



International Mineralogical Association

IMA: MOVING FORWARD

Delegates present at the November 1, 1956, meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America were unanimously in favor of the creation of a committee to examine the possibility of forming an International Union of Mineralogy. The committee was formed early in 1957, with eight members from the US, UK, France, and Germany. The International Mineralogical Association was created shortly after. The

unanimous response of the delegates reflected their desire to present their scientific results at a meeting devoted to mineralogy and to promote mineralogy among the Earth sciences.

The delegates were also unanimously in favor of creating commissions, especially the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN), which was aimed at clarifying the nomenclature of minerals. This objective has been pursued since 1957, and as Ernst Burke, current chairman of CNMMN, indicated in the previous issue of *Elements* (June 2005), the CNMMN will still have a lot to do in the future! The Commission on Ore Mineralogy was created three years later, the Commission on Applied Mineralogy in 1979, and most of the other commissions in the 1980s.

All the IMA components have worked hard following the recommendations given at the general meeting of the IMA in Edinburgh, 2002. An increasing number of commissions and working groups are now involved each year in international meetings. In 2003, the IMA sponsored five sessions during the first EGS-AGU-EUG meeting held in Nice. In 2004, the IMA was involved in three large meetings, the 32nd International Geological Congress, in Florence, 20-28 August, where most of the IMA commissions and working groups organized sessions; the 8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, ICAM, in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil, 19-24 September; and the 5th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums, in Paris, 5-8 September. This year the IMA participated for the first time in the 15th Goldschmidt Conference, in Moscow, Idaho, 20-25 May. Next year the IMA will hold its general meeting in Kobe, Japan, 23-28 July. Takamitsu Yamanaka is the meeting chairman, and the Kobe website can be visited at www.congre.co.jp/ima2006.

Following a change in the Constitution in Edinburgh, the interval between IMA business meetings has been reduced to two years. One meeting coincides with the quadrennial general meeting of IMA, and the second with the International Geological Congress. This change will help to maintain IMA activity between general meetings and facilitate collaboration with other Earth science organizations. The IMA has also made efforts to become more visible among the Earth sciences. The participation of IMA in international meetings has already helped a lot, as has the delivery of information about IMA activities in the *Mineralogical Association of Canada Newsletters* and now *Elements*. The IMA website (www.ima-mineralogy.org) has been revised and now provides links to the websites of supporting mineralogical organizations and information on the activities and membership of commissions. Like most of the international organizations belonging to the IUGS, IMA now has a logo, which was selected from sixteen proposals during the last IGC meeting. The contributors are kindly thanked for their participation.

The scientific activity of the IMA is carried forward by its eight commissions and five working groups, which are now involved in the rejuvenation of their structure and objectives. This was made possible during the Edinburgh General Meeting when Council was given the power to change officers between general meetings. This led to the creation of two new working groups, which were formally recognized during the business meeting in Florence: the Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy and the Working Group on Astromineralogy, chaired by D. Vaughan and F. Rietmeijer, respectively. The two working groups have started with a light structure, as each chairman has selected a small active group, supposed to be reactive enough to give quick answers to the whole community.

Cont'd on p. 243 (bottom)

IMA2006-KOBE

Expansion to Nano, Bio and Planetary Worlds

19th GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

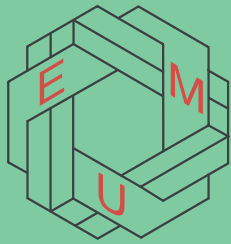
Dates: July 23 (Sun.) - 28 (Fri.), 2006
 Site: International Conference Center Kobe, Kobe, Japan
<http://www.congre.co.jp/ima2006/>

Scientific Sessions:

- Mineral Physics and High Pressure Mineralogy
- Structural Sciences of Minerals
- Crystal Growth
- Hydrothermal Process and Mineralization
- Petrologic Processes
- Planetary Materials
- Environmental and Applied Mineralogy
- Mineral Heritage
- New Frontiers in Mineral Sciences

Deadline for
 abstract submission and advance registration:
February 28, 2006

The second circular is now available for downloading.



European Mineralogical Union



P. Ulmer, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

It is with great pleasure that we accept the invitation of the scientific editors and of the Executive Committee of *Elements* for EMU to become one of the societies involved in this exciting new publication. This magazine is already having considerable impact on the Earth and environmental sciences, particularly in highlighting the central role that mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology play in the development of those broader disciplines.

As further explained below, the European Mineralogical Union (EMU) is an agglomeration of European mineralogical societies, which through its Council and Executive Committee can speak for a large constituency made up of national mineral sciences communities ranging from relatively big to very small. The EMU is also active in promoting the science through its involvement in the organisation of conferences, short courses (or "schools") and related publications, and through journal publication. Our involvement in *Elements* is a great opportunity for us to increase the awareness of the international scientific community in the activities of EMU, and to ensure that our member societies can play a role in this exciting new venture. We are sure that *Elements* will go from strength to strength and look forward to participating in its future.

Peter Ulmer, President
David Vaughan, Past President
Herta Effenberger, Secretary

THE EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL UNION

The European Mineralogical Union (EMU) was founded in 1987. Its objective is to further European cooperation in the mineralogical sciences (mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and their applications). The members of EMU are the national scientific (mineralogical) societies representing mineral scientists from most European countries. At present there are 24 countries represented by their national societies.

IMA: MOVING FORWARD (cont'd from p. 242)

Previously formed working groups, with a structure broadly similar to that of commissions, comprise delegates proposed by the national mineralogical societies and who may not be deeply involved with the scientific development of the working group to which they belong. As an indication of the past low rate of evolution of the IMA structure, none of the IMA working groups was ever transformed into a commission, a process that should normally occur after a few years in the case of an active working group. Some working groups are twenty years old! The efficiency of the two working

group structures will be compared during the next general meeting in Kobe. On the other hand, the Constitution sometimes fails to accommodate some desirable changes. For example, the CNMMN and the CCM (Commission on Classification of Minerals) have planned to merge and have voted to do so, but nothing in the Constitution covers the merging of two commissions. A solution will nevertheless be found and proposed in Kobe. One of them could involve the dissolution of CCM and a corresponding modification of the CNMMN.

The basic principles formulated in the fifties for the creation of the IMA are still valid.

Since that time there have been revolutions in the Earth sciences, with the appearance of new disciplines that contribute greatly to the understanding of our planetary system. However, there is no doubt regarding mineralogy's future, considering its impact on so many aspects of society. To face the future with confidence, a strategic vision plan has to be defined for the IMA. The next general meeting in Kobe (July 23–28) will be the right place to formulate new directions and goals and to provide road maps for the different commissions and working groups.

Maryse Ohnenstetter
Secretary of IMA

Member Countries of the EMU (2005)

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

There is no individual membership but individual sponsors are welcome.

Structure and Organisation of EMU

The executive body of EMU is the **Council**, which meets at least once per year. The Council consists of delegates from the member societies. The number of delegates from each society reflects its size. Between Council meetings, the **Executive Committee**, elected for four years, coordinates the work. EMU's main income is from the annual membership fees paid by the national member societies, and these fees are related to the size of the societies.

The Executive Committee of EMU (2004–2008)

PETER ULMER, Zurich (President)

DAVID J. VAUGHAN, Manchester (Past President)

CHRISTIAN CHOPIN, Paris and PURIFICACIÓN FENOLL HACH-ALI, Granada (Vice Presidents)

MARIA FRANCA BRIGATTI, Modena (Treasurer)

HERTA EFFENBERGER, Vienna (Secretary; herta.silvia.effenberger@univie.ac.at)

Main activities of EMU

u The EMU is involved in the organisation and sponsorship of certain European scientific conferences, in particular the biennial series of meetings entitled "Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry" (EMPG).

u The organisation of short courses ("schools") is a major EMU activity and review volumes that accompany these courses are known as the "EMU Notes in Mineralogy."

u The EMU is involved in the publication of the *European Journal of Mineralogy* (EJM). It helps in the appointment of editors and in the monitoring of the journal's performance.

u A medal for "research excellence" aimed at younger European scientists is awarded annually by the Union.

u An online *Directory of European Institutions* active in research in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry is maintained by the EMU.

u The EMU also assists libraries in relevant institutions in central and eastern European countries facing financial difficulties by offering free subscription to the EJM.

u Since 1998, the EMU has been affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and is thus provided with official status as an international scientific organisation.

Further details of EMU activities will be provided in future issues of *Elements*. Background information is available online at www.univie.ac.at/Mineralogie/EMU