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International Mineralogical Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT



At its 2006 business meeting held in Kobe, Japan, IMA made several decisions. Ian Parsons, outgoing president, proposed that a council meeting be held every year and a business meeting every other year. The recent council meeting in Cambridge was the first trial of this policy. We were able to move forward on various topics and policies included in the long agenda. I am sure the activity of IMA will be

much enhanced by these more frequent gatherings. The mineral sciences have expanded into many broad fields, and our assembly is now composed of mineralogical societies and groups from 38 countries. Hence it is high time to have annual council meetings. Another decision was to create a new communications officer post, and Frances Wall joined the council meeting as the new officer. I appreciate her efforts in organizing features for *Elements* and in gathering news related to mineralogists worldwide.

One of the important discussions at the last council meeting was the term of office of the president. There is no mention in the constitution of the duration of this term, but in practice the president actually serves 12 years on council (quite a sentence!). It is planned that the appointment will be limited to six years, two as vice-president, two as president, and two as past president. Some aspects still remain to be discussed, such as the relationship between the president and the chairperson of the IMA general meeting; at the moment they are one and the same person, but this need not necessarily be the case. Council was in general agreement to shorten the term, and the idea will now be formalized and put forward at the council and business meetings in Vancouver in 2008. The new rule will come into effect during the IMA business meeting in Budapest in 2010.

In addition, the council also agreed that it would be beneficial to reduce the term of office for councilors, but we have not decided on the best duration of term.

A recent accomplishment of the IMA is the establishment of an IMA medal. We will award the medal to honor a person who has made a great contribution to research in mineral sciences. The IMA Medal Committee, chaired by Joel Grice, is responsible for recommending the winning candidate to Council. All IMA mineralogical societies and groups can nominate individuals, as can committee members. The award can be made every year, and I encourage all mineralogical communities to recommend a candidate.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all councilors for their wonderful cooperation, especially to Maryse Ohnenstetter for her enormous contribution to the IMA secretariat.

Takamitsu Yamanaka
President of IMA

NEW INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN MINERALOGICAL RESEARCH



The IMA Medal will be presented by the International Mineralogical Association for the first time in 2008. It will be awarded for excellence in mineralogical research and will be one of the pre-eminent awards in this discipline. The recipient will be chosen for scientific eminence as demonstrated primarily by the awardee's scientific publications of outstanding original research in mineralogy. It will be a lifetime achievement award. The successful candidate will be drawn from one of the 38 nations that are members of the IMA.

Service to mineralogy, teaching, and administrative accomplishment will not be the primary consideration for the award.

Nomination packages must be up to date and complete. Each nomination must be accompanied by a "nomination checklist," which is available online or from the IMA secretariat. A nomination package must include

- a cover letter from the nominator outlining the candidate's qualifications in light of the criteria for the award.
- supporting letters from at least three but no more than five individuals. These letters should focus on how the candidate meets the criteria for the award.

- a complete curriculum vitae and a bibliography of published works, exclusive of abstracts, book reviews, and papers that have not yet been accepted for publication.

The IMA encourages the nominator to send an electronic version of the nomination package to the committee chair. Much of the committee work can then be done by e-mail.

The recipient of the IMA Medal is required to present a lecture on a topic related to the award at the meeting during which the medal is presented. The lecture will be published in a suitable international journal of mineralogy, with the agreement of the IMA Medal Committee.

Nomination packages are to be received by the chair of the IMA Medal Committee before **April 1, 2008**.

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