A CORPORATE IMAGE GUIDE FOR SEM

The General Assembly of the Mineralogical Society of Spain (SEM), held in Salamanca on 10 September 2009, approved its new Corporate Image Guide. “Corporate image” refers to how an institution or corporation wants to be perceived by both its own members and society. It is a powerful collection of messages linked to history, identity, knowledge and expectations. These messages are useful for planning and developing new projects and activities. Also, the guide provides a framework for activities and exchanges, while reaffirming the idea of soundness, homogeneity and stability. This document, which can be browsed on the web page of the SEM (www.ehu.es/sem), contributes to progressive modernization of our Society.

ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING

It had been 17 years since Salamanca was the site of a congress of the Mineralogical Society of Spain. In this historic city, on 9–12 September, the Department of Geology of the University of Salamanca hosted the 29th SEM annual meeting. The event was coordinated by Dr. Mercedes Suárez, with assistance from A. Murciego, E. Reguilón, E. Álvarez, F. Tornos, S. Barrios, E. Manchado and T. Llorens, and was supported by the University of Salamanca, the Spanish Research Council (CSIC), the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME) and the regional government (Junta de Castilla-León).

The meeting was arranged around three main activities (a one-day seminar, two days of scientific contributions and a one-day field trip) and a number of satellite events (a plenary assembly, young scientist awards and a social dinner). The seminar dealt with the applications of synchrotron radiation in mineralogy and was delivered by European specialists (Dr. S. Ferrer, ALBA-CELLS; Dr. M.A. García Aranda, University of Málaga; Dr. J. Roque, DIAMOND; Dr. G. Castro, ESRF; Dr. M. Sánchez del Río, ESRF).

The contributions were in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, ore deposits, crystal growth, clay science, cultural heritage, education and outreach. A total of 120 researchers and students (from Spain, Belgium, Greece, France, Germany and Great Britain) attended the meeting. The 93 extended abstracts are in the eleventh issue of MACLA, the journal of the SEM (www.ehu.es/sem/revista/macla.htm). Plenary lectures were delivered by Drs. George Christidis (Technical University of Crete), Carlos Dorronsoro (University of Granada), Sven Petersen (Leibniz-Institute for Marine Sciences) and Manuel Regueiro (Geological Survey of Spain), who talked about electron microscopy applied to clay minerals and zeolites, soil contamination related to the Aznalcollar spill, black smoker geochemistry, and industrial minerals, respectively.

The 2009 SEM Young Scientist Awards went to Ana Cedillo (University of Zaragoza) and Juan Morales (Complutense University of Madrid) for their works entitled “Mineralogy and Hydrothermal Alteration of the Mina Martha Ore Deposit (El Deseado Massif, Argentina)” and “Micromorphological Study of Sepiolite from Grant County (New Mexico, USA),” respectively. The field trip included a visit to the kaolin/bentonite deposit of Tamame de Sayago and a tour of historic buildings in Zamora.

Madrid was selected to host the 30th society meeting, which will take place near the end of summer, 2010. Further information will be posted on the SEM website (www.ehu.es/sem).