

**International Mineralogical Association (IMA)
COMMISSION ON MUSEUMS (IMA-CM)**

REPORT ON ACTIVITY 2026

IMA-CM Board members:

Mike Rumsey, Melanie Kaliwoda, Paula Piilonen, Oskar Lindenmayer

M&M11 Conference at the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada

Preparations are underway for the 11th International Mineralogy & Museums Conference (M&M 11), the principal international conference organized under the auspices of the IMA Commission on Museums (IMA-CM). The meeting will be hosted by the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Canada, from 22–26 August 2027.

M&M 11 will bring together mineral museum curators, collection managers, conservators, researchers, academic mineralogists and geoscientists, museum directors, representatives of scientific organizations, as well as experienced private collectors and members of the wider mineralogical community. The scientific programme will address current developments in mineralogical research as well as topics of particular relevance to museums, including collection management, digitization, conservation, public engagement and the future role of mineral collections in science and society. The conference therefore represents an important opportunity for the IMA-CM to strengthen international cooperation and exchange between museums, research institutions and the wider mineralogical community.

The Canadian Museum of Nature provides an excellent setting for M&M 11. Participants will have opportunities to visit the museum's exhibitions in Ottawa, including the newly renovated Earth Gallery, as well as to participate in planned pre- and post-conference visits to the Natural Heritage Campus in Gatineau, Québec. This research and collections facility houses more than 14 million specimens across the museum's mineralogical, botanical, zoological and palaeontological collections and includes its scientific laboratories and mineral collections.

A programme of mineralogical field trips is also planned in conjunction with the conference. Current proposals include visits to the Yates Mine in Ontario, the lithium-bearing pegmatites of the Leduc Mine in Québec, and the internationally renowned mineral locality of Mont Saint-Hilaire, combined with the Varennes Quarry. These excursions will complement the scientific and museum-focused programme and provide participants with opportunities for direct geological and mineralogical exchange in the field.

For the IMA-CM, M&M 11 will be a major focus of activities in the coming year. Further development of the scientific programme, coordination with the local organizing committee, communication within the international network of National Representatives, and promotion of the conference within the wider museum and mineralogical communities will therefore form important parts of the Commission's work in preparation for Ottawa 2027.

Type “Sub-commission”

In 2025, the Types Sub-Commission underwent several changes. Following the departure of the volunteer responsible for updating the type-specimen database in June, Chair Nicolas Meisser announced in September that he would step down and proposed Simon Philippo (Belgium/Luxembourg) as his successor. Philippo also offered to have his institution host and maintain the Types dataset. While the Board welcomed this proposal, it agreed that the new Chair should be formally elected rather than appointed without discussion. An alternative proposal from Mindat to host the dataset is also under consideration, and the IMA-CM will discuss and vote on both matters.

IMA-CM Website

The generous hosting of the IMA-CM website by Kim Tait (past board member has now ceased) therefore the commission no longer has an updated website, discussions with the IMA are ongoing as to the creation of a new word-press site that can host the activities of the IMA-CM centrally

IMA-Nanjing, China 2026

Since, to our knowledge, no IMA-CM members will be attending the IMA conference in Nanjing, and the planned IMA-CM session was cancelled due to insufficient participation, an online IMA-CM meeting for all active members will be held in September (see also the list of active members).

In addition, an in-person meeting during the Munich Show 2026 is planned, providing another opportunity for exchange among IMA-CM members. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, 23 October, at 10:00 a.m. at the Convention Centre.

country	member	Active vs. inactive
Argentina	Considered Empty	No response from NR/Society (2022)
Australia	Oskar Lindenmayer now on board, Peter Downes (NR)	Active
Austria	Vera Hammer	Active, new Colleague (Name will be given)
Belgium/(Lux)	Simon Philippo	Active
Brazil	No Representative Listed	No vote received (2022)
Bulgaria	Larisa Nesheva	Active
Canada	Paula Piilonen on board, Aaron Lussier (NR)	Active
China	Yang Liangfeng	Active
Croatia	Snjezana Mikulcic	Active
Czech Republic	Vrtiška Luboš	New Appointment (2023)
Denmark	No Representative Listed	No vote received (2022)
Egypt	Aly Barakat	ANY VOTES in 2024/5
Finland	Arto Luttinen	New Appointment (2024)
France	Eloise Gaillou	New Appointment (2024)

Germany	Melanie Kaliwoda now on board, (NR voting in October)	Active
Greece	Considered Empty	No response from NR/Society (2022)
Hungary	Gabor Papp	Active
India	Considered Empty	No response from listed NR (2022)
Italy	Giovanni Pratesi	Active
Japan	Yasuyuki Banno	Active
Netherlands	Hanco Zwaan	Active
New Zealand	Considered Empty	No Response from Society (2022)
Norway	Henrik Friis	Active
Poland	Adam Szuskiewicz	Active
Portugal	Considered Empty	Need to reach out to society again?
Romania	Andrei Apopei	Re-activated (2022)
Russia	Dmitrii Belakovskii	Active
Slovenia	Daniel Ozdin	Active
Slovenia	Meta Dobnikar	New Appointment (2024)
South Africa	Bruce Caincross	Active
South Korea	No Representative Listed	No vote received (2022)?
Spain	Considered Empty	Need to reach out to society again?
Sweden	Jorgen Langhof	Active
Switzerland	Nicolas Meisser	Active
Turkey		Interested but no IMA member?!
Ukraine	Iryna Lunova	New Appointment (2022)
United Kingdom	John Faithfull	Active (replace with Mike – John retired)
United States	John Rakovan	New Appointment (2024)
Uzbekistan	No Representative Listed	No Vote Received (2022)

IMA-CM and SMMP

The IMA-CM Board continues to maintain close contact with the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP). Under the former SMMP President, Eloise Galliou, the 2023–2024 meetings—usually held in conjunction with the mineral shows in Tucson, Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines, and Munich (Munich Show) —regularly included a dedicated agenda item for updates from the IMA-CM. During these sessions, the IMA-CM Chair provided an overview of current activities and updates on preparations for the next MM Conference.

This close exchange continues under Henrik Friis of the Natural History Museum in Oslo, who has served as SMMP President since 2024, and Vice President Gabriela Farfan of the Smithsonian. The next in-person meeting involving members of both organizations is planned to take place during the Munich Show 2026.

IMA-CM Survey

Following the example of the survey conducted by the DMG Museums Working Group, IMA-CM carried out an international survey of its members and network. The survey generated significant interest and attracted 107 participants. The survey collected data on, among other things, the type and level of each institution, membership in national or international professional organizations, responsibilities for one or more collections, and the presence of type specimens.

The collections represented cover a broad spectrum: minerals (104), rocks (91), meteorites (77), paleontology (71), gemstones (62), and thin sections (61), as well as other types of collections (34). The results thus provide a good overview of the structure, diversity, and institutional integration of mineralogical and related collections within the international IMA-CM network.

IMA-CM representation elsewhere

Mike Rumsey is continuing his representation as a voting member on the UNESCO/IUGS Geocollections group – this is less to do with IMA-CM now and has become a more nationally related voting – hence Mike represents the UK, although the IMA-CM affiliation is still recognised by the IUGS. As part of this Role, Mike will promote and IUGS geocollection rounds to the IMA-CM members at relevant quarterly meetings.

In 2025, **Melanie Kaliwoda** served as a member of the selection committee and participated in the evaluation and voting process to select the 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites. She also serves on the advisory board of the DVGeo (Umbrella Organization for Geosciences in Germany) and the DMG (German Mineralogical Society).

Min. Soc. America Scientific Meeting

The first self-organised scientific meeting following the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show 2025 was highly successful, bringing together the scientific and collector communities and covering a broader range of mineralogical topics than typically possible within a single conference session. With 125 abstracts submitted and around 150 participants, the event exceeded expectations and required a larger venue. The programme also included a “Breakfast with a Mineralogist” and field trips. A similar meeting is planned for next year. Several IMA-CM members suggested holding it before the main Tucson show, particularly to accommodate European museum participants; this option will be discussed with the organisers, although scheduling may be challenging.