



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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JOINT SGI-SIMP MEETING, MILAN, ITALY



SIMP President Bernardo Cesare and, in the background, SGI President Carlo Doglioni

The Geological Society of Italy (SGI) and the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) held a joint congress at the University of Milan on 10–12 September 2014. During the three days of the meeting, more than 850 participants from 33 countries attended 37 sessions and presented 780 contributions (410 talks and 370 posters). Four workshops and three short courses were attended by more than 150 researchers. Five plenary lectures (given by James E. T. Channel, Stefano Merlino, Benoît Ildefonse, Luca Bertelli, and Olivier Beysac) on hot topics in paleomagnetism, crystallography, ocean deep drilling, geological exploration, and the carbon cycle were greatly appreciated.

The SIMP thanks the University of Milan and the Earth Sciences Department "Ardito Desio" for the warm welcome and for the human and economic contribution that ensured the success of the congress. The closing ceremony and Geo-Show in the Aula Magna of the University of Milan was sold out. The next SIMP congress will be held in Florence in September 2015.



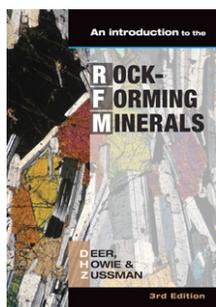
The volunteer "blue boys and girls" helped to make the congress a success.



Final bow of the actors in the Geo-Show. Researchers from industry and academia, as well as Italian "anchormen," participated in the show to the great satisfaction of the public.

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DHZ SPECIAL EDITION OF CRYSTAL VIEWER™



Originally bundled with the textbook *Introduction to the Rock-Forming Minerals*, by Deer, Howie and Zussman, on CD-ROM, we are pleased to now make the software available for download directly from the CrystalMaker™ website (www.crystallmaker.com/dhz/). This should prove easier for international customers and will allow updates of the software, as required. This is a special edition of CrystalViewer that includes the crystal structures of 100 minerals, as illustrated in DHZ. The aim is to provide that missing "third dimension," with full three-

dimensional manipulation and scaling, a choice of different model representations (ball-and-stick, polyhedral, space-filling, etc.), plus interactive measurement tools. (Please note that terms and conditions apply, as specified on the downloads page.)

CLAY MINERALS GROUP-ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY GROUP JOINT MEETING



Xing Su

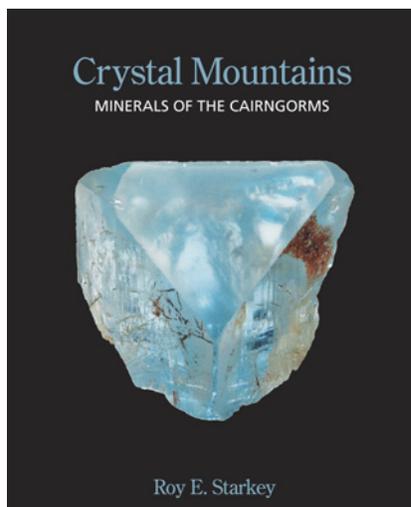
On 24 September the Clay Minerals and Environmental Mineralogy groups of the Society came together for their first joint Research-in-Progress meeting. This was a good success and will be repeated again in the future. The winner of the best student presentation was **Xing Su** of the University of Sheffield, with 'Controlling the dispersion of clay in polymer nanocomposites using a chemical blowing agent.'

IMA REPORT

A report of this event, to which K. Murphy (Executive Director) and F. Wall (President) contributed, is available elsewhere in this issue (page 471).

NEW BRITISH MINERALS BOOK

New books specifically about British mineralogy don't come along very often and so are definitely worth celebrating. Society member Roy Starkey has written and published (September 2014) *Crystal Mountains – Minerals of the Cairngorms*.



A review of the book for *Mineralogical Magazine* is being prepared. Meantime, information about the book (including orders) is available at <http://britishmineralogy.com/>.