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International Association of GeoChemistry

WRI-12

The Twelfth International Symposium on Water–Rock Interaction (WRI-12) was held July 31–August 5, 2007 in the delightful city of Kunming, People's Republic of China. The Organizing Committee of WRI-12 was led by its secretary general, Professor Yanxin Wang, School of Environmental Studies and vice president of China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China. Wang received much help from many of his energetic graduate students and colleagues, especially Zhou Yu, Yigun Gan, Dan Wu, and Houli Ming.

The WRI-12 symposium attracted a total of 420 participants from 26 countries. This total included a large number of students (30) and registered accompanying members (69), with the remainder comprising leading geochemists, hydrologists, and geologists from around the world. We were particularly pleased to achieve our goal of attracting a large number of participants (about half of the total) from China, the host country. At registration, participants received two hardcover WRI-12 proceedings volumes, edited by Thomas A. Bullen (USGS, Menlo Park, California) and Yanxin Wang, and published by Taylor & Francis; these volumes contained 360 papers and a record total of 1705 pages.

Scientifically, WRI-12 continued the excellent traditions of previous WRI conferences. The oral and poster presentations covered the latest research results on water–rock interaction in a wide spectrum of geochemical environments, ranging from weathering and low-temperature groundwater and mining operations to geothermal, metamorphic, and magmatic systems. As expected, many of the presentations covered topics of surface water and groundwater pollution, geohazards, and other water–rock interaction topics applicable to Chinese sites. Other topics that attracted a large number of presentations included

organic–inorganic interactions, geomicrobiology, stable and radiogenic isotopes, contamination from mining operations, climate change, and CO₂ sequestration.

The WRI Working Group encourages student excellence by providing awards for the best student oral and poster presentations. A third award is given for the best poster presentation, which for this conference was won by a Chinese student, Y. Deng, and her coauthors Y. Wang and T. Ma, for the paper “Hydrogeochemistry of High Arsenic Groundwater from Hangjinhouqi, Inner Mongolia.” The best student poster presentation award was given to the Swiss A. Möri and his coauthors M. Mazurek and Q. Hu, for the paper “In Situ Experiments on Matrix Diffusion in Fractured Crystalline Rock.” The best oral presentation award was presented to a Turkish student at the University of California, Davis, S.S. Sengor, with coauthors N.F. Spycher, T.R. Ginn, J. Moberly, B. Peyton, and R.K. Sani, for the paper “Reductive Dissolution and Metal Transport in Lake Coeur d'Alene Sediments.”

All the participants attended a one-day mid-session field trip to the Yunnan Stone Forest (Shilin), which is located 86 km southeast of Kunming, covers an area of 350 km², and is praised as the



WRI-12 Secretary General Yanxin Wang, together with 15 of his students and Dr. H. Guo, who received a one-year membership in IAGC from President Russell Harmon and WRI Working Group chairman Yousif Kharaka

“First Wonder Under Heaven” for its quintessential karst topography and astounding natural beauty.

For a full report on WRI-12, see IAGC Newsletter 47, November 2007 (posted on the website www.iagc.ca).

Yousif K. Kharaka
former Chairman

WRI Working Group of IAGC

33rd INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC) is organizing several sessions at the 33rd International Geological Congress (Oslo, Norway, August 6–14, 2008). The sessions and their convenors are listed below.

- Geochemical mapping from the global to the local scale: The Arthur Darnley symposium – David B. Smit (dsmith@usgs.gov), Clemens Reimann, Jane A. Plant, Reijo Salminen (IUGS/IAGC Global Geochemical Baselines Task Group)
- Importance of landscape age, tectonic setting, and lithology on chemical weathering rates and river geochemistry – Berry Lyon (lyons.142@osu.edu), Russell Harmon
- Geochemical proxies of paleoenvironmental change in terrestrial environments – Ian Fairchild, Attila Demény (demeny@geochem.hu)
- Frontiers of stable isotope analysis for environmental science and biogeochemistry – Martin Novak (novak@cgu.cz), Peter M. Wynn
- Contribution of geochemistry to the study of the planet: A tribute to Wallace Broecker – Andrew Parker (a.parker@reading.ac.uk), Andrew Herczeg, Russell Harmon

IAGC 40th ANNIVERSARY – THE AFTERMATH

The celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the IAGC in August 2007 have been recorded in a brochure that can be downloaded from the website www.iagc.ca

MEETING NEWS

The 8th Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface will be held in London, UK, from 18 to 22 August 2008. The meeting is being organized by Dr. Mark Hodson on behalf of the IAGC, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain & Ireland and the Natural History Museum, London, and is cosponsored by the European Association for Geochemistry.

The meeting will include the following themes:

- Mineral weathering • Contaminated environments and toxicology
- Biomineralization • Speciation • Synchrotrons and environmental science
- Marine records of climate change • Environment and health

For information please go to www.ges8.com.

WASTE 2008: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT 2–4 JUNE 2008, GRANADA, SPAIN

CONFERENCE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Advanced waste treatment technology – Wastewater treatment: Methodologies and practices – Soil and groundwater clean-up – Biological treatment of waste – Waste management – Risk assessment

Full conference information is available at www.wessex.ac.uk/waste2008rem1b.html

An abstract can be submitted directly by sending an e-mail to rcreasey@wessex.ac.uk