



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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2010 SIMP MEETING FERRARA, SEPTEMBER 13–15, 2010

On 13–15 September, Ferrara hosted the 89th Congress of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), in partnership with the Italian Society of Geochemistry (SoGel), the Italian Association of Volcanology (AIV), and the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV). The meeting, entitled “The Evolution of the Earth System, from Atoms to Volcanoes,” represented a great opportunity for the geological science disciplines to share ideas and research results, with the goal of advancing the collective knowledge for the benefit of the wider scientific and nonscientific communities.

The congress, which lasted three days and was organized into 16 sessions, focused on the origin and evolution of the Earth; volcanic events and related risks; the atmosphere and hydrosphere in relation to natural and human phenomena; resources and geomaterials (including gemology); and the impact development has on the whole Earth system. Each day featured three oral sessions running in parallel, a comprehensive poster session, and two plenary lectures. Invited speakers were William McDonough (U of Maryland), Mauro Rosi (U of Pisa), Chiara Cardaci (DPC, Roma), Antonio Navarra (INGV, Bologna), Roberta Rudnick (U of Maryland), and Daniela Rubatto (Australian National U, Canberra).



Lunch breaks and poster sessions were held in the beautiful Sala S. Francesco.

About 300 people – a record for national SIMP meetings – participated in the meeting, thus demonstrating a strong desire to collaborate among scientists in the various branches of Earth science. Global climate change and large geological disasters are constantly under the spotlight, and a deeper knowledge of the Earth system is more important than ever. The big challenge for the Earth science disciplines is to cooperate and share results, in order to minimize investments and provide effective solutions. The approach has to be synergistic and multidisciplinary. Another point stressed during the congress is the need for science to manifest itself in everyday life. Technological progress should be sustainable and, through science, the safety of the people living on this planet should be guaranteed. In this respect it is important to develop a common language and to cooperate with institutions, such as the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), that establish the rules and act for our safety and protection.

Particular attention was paid to young researchers: their participation was encouraged by a reduced registration fee and their oral presentations were favored whenever possible.

During the meeting an exhibition of meteorites was also set up, keeping in mind that two of the most famous chondritic meteorites, the Vigarano and Renazzo, fell on Ferrara in 1824 and 1910, respectively. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the contributions of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Ferrara, the Museo di Mineralogia di Bologna, the Museo di Storia Naturale e del Territorio dell'Università



The meteorite exhibition



One of the exhibits: the Sacramento Mountains (New Mexico, USA) meteorite

di Pisa, the Museo di Scienze Planetarie di Prato, the Museo del Cielo e della Terra di San Giovanni in Persiceto and the Museo Nazionale dell'Antartide.

The organizers wish to express their gratitude to all participants, who made the congress a very stimulating and lively event. Special thanks go to the University of Ferrara and the Department of Earth Sciences, which provided financial support and human resources.

Massimo Coltorti
(U of Ferrara)

Chair of Organizing Committee

FORTHCOMING EVENT Minerals and Biosphere International School Campiglia Marittima, Livorno, Italy September 27–30, 2011

Two informal groups of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology, GNM (National Group of Mineralogy) and GABeC (Earth Resources, Environment, and Cultural Heritage), will hold on 27–30 September 2011 an international school titled “Minerals and Biosphere” in the fascinating setting of the Parco Archeominerario di San Silvestro in southern Tuscany, Italy (www.parchivaldicornia.it/parco.php?codex=ssil-gen). The school is aimed at young researchers in mineralogy, geochemistry and related fields, and will introduce a current “hot” topic in the Earth sciences: the interactions, interrelationships and interchanges between the geosphere and the biosphere. The topics addressed will include fundamental aspects, such as the interaction between mineral surfaces and organic matter, new techniques for investigation of mineral–biosphere interactions, minerals and the origin of life, and geomicrobiology. Other subjects will be of an applied nature, such as biogenic ore deposits, bioleaching, biodegradation of stone artifacts, and biomaterials. Lecturers will include mineralogists and biologists. A preliminary list includes Chiara Alisi (ENEA, Roma, Italy), Elena Belluso (Torino, Italy), Karim Benzerara (Paris, France), Giovanni De Giudici (Cagliari, Italy), Marco Giovine (Genova, Italy), Robert M. Hazen (Washington, DC, USA), Piero Lattanzi (Cagliari, Italy), Pietro Marescotti (Genova, Italy), Richard Patrick (Manchester, UK), Gabriella Salviulo (Padova, Italy), Annarosa Sprocati (ENEA, Roma, Italy), and Giovanni Valdré (Bologna, Italy). For further information, write to Pierfranco Lattanzi (lattanzp@unica.it) or visit www.socminpet.it/minbio2011/index.html.