



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Michael Wiedenbeck

The International Association of Geoanalysts held its autumn Council meeting at the Natural History Museum in London on 10 December 2009. This six-hour meeting, involving Council members from five countries, addressed numerous significant topics which I would like to report on here.

Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research

GGR is the official journal of the IAG and is one of its core activities. Ed Williams, IAG Council member and

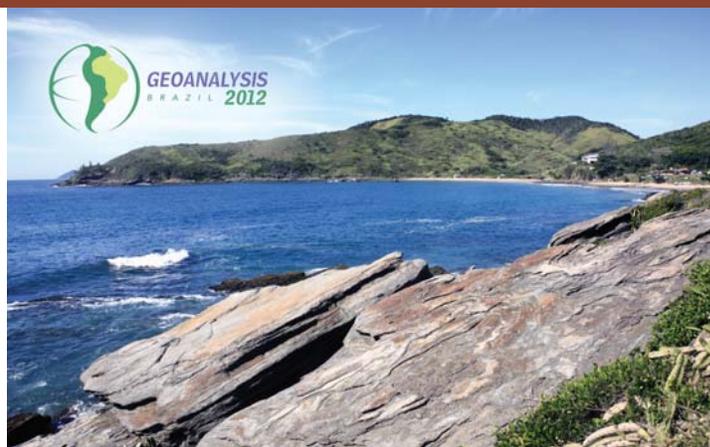
managing editor of *GGR*, reported on the state of the journal. Thirty-five manuscripts were published in the four issues of 2009, and the page budget as agreed on in the publishing contract was respected. The number of papers submitted to the journal has again grown during this past year, which is attributed to the full online submission and review process available as a result of our collaboration with Wiley-Blackwell scientific publishers. Renewal rates are very much in line with earlier predictions, meaning that the recent economic turmoil has had, at most, a minimal impact on the journal. *GGR* is currently in the pleasant position of having in excess of a full issue of accepted manuscripts in reserve. The use of the site providing online early publication of accepted manuscripts continues to grow, and our members have access to this via www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120081392/ issue. Finally, a new initiative by the editorial office is the production of virtual issues. These issues consist of compilations of 6 to 8 related publications and are now being prepared for release on the *GGR* website.

Proficiency Testing

The GeoPT™ Programme run by the IAG has become a key tool for quality control for many geochemical laboratories. Over the past year the number of subscriptions to this twice-yearly proficiency testing instrument has grown by some 20 laboratories, making it worldwide one of the premier PT schemes for silicate rock analysis. The use of the automated, online data submission process has grown, which contributes to less data handling and an overall more rapid production of the reports for a given sample round. The coordination of sample selection for the GeoPT™ Programme with the anticipated needs of the IAG sample certification efforts has also been functioning well.

Certification Committee

The IAG's Materials Certification Committee has been making much progress in recent months. Current work centres on two ultramafic materials which are targeting PGE; these will be the first ISO-compliant reference samples of this type. Work on the determination of the major and minor element concentrations in these materials has been completed and reported by the 30 expert laboratories which agreed to support this initiative. It is hoped that the certificates of analyses for both the harzburgite and the serpentinite will be completed by mid-2010. Finally, IAG Council took an important step in the advancement of the Association's certification effort: a consensus decision was made to approve a memorandum of understanding with the Central Geological Laboratory of Mongolia for the collaborative production and ISO-based certification of new geological reference materials. This partnership is to last initially for two years, with the expectation that both parties will support its continuation thereafter.



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www.ige.unicamp.br/geoanalysis2012



ISO-REMCO

IAG Council has agreed to send a representative to the next ISO-REMCO meeting, which will be held on 3–7 May 2010 in Hangzhou, China. Council wishes to highlight the importance of the Association's presence at the ISO-REMCO meeting, noting that the IAG is the sole representative of the geochemical community within this global body, which establishes future standards that impact the analytical sciences.

Geoanalysis 2012

Jacinta Enzweiler, IAG vice-president and chairperson of the Geoanalysis 2012 Organizing Committee, reported on progress in the organization of our next triennial meeting. Plenary speakers have already been contacted, and the response has been highly positive. Two themes, "In Situ Microanalysis," and "Stable Isotope Analyses in Climate Research," have been selected by the organizing committee as foci for the meeting. The meeting website (www.ige.unicamp.br/geoanalysis2012) will be greatly expanded during the coming six months, with much more detail about the conference venue and content.

Goldschmidt Conferences

IAG Council sees its ongoing presence at the annual Goldschmidt Conference to be highly productive with regards to furthering the Association's goals. Council wishes to continue the Association's presence at the upcoming meeting in Knoxville, USA, and has voted to sponsor again the Early Career Researcher Award. The hosting of a Quality Assurance Workshop in Knoxville was also approved.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information about IAG activities is invited to visit our website or to contact me directly.

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