress, attended by over 20 participants, during which several topics related to gem research were discussed.



2. From 24 to 27 September 2024, the Commission assisted in organizing a session on Gemmology at the GeoRaman Conference held in Rhodes Island, Greece. This session included over 10 oral and poster presentations focusing on the application of Raman spectroscopy in gemmology.

3. During Nov. 30th to Dec. 3rd, 2024, Commission on Gem Materials assisted in organizing the 8th World Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-8) conference in Qingyang, Anhui Province. As the main convener, Dr. Andy H. Shen organized the "Gemstones and Minerals" session. Thirty five oral presentations and seventeen posters were showcased, covering multidisciplinary research topics. The topics involved traditional gemmological studies, such as on nature/synthetic diamond and color gemstones. Over more, more domestic jades were studied from the perspective of geology, gemmological characteristics, and cultural exchange of ancient jades. More than sixty experts, scholars, and students participated in this academic exchange.



Group photo of parts of experts, scholars, and students participating in the 8th World Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-8) conference in Qingyang, Anhui Province.

4. From 20 to 24 October 2025, the Commission on Gem Materials contributed to the organization of the 38th International Gemmological Conference (IGC) in Athens, Greece, where more than 50 oral presentations addressed recent advances in gemmology.
5. From 27 to 29 October 2025, the Commission on Gem Materials supported the CIBJO (Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie des Diamants, Perles et Pierres – World Jewellery Confederation) annual meeting in Paris, where Commission representatives participated in several gem-related discussions and expressed the Commission's views on key topics.
6. From 6 to 10 July 2026, the Commission assisted in organizing a session on Gemmology at the GeoRaman Conference held in Juiz de Fora, Brazil. This session included over 10 oral and poster presentations focusing on the application of Raman spectroscopy in gemmology.

Planned Activities

The Commission on Gem Materials have actively participate in the IMA 2026 Congress in Nanjing in August 2026 by initiated organizing three scientific sessions (sessions 1.3, 10.2 and 10.4). The Commission also plans to participate in the CIBJO 2026 Congress in Vicenza in September 2026.

Planned Change of officers at IMA-CGM from September 2026 on

Prof. Oliver Tschauner Due to his busy schedule, he expressed his wish to step down from his position as Vice-Chair. After consulting the related parties, Prof. Andy Shen has asked Prof. Karampelas (previous secretary) will take the position of Vice Chairman of the Commission and Dr. Ratthaphon Amphon from Chiang Mai University will take up the second secretary of the Commission. The new structure of the Commission will therefore be as following table and will be presented to the general CGM meeting in the IMA 2026 Nanjing for approval.

Position	Name	Affiliations
Chair	Andy Hsi-Tien Shen	Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China
Vice-Chair	Stefanos Karampelas	School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Secretary	Chaowen Wang	Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China
	Ratthaphon Amphon	Gemology Program, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Thailand