



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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4th MID-EUROPEAN CLAY CONFERENCE – ZAKOPANE, POLAND

The 4th Mid-European Clay Conference was hosted by the Polish Clay Group, which is functioning as the Clay Minerals Section of the Mineralogical Society of Poland, on September 22–27, 2008. The conference gathered 180 participants from 27 European countries, Japan, Australia and the USA. The conference programme included 6 plenary lectures, 14 symposia with 64 oral presentations, and 101 posters.



Participants on field trip 3 in the Tatras covered by the first snow (Gašienicowa Valley and Mount Kościelec)

Plenary lectures were delivered by Victor A. Drits (“*Trans-vacant and cis-vacant 2:1 layer silicates: Structural features, occurrence and identification*”), Tamas G. Weiszbürg (“*Iron-dominated dioctahedral TOT clay minerals: From nomenclature to formation processes*”), Marian Janek (“*Application of terahertz time-domain spectroscopy for investigation of layered hydrosilicates*”), Claude Forano (“*Trends in hybrid layered double hydroxides intercalation chemistry*”), Derek C. Bain (“*How to succeed in publishing research in refereed journals*”), and Goran Durn (“*Origin of terra rossa soils in the Mediterranean region*”).



Victor Drits delivering his plenary lecture



Jan Środoń explaining the diagenetic history of the Podhale flysch on top of the Wżar Hill (field trip 2)



Participants on field trip 1 rafting through the Dunajec Gorge

Additionally, three post-conference field trips were held: (1) Lower Jurassic black shales – the oldest flysch deposits of the Carpathians – and their relation to geology of the Pieniny Klippen Belt (leader: Michał Krobicki); (2) Diagenetic history of the Podhale flysch basin (leader: Jan Środoń) and (3) The Tatras – Rocks, landforms, weathering and soils (leaders: Ireneusz Felisiak, Irena Jerzykowska, Janusz Magiera, Łukasz Uzarowicz).

During the meeting of representatives of the Mid-European Clay Groups, held on 24 September 2008, the Deutsche Ton- und Tonmineralgruppe (DTTG), representing the community of clay researchers and users in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, was admitted as a new member. It was decided that the next Mid-European Clay Conference will be held in 2010 in Budapest (Hungary).

The conference proceedings were published in *Mineralogia – Special Papers*, edited by the Mineralogical Society of Poland (free pdf version: www.mecc08.agh.edu.pl). The field trip materials were published in *Geoturizm* 2(13), 2008.

Katarzyna Górniak

President of the MECC'08 Organizing Committee