AIEPA was founded in 1948 to promote international cooperation in clay research and technology. A hallmark AIEPA event is the quadrennial International Clay Conference (ICC), the most recent of which—the 17th ICC—occurred on 25–29 July, 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The theme was “New Interfaces: Bridging Continents and Cultures with Clays,” with 323 participants from 40 nations, 2/3 of whom attended in person and 1/3 by video conference. The conference was co-organized by the Clay Science Society (Türkiye) and the Clay Minerals Society (USA). We wish to thank the organizing committee for convening an in-person meeting in the present complex context: Selahattin Kadir (General Chair, Eskişehir Osmangazi Univ., Türkiye), Paul Schroeder (Co-Chair, Univ. Georgia, USA), Asuman Gümüş Türkmenoğlu (AIEPA Representative, Middle East Technical Univ., Türkiye), and Fahri Esenli and Emin Çiftçi (Istanbul Technical Univ., Türkiye), both of whom served as Secretary. The conference was scheduled to take place in 2021, but was postponed to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A complete report on the conference is available from the AIEPA website (https://www.aipea.org).

The conference opened with a one-day CMS workshop led by George Christidis on “Advances in the Characterization of Smeectite in Bentonites,” and the Scientific Programme itself covered four days. Some of the presentations (especially plenary lectures) will be available on the AIEPA, CMG, or CMS YouTube channels when appropriate permissions are arranged. The book of abstracts is also available on the AIEPA website.

The ICCs also provide the opportunity for AIEPA to recognize contributions by esteemed colleagues, and to support the research endeavours of students and early career scientists. Conference Plenary lecturers included recipients of the AIEPA Medal, awarded to active scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions to clay science, who shared their inspiring research outcomes with the participants:

- David Bish (Indiana Univ., USA) presented “The wonders (and implications) of disorder in clay minerals”.
- Hongping He (Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, China) presented “Transformation of 1:1 type clay minerals into smectite under hydrothermal condition”.
- The 2022 recipient of the Bradley Award, Denys L. Grekov (Nantes Univ., France), lectured on “Adsorption of methane and carbon dioxide by water-saturated clay rocks”.

Warren D. Huff and Saverio Fiore were recognized with the AIPEA Fellow Award for their life-long activity promoting clay science and supporting the clay science community.

Student presentation awards were sponsored and judged jointly by AIEPA and CMS. Best oral presentation: Bidemi Fashina (Texas A&M Univ., USA); Oral runner-up: Aasim Shaffi (Univ. College London, UK); Best poster presentation: Karolina Rybka (AGH Univ. Science and Technology, Poland); and Poster runner-up: Eleanor Olegario (Univ. of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines).

Seven students received AIEPA travel grants: Adrian Lorenzo Hernández (Spain), Andrea García Vicente (Spain), Biljana Milovanović (Serbia), Julien Talon (France), Klaudia Dziewiątka (Poland), Pauline Corentin (France), and Zvonka Gverić (Croatia).

Dr. Gianni Vettese (Univ. Helsinki, Finland) and Dr. Ranjan Paul (Natl Bureau of Soil Survey, India) were awarded AIEPA Early Career Clay Scientist (ECCS) Travel Grants, and Dr. Jemaa Amakrane (Univ. Mohammed Premier, Morocco) and Dr. Javier García Rivas (Univ. Complutense, Spain) were recipients of AIEPA ECCS Research Grants. The ECCS activities also included a presentation of its objectives, a networking event, and a meeting with editors of the three major clay science journals. Additional awards were presented by CMS and the CMG of the Mineralogical Society (UK & Ireland).

The conference concluded with a field trip organized by Orhan Yavuz, Paul A. Schroeder, Emin Çiftçi, and Hüseyin Demir to the Şile Clay Deposits on July 30, 2022.
Each ICC is an occasion to announce new members of the AIPEA Council and new officers. Bruno Lanson (France) will take over from Reiner Dohrmann (Germany) as AIPEA President, and Bruno will continue in the role of Chair of the Nomenclature Committee. Chun Hui Zhou (China) will step in as Vice-President, and Peter Ryan (Secretary – USA) and Alberto López Galindo (Treasurer – Spain) will continue in their respective roles. Reiner Dohrmann will serve as Past-President. The AIPEA Council for 2022–2025 is comprised of Samar Chandra Datta (India), Cliff Johnston (USA), Erzsébet Harman-Tóth (Hungary), Tanya Peretyazhko (Ukraine, USA), Adi Radian (Israel), Tsutomu Sato (Japan), Jeanne B. Percival (Chair, Teaching Committee – Canada), Liva Dzene (Chair, Early Career Clay Scientists Committee – Latvia, France), Steve Hillier (Representative of the 18th ICC – UK), and Saverio Fiore (Webmaster, Chair of the Hazardous Minerals Committee – Italy).

We conclude with some future conference news: The 18th ICC will be held in Dublin, Ireland, on July 13–18, 2025 (https://icc.aipea.org/). The bid was led by Steve Hillier and Kevin Murphy on behalf of the CMG of the Mineralogical Society (UK & Ireland), and we all look forward to participating in 2025! Between now and then, we look forward to the upcoming EUROCLAY 2023 in July in Italy (https://euroclay.aipea.org/), and also draw your attention to the International Joint Conference Clays Application & Valorization (CAV2022) and Minerals & Materials Sciences (MMS2022) (https://www.scientevents.com/cav2022/).