The year 2017 is knocking at the door, and it is time for all participants to organize their trip to Granada (Spain) for the 16th International Clay Conference, the quadrennial AIPEA meeting. The conference will be organized by the Sociedad Española de Arcillas (Spanish Clay Society), under the chairmanship of Dr Alberto Lopez Galindo (University of Granada). The five-day meeting will take place 17–21 July 2017 at the Science Park in Granada. With the theme “Clays: from the Oceans to Space”, the conference will embrace the universe of micro- and nanominerals, confirming, once again, the central role that AIPEA plays in promoting multidisciplinary activities in theoretical and applied clay science. The meeting will be an excellent occasion for sharing ideas and knowledge with scientists working in the diverse scientific fields of microminerals. It will also be a great opportunity to meet old and new friends, and to visit the wonderful city of Granada. More information can be found at the website www.16icc.org.

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Original Articles

Mineralogical characterization of radioactive particles from Fukushima soil using p-XRD with synchrotron radiation – Satoko MOTA, Hiroki MUKAI, Tetsu WATANUKI, Kenji OHWADA, Tatsu FUKUDA, Akihiko MACHIDA, Chisaki KURAMATA, Ryosuke KIKUCHI, Tsuyoshi YAITA and Toshihiro KOGURE

Color-inducing elements and mechanisms in nephrites from Golmud, Qinghai, NW China: Insights from spectroscopic and compositional analyses – Haiyan YU, Rucheng WANG, Jichun GUO, Jiagui LI and Xiaowen YANG

U–Pb ages and Hf isotopic composition of zircon and bulk rock geochemistry of the Dai Loc granitoid complex in Kontum massif: Implications for early Paleozoic crustal evolution in Central Vietnam – Pham Trung HIEU, Nguyen Thi DUNG, NGUYEN Thi Bich Thy, Nguyen Trung MINH and Pham MINH

Geothermobarometry of amphiboles in intermediate to basic rocks from the Almogholagh pluton in western Iran – Manuchehr AMIRI, Ahmad AHMADI KHALAJI, Zahra TAHMASBI, Reza ZAREI SAHAMIEH and Hassan ZAMANIA

Internal texture and U–Th–total Pb isochron ages of monazite in metamorphic rocks from the Southwestern Highland Complex, Sri Lanka – D. Nuwan Sanjaya WANNIARACHCHI and Masahide AKASAKA

Structural refinement of köttigite-parasymplesite solid solution: Unique cation site occupancy and chemical bonding with water molecules – Akira YOSHIASA, Yumiko MIYANO, Hiroshi ISOBE, Kazumasa SUGIYAMA, Hiroshi ARIMA, Akihiko NAKATSUKA, Koichi MOMMA and Ritsuro MIYAWAKI

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now sought for 3 awards: the AIPEA Medal, an AIPEA Fellowship, and the AIPEA Bradley Award

AIPEA Medal – This medal was established to award clay scientists for outstanding contributions to advancing our knowledge of clays and clay minerals. A maximum of two medals will be awarded at the 16th International Clay Conference (17–21 July 2017 in Madrid, Spain). All candidates must be active clay scientists, meaning that they have published a minimum of three publications in refereed and internationally recognized journals in the last two years. Candidates can be proposed by affiliated societies or by AIPEA members and should include supporting letters from at least three individual AIPEA members.

AIPEA Fellowship – The AIPEA Fellowship program was established to recognize and reward clay scientists for a lifetime of activity in promoting clay science and in supporting the clay science community through AIPEA or other bodies. Fellows must be current members of AIPEA. Nominations can be submitted by a member of the AIPEA Council, by a national society liaison officer, or by a national or regional society of clay scientists. The proposal should contain publications and appropriate supporting documentation (e.g., supporting letters, curricula vitae, etc.), and should be submitted to the president of AIPEA by 31 December 2016. Selection will be made by the AIPEA Council. The successful nominee will be invited to take part in the 16th International Clay Conference, and AIPEA will pay for the registration fee.

AIPEA Bradley Award – The Bradley Award offers financial assistance to the recipient to enable him or her to participate in an International Clay Conference for the purpose of presenting a scientific contribution. Persons eligible for the award shall be under 35 years of age on the closing date for submission, and no restriction is placed on the sex or nationality of the candidate or the nature of his or her employment. Every application must be supported in writing by two members of AIPEA. Deadline for the receipt of applications is 31 December 2016. Candidates must submit an electronic copy, preferably in Microsoft Word, of a 4,000-word paper on a topic relevant to one of the sessions at the conference. The paper should be written in a format acceptable for publication in an international journal. Assessment will be based on scientific content only and the winning entry shall form the substance of a paper to be presented by the successful candidate at the conference to which the award relates.

Finally, to support students (or those under 35 years of age) to participate in the 16th International Clay Conference, AIPEA will assign financial contributions. To participate in the Student Travel Funds program, the student should submit an abstract and his/her curriculum vitae. This submission must be supported in writing by two members of AIPEA. Deadline for the receipt of applications is 31 December 2016. Candidates must submit an electronic copy, preferably in Microsoft Word, of a 4,000-word paper on a topic relevant to one of the sessions at the conference. The paper should be written in a format acceptable for publication in an international journal. Assessment will be based on scientific content only and the winning entry shall form the substance of a paper to be presented by the successful candidate at the conference to which the award relates.

All correspondence related to the awards must be addressed to Dr. Saverio Fiore, President of AIPEA, by email (president@aipea.org). Further information can be found at www.aipea.org.

Saverio Fiore, AIPEA President