FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past four years, volcanic activity in the Japanese archipelago has been increasing, ever since the megaquake of 2011. In Kyushu, where I live, explosive eruptions have repeatedly occurred, for example, at Aso Volcano and Sakurajima Volcano; fortunately, these eruptions have not caused great disasters. In February 2015, I was staying at Aso Somma with some 20 researchers from Japan and abroad, including Prof. Simon Harley, when a volcanic eruption, with associated infrasound, occurred during the night. The next morning, we awoke to discover large volumes of volcanic ash. Now, researchers, including members of the Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences (JAMS), are conducting in-depth studies to try and predict the next large volcanic eruption. This is just one of the research themes that JAMS members are currently engaged in.

While a number of academic associations in Japan have had difficulty maintaining their membership, JAMS is in an excellent state, with an increasing number of younger members. The Journal of Mineralogical and Petrological Sciences, an international journal published regularly by JAMS, is increasing its impact and attracting numerous international papers, a trend that we expect to continue.

And in 2016, JAMS itself will undergo a transformation: at the Annual Meeting in September 2016, which will be held at Kanazawa University, JAMS will change from being a private association to a general incorporated association. As a general incorporated association, JAMS will have higher compliance and improve its standing within the Earth science community in Japan. With regard to international cooperation, JAMS will extend its terms of the cooperation agreement, which have existed for the past five years, with the Mongolian Society of Economic Geology (MonSEG). We also intend to accelerate the conclusion of MOU with related academic associations in Asia and the world.

In 2016, some members of JAMS will be conveners at the international sessions of the Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2016 (in Makuhari, Chiba) in May and at the Goldschmidt 2016 Conference, which will be held in Yokohama in June. It is a great honor to meet fellow researchers from all over the world at such academic conferences.

My term as President of JAMS will expire in September 2016. Immediately thereafter, I will travel to Antarctica with the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition. I am looking forward to revisiting the ultrahigh-temperature metamorphic rocks of the Napier Complex: I have been away from them for far too long.

Prof. Yasuhito Osanai
JAMS President

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JAPAN GEOSCIENCE UNION

We are pleased to inform you that the annual meeting of the Japan Geoscience Union will take place 22–26 May 2016 at Makuhari Messe, Chiba (Japan). More than 60 international sessions, including joint sessions with the American Geophysical Union, are planned. A preliminary list of the international sessions relating to mineralogy and petrology is given below. More information is available at www.jpgu.org/meeting_e2016/.

- Structure and Dynamics of Earth and Planetary Deep Interiors
- Structure and Dynamics of Suboceanic Mantle: Theories and Observations
- Hard-Rock Drilling: Oceanic Lithosphere to Continental Crust Formation
- Do Plumes Exist?
- Geodynamic Evolution of Northeast Asia and the Western Pacific
- Tectonic Processes on the Incoming Plate Seaward of the Trench: Inputs to Subduction Zones
- Oceanic and Continental Subduction Processes—I: A Petrologic–Geochemical Perspective
- Oceanic and Continental Subduction Processes—II: A Structural–Petrologic Perspective
- Supercontinents and Crustal Evolution
- Volatile Cycles in the Deep Earth—from Subduction Zones to the Mantle and Core
- Intermediate-depth and Deep Earthquakes: Their Origins and Material Properties of Subducting Slabs
- Biomineralization and the Geochemistry of Proxies—Field Ecology, Laboratory Culture, and Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction
- Small Solar System Bodies: General and Mars Satellite Sample Return Mission
- Interaction and Coevolution of the Core and Mantle
- Joint Sessions with AGU

WELCOME TO YOKOHAMA

The Goldschmidt 2016 conference will be held 26 June–1 July 2016 in Yokohama, a beautiful city near Tokyo. Mark these dates on your calendar! The deadline for abstract submission is 26 February 2016. We look forward to seeing many Elements readers among the participants. For more information, please visit goldschmidt.info/2016/index.

Cont’d on page 55
The winners for the oral category were as follows:

Sayako Inoué (University of Tokyo, Japan) for “A combined study by HRTEM and HAADF STEM for Fe-rich berthierine and chloride interstratified minerals.”

Bhabananda Biswas (University of South Australia) for “Competitive adsorption of mixed contaminants on metal-immobilising organoclay (MIOC): Implication in the degradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PHAs).”

Mathias H. Köstner (Technische Universität München, Germany) for “Boron content and boron isotope composition of Na, Ca and Mg bentonites.”

The award winners for the poster category were as follows:

Katherine Ann Rothwell (Newcastle University, UK) for “Assessing the redox reactivity of Fe(II)-reduced clay minerals.”

Darja Komar (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) for “Physical, chemical and thermal characteristics of Makirina bay peloids (N. Dalmatia, Republic of Croatia).”

Cristina Fernandez-Barranco (University of Jaen, Spain) for “Study of spatial distribution of sepiolite in polyamide 66/sepiolite.”

The next AIPEA meeting will be the 16th International Clay Conference (ICC), to be held 16–21 July 2017, organized jointly with the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) under the chairmanship of Alberto Lopez Galindo. Information can be found at www.16icc.org.

Keep yourself informed about clays and clay minerals! Simply subscribe to the email listserv by sending a request to talk.subscribe@aipea.org. And you can unsubscribe at any time by sending a request to talk.unsubscribe@aipea.org.

Saverio Fiore (president@aipea.org)  President, AIPEA

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E-copy is available for free download.
Just send a request to info@aipea.org

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