



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

GEOANALYSIS 2012, BRAZIL

Armação dos Búzios, or just Búzios, is located in a coastal region 180 km northeast of Rio de Janeiro. In addition to its beautiful landscapes and many enjoyable amenities, the Búzios area provides abundant evidence of a geological history stretching back to Precambrian times. Neoproterozoic sedimentary and volcanic units were strongly deformed and metamorphosed during the Cambrian, creating a giant mountain chain comparable to the modern Himalayas. This docking of South America and Africa created the western segment of the Gondwana paleocontinent, with Búzios near its centre. Some 390 million years later, beautiful kyanite-garnet gneisses and associated diabase dykes recorded the Cretaceous opening of the South Atlantic. During Geoanalysis 2012, to be held on 17–20 September 2012, the geologic history of the Búzios area will be described by Renata Schmitt (Faculty of Geology, State University of Rio de Janeiro); her lecture will be followed by a half-day excursion to key exposures of geologic interest along the Atlantic beaches and in areas of natural beauty for which the region is famed.

Delegates at the triennial Geoanalysis meetings have the opportunity to present their achievements in the field of geoanalysis, and they can learn about and discuss with colleagues the latest advances in analytical metrology as applied to geological and environmental materials. To complement fundamental studies, the organizers of Geoanalysis 2012 welcome contributions in applied research that concern fitness-for-purpose of geoanalytical data or pinpoint emerging demands for quality assurance. Oral presentations at Geoanalysis 2012 will be organized, as far as possible, into single sessions to minimize the frustrations resulting from parallel sessions. Separate poster events will be emphasized, as earlier Geoanalysis meetings have shown posters to be particularly effective for stimulating discussions and generating new collaborations among students, young scientists and leading experts. Pre-conference workshops and at least one post-conference field trip will offer additional opportunities to share experiences and make new friends. Authors presenting their work at Geoanalysis 2012 will have the opportunity to submit their work for peer review and possible inclusion in a special issue of *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research*, the official journal of the IAG.

The Geoanalysis 2012 Organizing Committee invites you to visit our website, www.ige.unicamp.br/geoanalysis2012, where you are welcome to pre-register. Delegates from recent Geoanalysis meetings and pre-registered scientists will be kept up-to-date about conference developments and will have the option of submitting theme proposals addressing their specific interests. Abstract submission opens 1 December 2011, and the final deadline is 31 March 2012. We look forward to welcoming delegates to a relaxing, enjoyable and productive conference, starting with a beachside icebreaker on Sunday, 16 September 2012.

The 2012 Organizing Committee

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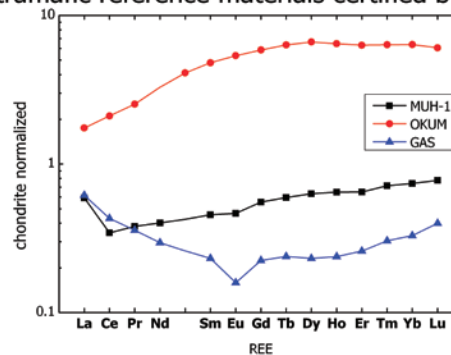


Aerial view of coastal islands and the Brazilian mainland in the Búzios region. This photo is part of the "Caminhos Geológicos" Project, www.caminhosgeologicos.rj.gov.br/. PHOTO TROPIC PRODUÇÕES, CABO FRIO

REFERENCE MATERIAL CERTIFICATION

Two new geological reference materials (RMs), both with an ultramafic matrix, are to be released by the IAG in early 2011. MUH-1, a harzburgite from the Kraubath/Preg quarry, Styria, Austria, and OKUM, a komatiite from Serpentine Mountain, Ontario, Canada, are RMs which have been characterized according to the IAG's material certification protocol and in accordance with ISO Guides 30 through 35. These new characterizations cover a wide range of major element oxide and trace element concentrations. Upon release these materials will become part of a suite of geochemical certified reference materials (CRMs), which are distributed by IAGeo Limited. They have been certified through collaborative efforts by 30 expert laboratories, which have provided data using multiple, independent analytical methods. Furthermore, the certification of both of these materials for platinum-group element concentrations and osmium isotope compositions is scheduled for 2011. These two new CRMs will be amongst the best chemically characterized materials with ultramafic silicate matrix compositions; they will be of key utility for instrument calibration (XRF and ICP) and method-validation purposes. The release of these two new materials will bring the total number of CRMs developed by the IAG to six.

Ultramafic reference materials certified by IAG



Chondrite-normalized REE plot of the two new ultramafic CRMs, along with data from the earlier certification of the MGL-GAS serpentinite. These three CRMs cover a wide range in REE compositions. In view of the great care taken during these characterization efforts, a reliable calibration for the analysis of this economically important rock group can now be assured.

The main focus of the IAG's Certification Committee's efforts in 2011 will be the characterization of two completely new whole rock powders: a rhyolite and a trachyandesite. This new project will be in collaboration with the Central Geological Laboratory of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, with which the IAG has collaborated successfully in the past. In March 2009, the IAG released the certificates of analysis for both the MGL-GAS (serpentinite) and the MGL-OSHBO (alkaline granite) materials, which are distributed by the Central Geological Laboratory. Current certificates of analysis for all CRM projects completed by the IAG's Certification Committee are available at www.iageo.com.