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International Association of GeoChemistry

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The next three years will be a busy time for IAGC. This message provides a brief update on IAGC activities in 2007 and those planned for 2008 and 2009.

A Very Busy 2007

The IAGC 40th anniversary celebration will be held at the Earth Sciences Department at the University of Cologne (Germany) on Saturday 18 August (for agenda, see *Elements* 3: 139). The first set of IAGC awards will be announced at the ceremony, but will be presented officially on 22 August during the Goldschmidt Conference, at the Geochemical Society and European Association for Geochemistry awards ceremony. A formal business meeting of the IAGC Council, open to all members, will be held at the same location between 8:30 am and noon. Please send the IAGC business office an e-mail message if you plan to attend, so we know how many people to expect.

The 17th Annual Goldschmidt Conference will be held at the University of Cologne from 19 to 24 August. Although IAGC is not financially cosponsoring the meeting this year, we will be sponsoring and organizing two symposia. The first symposium will be a tribute to Al Levinson, one of the founders of IAGC, who passed away in December 2005. Entitled "Applied Geochemistry – From Brines to Diamonds: Memorial Symposium for A.A. Levinson," it will be chaired by Brian Hitchon. The second symposium, "Continental-Scale Earth Surface Geochemical Mapping – Recent Progress and Future Directions," is being organized by Clemens Reimann. Both of these symposia are "open" sessions consisting of volunteered papers.

The proceedings of the symposium in memory of Al Levinson will be published in *Applied Geochemistry*, with Brian Hitchon as guest editor. Manuscripts for inclusion in *Applied Geochemistry* should be submitted directly to Brian Hitchon (send three paper copies to Box 79088, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 5S3, Canada) and not in electronic form to Elsevier. The manuscripts should conform to the guidelines for authors provided on the back cover of *Applied Geochemistry* and will be reviewed to the same standards as regular manuscripts. The deadline for submission for this special issue is 1 September 2007. Manuscripts received after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

Every three years since 1974, the Working Group on Water–Rock Interaction of the IAGC, one of our most long-lived and successful working groups, has conducted a conference in a different world setting. Scientists from all over the world will gather in Kunming, in the center of the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau of southwestern China, July 31–August 5 for the 12th International Symposium on Water–Rock Interaction (WRI-12; www.wri12.org). IAGC will have a booth and make a strong effort to recruit members at the conference.

The 7th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from September 10 to 14, 2007. This is a meeting of the IAGC Working Group on Isotope Geochemistry and will be the first conference at which the new

policy on registration fees for IAGC-sponsored meetings will be implemented (i.e. all participants will be charged a one-year IAGC membership as a part of the meeting registration fee), so the IAGC business office will not need to have a booth and make a recruitment effort at this meeting. For those interested in participating, the meeting website is <http://academic.sun.ac.za/geology/aig7.htm>.

IAGC will be present at the Geological Society of America annual meeting, which will be held in Denver, Colorado, October 28–31, 2007. We will have a booth at the meeting, and the recipients of the IAGC's Vernadsky Medal, Ebelmen Award, and Hitchon Award will be showcased in the Affiliated Societies Gallery during the course of the meeting. IAGC will sponsor a session entitled "Sources, Transport, Fate, and Toxicology of Trace Elements in the Environment," which will be co-chaired by LeeAnn Munk, Dave Long, and Berry Lyons. Additional information is available at the GSA website www.geosociety.org.

Three IAGC events in 2008

The major event on the IAGC calendar for 2008 is the 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC), which will be held in Oslo, Norway, August 6–14, 2008. A special session on geochemistry will be organized by Andrew Parker as a part of the International Year of Planet Earth and the IGC official technical program. The session will consist of two parts: (1) a historical review of geochemistry and its applications and (2) a series of presentations on future developments in geochemistry and its potential to solve environmental problems in the 21st century. Plans are underway to have the proceedings of these sessions published in book form by Elsevier. IAGC Council has already approved \$5000 in financial support for this important initiative, and the Steering Committee of IYPE is being asked to provide matching funds.

The Statutes-mandated IAGC Quadrennial Council Meeting will be held during the 33rd IGC. With elections

held during early 2008, the transition from the 2004–2008 to the 2008–2012 officers and council members will take place during this meeting.

The third IAGC event will be the 8th Conference on Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface. Sponsored by the IAGC Working Group on Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface, the UK Mineralogical Society, and the British Natural History Museum, this meeting will be held in London, UK, August 17–22, 2008 immediately following the 33rd IGC.

An Important New Initiative in 2009

Following approval by both the IAGC Council and the Steering Committee of the Association of Applied Geochemists, IAGC and AAG will join together to organize and conduct the 2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium, which most likely will be held in Denver, CO. It is anticipated that the meeting will feature an Ingerson International Lecture and the presentation of the IAGC awards for 2009. If this initiative turns out to be successful in the opinion of both societies, the stage will be set for a full IAGC–AAG partnership in future International Applied Geochemistry Symposia.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the next three years at some of these various IAGC events.

Russell S. Harmon
Interim President