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The International Association of GeoChemistry

In addition to changing its name to the International Association of GeoChemistry, an invigorated IAGC Council believes that, despite the strengths of other geochemical associations, there is an important role for the Association, in particular, in providing a voice and forum for scientists in countries outside of North America and Europe. The IAGC Council recently voted to increase the sponsorship amounts for international meetings and to increase the Association's presence in meetings, such as the EGU in 2005 and the Goldschmidt meetings. The IAGC will award its own medal, named after V.I. Vernadsky, a leading Russian scientist, for the first time in 2006. Although open to any national, the IAGC will pay specific attention to scientists who may not be in the general sphere of US and European associations in making this award.

John Ludden, President

AWARD TO GUNTER FAURE

On 23 May at the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference, Gunter Faure was presented with the Distinguished Service Medal of the Geochemical Society. Gunter, the current treasurer of IAGC, is also a former vice president and president of IAGC. Gunter was cited by W. Berry Lyons and Anne E. Carey, his colleagues from The Ohio State University, for his work as the Executive Editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* from 1989 to 1997,

a time when the journal grew dramatically. In addition, he was praised for his writing of a number of important textbooks in many areas of geochemistry, including the recently published third edition of *Isotopes: Principles and Applications*, which is co-authored with his wife, Terri Mensing. Gunter is currently working on yet another text on the solar system and is planning another book on the geology of the Transantarctic Mountains! Gunter is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, the European Association for Geochemistry, as well as the Geochemical Society. He was instrumental in the development of an IAGC-sponsored special session at the upcoming GSA meeting entitled "Sources, Fate, Transport and Toxicology of Trace Metals in the Environment," which reflects his interests in environmental geochemistry. Gunter has been a tireless contributor to the international geochemistry community for over four decades. This award is truly well deserved.

Berry Lyons



IAGC COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The IAGC Council met on 22 May during the 15th Annual V. M. Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, ID (USA). Here are some highlights, among the many items discussed.

- Support has been given to recent meetings, including a session on geochemistry in archaeology at the 2005 European Union of Geosciences annual meeting in Vienna, and three sessions on the geochemistry of mercury, the halogens, and watershed-scale geochemistry at the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, Idaho.
- IAGC has become increasingly active over the past nine months and as a result is gaining more visibility within the international geochemistry community.
- Council noted the importance of a properly functioning business office to the long-term stability and growth of IAGC and expressed its satisfaction with the operation of the business office over the past year.
- A new 3-year contract for future subscription rates for the Association's journal, *Applied*

Geochemistry, was negotiated with Elsevier; subscription costs will only rise \$2 per year.

- As part of our contract, Elsevier has offered to set up a "Society Service" for members of IAGC, which allows full-text journal access to *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* and *Organic Geochemistry*, as well as *Applied Geochemistry*, dating back to 1995.
- *Applied Geochemistry* is doing well; page number allocation continues to rise, as does the impact factor, and there is no editorial backlog.
- Elsevier has agreed to a 10% increase in the number of pages for *Applied Geochemistry* in 2006, and three special issues with papers from IAGC-sponsored sessions at the 2004 International Geological Congress and the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference are underway for 2006.

Further details of the Council meeting will be published in the next IAGC Newsletter (#43), due out in the fall.

Russ Harmon
and Attila Demeny

EDITOR'S REPORT

Applied Geochemistry continues to do well. In 2004 (volume 19), 129 full papers were published for a total of 1995 pages. The number of manuscripts received during 2004 again broke a record with 242 manuscripts received, compared to 210 in 2003. This deluge of submitted manuscripts does not look as if it is going to subside as 80 manuscripts were received in the first four months of this year!

Two special issues, *Arsenic in Groundwater of Sedimentary Aquifers* and *A Tribute to Gunter Faure*, our current treasurer and a past president, were published. To date in volume 20, 72 papers have been published in 1050 pages up to issue 5. In volume 20, one special issue has been published containing selected papers from the "5th Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry." In addition, the Ingerson Lecture,

given by Stephen Moorbath at the Florence meeting, was published in issue 5. It is anticipated that future Ingerson lectures will also be published in the journal. To address the shortage of review papers, IAGC members are asked to solicit suitable reviews from colleagues.

Recently, the IAGC has set up a Society Service, already in place for *Applied Geochemistry's* "sister" journals, *GCA* and *Organic Geochemistry*. The Society Service basically constitutes a "slice" of ScienceDirect where all member-subscribers have access to the full-text journal content from 1995 onwards. This gives a lot of added value to being a member of the IAGC. Details have been mailed to members.

Ron Fuge

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

WRI-12 Update

Since the article describing Water-Rock Interaction symposia in the last issue of *Elements*, some more recent information concerning the next meeting is now available. WRI-12 will be held in the beautiful city of Kunming (The Spring City), Yunnan Province, China, in August 2007, with Prof. Yanxing Wang (China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China) as the secretary general. The timelines and plans for WRI-12 have been finalized and are reported in the first circular that may be requested by e-mail to: wri12@cug.edu.cn. For additional information, visit the WRI-12 website at: www.wri12.cug.edu.cn

Yousif Kharaka

Archaeological Geochemistry

The IAGC took a new direction when it sponsored two sessions (oral and poster) in archaeological geochemistry at the recent EGU annual meeting in Vienna (24–29 April). These sessions were convened by Andrew Parker (University of Reading and IAGC Council member) and Mark Pollard (University of Oxford). We were fortunate in being allocated prime locations for these sessions, which were very well attended (60–80 at the talks and probably more at the posters). In particular, the author-attended poster session stimulated several lively discussions. Scientists from eight European countries gave presentations covering topics ranging from techniques (e.g. portable Raman spectrometry, Pb and other isotope analyses) to a wide variety of applications (e.g. human migration patterns, dendrochronology, trade routes, subsistence strategies). It is hoped to publish the proceedings of these sessions in a special issue of *Applied Geochemistry* and to organise sessions annually on that topic.

Andrew Parker

Symposia at 2005 Goldschmidt

The IAGC sponsored three symposia at the recent Goldschmidt Conference. Their titles and organisers are as follows:

“The Geochemistry of Mercury” – Session SS-74; conveners: John Gray (jgray@usgs.gov), US Geological Survey and Mark Hines (Mark_Hines@uml.edu), University of Massachusetts

“The Halogens and their Isotopes in Marine and Terrestrial Aqueous Systems” – Session SS-75; conveners: Glen Snyder (gsnyder@rice.edu), Rice University Earth Science and Jean Moran (moran10@llnl.gov), LLNL

“Watershed-Scale Geochemistry” – Session SS-81; conveners: Berry Lyons (lyons.142@osu), Ohio State University and David Long (long@msu.edu), Michigan State University.

Upcoming IAGC-sponsored meetings

Topical session “T12. Environmental Issues Related to Oil and Gas Exploration and Production” will be held at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, October 16–19, 2005, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Presentations will be given on past and present impacts to soil, surface and ground waters, and ecosystems caused by exploration and production of petroleum and coal-bed methane. Case histories, general topics, and new methodologies that address minimizing impacts and improving site remediation will be presented. Further information is available at the GSA's website www.geosociety.org/meetings/2005 or by contacting the organisers, Yousif Kharaka (ykhara@usgs.gov) or Jim Otton (jkotton@usgs.gov).

FEATURE: WORKING GROUP ON GEOCHEMICAL TRAINING IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Working Group (WG) on Geochemical Training in the Developing Countries has been in existence since 1978. It grew out of the WG on Laterite and Laterization, chaired by Dr. Juan Goni, which aimed to facilitate the transfer of technology from developed countries to countries with laterite deposits they wished to exploit. Subsequently, the WG on Isotope Geochemistry, under U. Aswathanarayana was formed in the early 80s.

Dr. Aswathanarayana has been associated with the current WG since the beginning and has been its Chair since 1992. Paul Lecomte (ATEA, France) shared the Chair position from 1992 to 1996.

The purpose of the WG has been to promote R & D and training in geochemistry through synergy with cognate sciences and technologies, and to disseminate geochemical knowledge. Thus, the WG aims to help improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people in developing countries. Dr. Aswathanarayana recently received an AGU award in recognition of his part in this (see photograph).

The WG's recent activities have mainly centred on the following:

1. Training courses

A training course on land surface hydrological processes in relation to water resources management and extreme weather events (droughts and floods) was organized in Hyderabad, India, December 7–17, 2002, under the auspices of the state government of Andhra Pradesh. Also, a refresher course for geoscience teachers was held in Hyderabad, India, November 3–15, 2003, under the sponsorship of the Indian Academy of Sciences.



Prof. U. Aswathanarayana receiving the Excellence in Geophysical Education Award (2005) from Prof. John A. Orcutt, President of AGU, Joint Assembly, New Orleans, May 25, 2005.

2. Achievements

Fluorosis, goitre and stomach cancer have a strong adverse effect on the quality of life of the people. By making use of geochemical and isotopic tools to mitigate these diseases, we have reduced human suffering in northern Tanzania. The WG has also improved job generation through synergy among the Earth sciences (including atmospheric and oceanic realms), space sciences and information sciences, and linking geoscience instruction with ecologically sustainable and economically viable methods of natural resources management.

Recently, the WG has become closely associated with the establishment of the Mahadevan International Centre for Water Resources Management, Hyderabad, India. The mission of the centre is to serve as a clearing house for water sciences and technologies in the developing countries. The centre has been recognized as a Centre of Excellence in the south under the TWAS–UNESCO scheme. The centre plans to organize ten training programmes in water resources management for developing countries during the next five years for which sponsorship from the World Meteorological Organization is expected.

IAGC members interested in the activities of the working group should contact Dr. Aswathanarayana by e-mail uaswathanarayana@yahoo.com.

U. Aswathanarayana

“SOURCES, TRANSPORT, FATE AND TOXICOLOGY OF TRACE ELEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT,” A SESSION DURING THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER, 2005, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

This topical session is an ongoing forum for research on trace elements in the environment held at the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America. These sessions began nine years ago and have attracted large audiences of researchers

interested in trace metal cycling. The scope of the session has grown and now includes the toxicology of trace elements in addition to fate and transport studies. IAGC will again present an award for the best student paper given during the session.

Further information can be obtained from

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