



Association Internationale pour l'étude des Argiles

www.aipea.org

16th INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE REPORT

The International Association for the Study of Clays (AIPEA - Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles) had its General Assembly and its 16th quadrennial meeting (International Clay Conference, ICC) in July 2017, in Granada (Spain). During the business meeting, the General Assembly voted the new Council for 2017–2021. The officers are as follows:

- President** Dr. Reiner Dohrmann [Geocenter Hannover (Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe, and the Landesamt für Bergbau, Energie und Geologie), Germany]
- Vice President** Prof. Jocelyne Brendle [Institute of Material Science of Mulhouse (CNRS), France]
- Secretary General** Peter Ryan (Middlebury College, Vermont, USA)
- Treasurer** Dr. Alberto Lopez Galindo [Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra (CSIC - University of Granada), Spain]
- Past President** Dr. Saverio Fiore [Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), Italy]
- Councillors**
- Dr. Georgios Christidis (Technical University of Crete, Greece)
 - Dr. Victoria Krupskaya (Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia)
 - Prof. Makoto Ogawa (Institute of Energy Science and Engineering, Bangkok, Thailand)
 - Dr. Jana Madejová [Institute of Inorganic Chemistry (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Slovakia]
 - Prof. Cliff T. Johnston (Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, Purdue University, Indiana, USA)
 - Prof. Chun Hui Zhou (College of Chemical Engineering, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, China).

The most important item on the agenda was the discussion of the amendments to the AIPEA Statutes and By-Laws proposed and recommended by the council. President Saverio Fiore introduced and provided details on the amendments, which were discussed, voted and unanimously approved by the General Assembly. The revised Statutes and By-Laws are available on the AIPEA website (www.aipea.org).

We would like to take the opportunity of this report to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves (PETROBRAS, Brazil) and Dr. Jeanne B. Percival (Geological Survey of Canada) for excellent work during the last 12 years as AIPEA Secretary General and as AIPEA Treasurer, respectively.

A pre-conference high-level course, the 3rd AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS), entitled "Computational Modeling in Clay Mineralogy", was held 15–16 July 2017 at the Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Universidad de Granada, Spain). Twenty-seven young and not-so-young scientists actively participated in the didactic activities chaired by C. Ignacio Sainz-Díaz (Spain). The 16th International Clay Conference



Welcome to the 17th International Clay Conference during the AIPEA General Assembly in Granada (Spain). **From left:** Saverio Fiore (AIPEA Immediate Past President); Selattin Kadir (Chair 17th ICC); Reiner Dohrmann (President AIPEA); Alberto Lopez Galindo (Chair 16th ICC); F. Javier Huertas (President Spanish Clay Society); Asuman Turkmenoglu (representative 17th ICC, President Clay Science Society of Turkey); Warren Huff (Clay Minerals Society)

(ICC) proper then took place 17–21 July 2017 at the Parque de las Ciencias (Sciences Park) in Granada. The conference was organised by the Sociedad Espanola de Arcillas (SEA) (Spanish Clay Society) under the auspices of AIPEA. The meeting brought together 797 participants – 209 of whom were students! – from 53 countries, who participated in or attended 38 sessions, 4 plenary sessions, 29 keynote speeches, 398 oral presentations, and 402 posters.

AIPEA, SEA and the ICC Organising Committee made every effort to encourage and support the participation of young researchers to the meeting. Seven AIPEA Travel Grants were awarded, plus 37 free registrations and 35 accommodations.

The social activities were at times amazing, perhaps the most notable being a private visit at night to the Alhambra. There were also 3 mid-conference excursions to Cabo de Gata, Guadix and Alpujarra.

Clay scientists, both junior and senior, received individual recognition during the course of the conference. Professor Emilio Galan Huertos (University of Seville, Spain) received the highest AIPEA honour, the AIPEA Medal, for his outstanding contributions to advancing the knowledge of clays and clay minerals. The Student Best Speaker & Poster Award were evaluated by a large team of assessors chaired by Dr. Daisy Barbosa Alves and Dr. Jeanne Percival. The prize for best oral presentation went to Yasmine Sakhawoth (Sorbonne University, France), and the runners-up were Ariane Suzzoni (Pierre and Marie Curie University, France) and Małgorzata Lempart (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland). The prize for best student poster went to Héloïse Verron (University of Lorraine, France), and the runners-up were Satomi Enju (Kyushu University, Japan) and Jingyao Xu (University of Barcelona, Spain).

The 16th ICC was a great success, and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Alberto Lopez Galindo and his team, plus the various committees, for an outstanding conference. The next ICC meeting will be held in Istanbul (Turkey) in July 2021 and will be co-organised by the Clay Science Society of Turkey and the Clay Minerals Society (USA) under the joint conference leadership of Prof. Asuman Turkmenoglu, Prof. Selattin Kadir and Prof. Paul Schroeder.

Reiner Dohrmann, AIPEA President
Saverio Fiore, AIPEA Immediate Past President