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## International Association of Geochemistry

### IAGC NEWS

#### IAGC's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

In 2007, the IAGC will be 40 years old. We plan to recognize the birthday in conjunction with the next Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne, Germany, 19–24 August 2007. The IAGC anniversary celebration will take the form of a special one-day symposium, dedicated to Al Levinson, on Saturday, 18 August 2007. In addition, the first round of IAGC awards, postponed from 2006, will be presented, including Certificates of Recognition and Goldschmidt Conference awards (Vernadsky Medal, Ebelman Medal, Hitchon Award and Faure Award).

The special scientific symposium will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 18 August, either at the Goldschmidt Conference site or at the Universität Köln. Jochen Hoefs and Herbert Palme have agreed to organize the meeting. A reception will follow the symposium to celebrate this important IAGC anniversary. The reception will honor the living past presidents and other important figures in IAGC history, to be selected by the IAGC executive. An organizing committee is being established. A special issue of *Applied Geochemistry*, dedicated to Al Levinson, is planned to mark the special scientific symposium.

More details are provided in the spring IAGC Newsletter #44.

#### Upcoming IAGC-Sponsored Meetings

##### ISEG-7

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry is to be held 24–27 September 2006, in Beijing, China. IAGC support is being provided for this meeting. The main thematic sessions of the conference are as follows: Geochemical Records of Change and Contamination, Geochemistry and Health, Fragile Habitats (e.g. karst), Organic Pollutants, Coal, Water Resources, Environmental Management and Analytical Geochemistry.

#### IAGC-Sponsored Sessions at GSA 2006

The following thematic sessions have been proposed for the next Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting to be held in Philadelphia, 22–25 October 2006 under IAGC sponsorship: Geochemical Modeling Applications in Ground Water Systems, chaired by June Mirecki and Russell Harmon; Sources, Transport, Fate and Toxicology of Trace Elements in the Environment, chaired by LeeAnn Munk, David Long, and W. Berry Lyons. Details have been posted on the GSA website ([www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)).

#### How to Contact Us

To join or renew your membership in the IAGC, subscribe to or track down errant issues of *Applied Geochemistry*, or send in comments, etc., contact IAGC Business Office, Box 501, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, Canada. Or check our website [www.iagc.ca](http://www.iagc.ca)

**Mel Gascoyne**

IAGC Business Office Manager & Newsletter Editor

### NEWS BRIEF ON APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY AND ELSEVIER



Friso Veenstra,  
Publisher, Elsevier Ltd

At this point, there are two issues that are of direct interest to IAGC members as they have implications for their journal *Applied Geochemistry*.

First of all, I would like to remind you that the free ContentsDirect alerting service closed on 25 May 2006. Therefore, I advise you to sign up to the free ScienceDirect Volume/Issue Alerts service at ScienceDirect (<http://www.sciencedirect.com>) in order to continue to receive the table of contents alerts for *Applied Geochemistry* and all other journals you are interested in. Signing up will only take a few minutes: (1) Visit ScienceDirect ([www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)). (2) Click on the green Alerts tab, top right. (3)

If you are a new user, register for a username and password. (4) Login and follow the instructions for setting up free ScienceDirect Volume/Issue Alerts. If you would like to view a short demonstration on how to sign up for ScienceDirect Volume/Issue Alerts please visit [www.elsevier.com/locate/sciencedirectalerts](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/sciencedirectalerts)

Second, as of this month, Elsevier is changing its offprints policy as we are implementing **electronic offprints** for all our journals. What it means for *Applied Geochemistry* is that, as of May 29, authors will be given the choice between e-offprints and free paper offprints. This will also apply to special issues.

**Friso Veenstra**

### GUNTER FAURE CO-AUTHORS NEW BOOK

#### Introduction to Planetary Science: The Geological Perspective

by Gunter Faure and Teresa M. Mensing

(to be published by Springer-Verlag, Dordrecht, in 2007)

This textbook is intended to be used in a lecture course for college students majoring in the Earth sciences. Planetary science provides an opportunity for these students to apply a wide range of subject matter pertaining to the Earth to the study of other planets and their principal satellites. In this way, planetary science tends to unify subjects in the Earth sciences that are traditionally taught separately. Therefore, planetary science is well suited to be taught as a capstone course for senior undergraduates in geology departments and as an introduction to the solar system in astronomy departments. Both groups of students will benefit because planetary science bridges the gap between geology and astronomy. It thereby prepares geologists and astronomers to actively participate in the on-going exploration of the solar system.



### Medical Mineralogy and Geochemistry

**MSA/GS Short Course  
December 8-10, 2006  
Menlo Park, California**

**Organizers**— Dr. Nita Sahai, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Martin Schoonen, Stony Brook University.

**Sponsors**—Mineralogical Society of American, Geochemical Society, US Geological Society, National Science Foundation, and US Department of Energy.

More information: [www.minsocam.org/MSA/SC](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/SC)

## GEOCHEMICAL TRAINING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WORKING GROUP REPORT



Dr. U. Aswathanarayana, chairman of the IAGC Working Group on Geochemical Training in Developing Countries, has submitted the following report, which includes aspects of the application of geochemistry in the food supply of developing countries.

### *An Integrated Strategy for Food Security in the Developing Countries*

It is now widely recognized that issues such as food security, energy security, human health, etc. have so many dimensions that they can only be addressed by a *consilience* (a term coined by Bill Gates that literally means jumping together) of a number of methodologies, technologies and management approaches. Under the auspices of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Indian Science Congress, and as a part of the event "Science, and the UN Millennium Development Goals", U. Aswathanarayana organized a panel discussion entitled "Biophysical and Socioeconomic Dimensions of Food Security in the Developing Countries", which was held in ANGR Agricultural University, Hyderabad, on January 6, 2006. The output of the panel discussion was the development of an integrated strategy to make use of the consilience among bio-, nano- and information technologies, innovative agricultural and management practices, combined with administrative policies, to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the number of undernourished people in the world. Out of about 850 million such people, India has 221 million and China has 142 million.

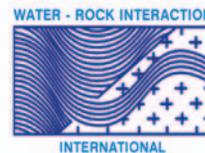
The panel discussion led to the identification of three multi-dimensional approaches to achieve food security in the developing countries.

**MORE CROP PER DROP** Food and water security are inseparable, as food cannot be grown without water. Ways of optimizing the soil-water-plant system, in order to produce more food crops with less water, were considered. Contributory factors involved management of soil micronutrients, development of drought-resistant and salinity-tolerant crop varieties, preparation of a hydroclimatic calendar, "blue" water irrigation, and dryland agriculture.

**FOOD FORTIFICATION** This term describes ways of processing foods to improve their nutritional value, so that the same quantity of, say, cereals could provide a nutritious diet to more people. Methods considered were fermentation of cereals, pulses, root crops, vegetables, fruits, milk, meat and fish to create new kinds of foods that are more nutritious, more digestible, and have therapeutic benefits, while improving the taste, flavor and texture, etc.

**ACCESS TO FOOD** This aspect includes economic instruments and administrative policies that improve access to food. For instance, the government, through a system of incentives (e.g. guaranteed price for coarse grains that need less water) and disincentives (e.g. denial of free electricity for high-water-need crops) could have a profound effect on the production of food crops.

**U. Aswathanarayana**



## TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER-ROCK INTERACTION (WRI-12)

Every three years since 1974, the Water-Rock Interaction Working Group of the International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC) has gathered in various venues for about two weeks of science and conviviality. Scientists from all over the world are again cordially invited to attend the *Twelfth International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction (WRI-12)*, to be held August 13–18, 2007. The WRI-12 symposium will be held at the beautiful setting of the International Conference Center, Kunming, in the center of the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau of southwestern China.



WRI-12 will feature all aspects of weathering, with emphasis on karst geochemistry, hydrothermal systems of tectonically active regions, and water-rock-gas interactions on other planets. Oral and poster presentations are being showcased. The combination of excellent technical sessions, printed proceedings, and interesting and well-organized field trips lasting several days, together with enjoyable social and cultural programs for scientists and accompanying members, will create an atmosphere of informality and easy communication among the participants. The organizing committee will do its best to offer you a symposium worthy of the previous ones.

The symposium website ([www.wri12.org](http://www.wri12.org)) provides details about the oral and poster sessions, accompanying guest program, and social activities. Information on Kunming may be found there, too, as well as information about the several field trips organized for participants. The final circular, containing the final version of the scientific and social programs for WRI-12, will be handed out to participants at registration. The *second circular* is due out in October 2006, with *abstracts due in December*. A list of conference topics can be found on the website. Looking forward to seeing you in Kunming!

**Yanxin Wang**  
Secretary General