



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

The IAG Council held its most recent semi-annual meeting at the Natural History Museum in London on Thursday, 19 May 2011. It was a very busy day with a particularly long agenda, such that only a brief lunch break was possible thereby providing maximum time for discussing key Society initiatives. Nearly all members of the IAG Council were able to attend, including four representatives from continental Europe and two from the Americas. Here I would like to briefly communicate some of the significant events which were reported to Council and some of the decisions which were made during this 5-hour marathon.

Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research The handover of the typesetting from the GGR office in Nancy, France, to the journal publishers has been completed, and the new system is now up and fully functional. The backlog of papers which had developed during the transition has been eliminated, and the total time between manuscript submission and publication of accepted contributions is well within the target range for a quarterly journal. The average time from submission through review to final acceptance is currently below 2.5 months and is expected to drop further with fine-tuning of the system.

IAG-Sponsored Workshops Council approved a mechanism through which Society members can propose workshops and short courses for sponsorship by the IAG and, if approved, could receive a modest level of support from the Society. Two such initiatives, now approved, are a detrital zircon workshop to be held in advance of the Goldschmidt 2011 meeting in Prague and a microanalytical reference material workshop to be held in Colorado, USA, in May 2012. For further information about the spectrum of IAG-supported courses, please visit www.geoanalyst.org. The application form for requesting Council recognition for a course will appear on this website soon.

Proficiency Testing Programmes The GeoPT whole rock programme continues to operate smoothly, and the number of participating laboratories remains stable, such that it remains globally the largest such programme in inorganic geochemistry. One area where improvement continues is the refinement of the online data-reporting structure. The G-Probe in situ proficiency testing programme has witnessed significant growth over the past year, with particular interest coming from the laser ablation community. Recent rounds have included a synthetic MORB glass and a bone material which is expected to be of particular interest to the environmental and ecology research communities.

Certification Committee Work on two ultramafic materials, MUH-1 and OKUM, is nearing completion for the major and trace element components. It has been decided that the definition of the PGE contents of these two new Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) will need to be based on the IAG's material certification protocol's definition of expert laboratories as the number of qualified labs, as based on demonstrated capability in the GeoPT programme, did not achieve the required threshold. Work is also now underway for the next certification round, which will be held in collaboration with the Central Geological Laboratory (CGL) of Mongolia; this round will result in rhyolite and trachyandesite CRMs, which will be collaboratively marketed by the CGL and IAGeo Limited.

Geoanalysis 2012 Jacinta Enzweiler, head of the 2012 Organizing Committee for the meeting in Búzios, Brazil, reported that all preparations are on schedule. A new update to the conference website (www.ige.unicamp.br/geoanalysis2012) has been released in June. The list of invited speakers is nearly finalized, and block bookings for hotel accommodation for delegates will be completed in the next few months.



Members of the IAG Council at their May 2011 meeting in London. Clockwise from head of table: Michael Wiedenbeck (IAG President), Jacinta Enzweiler (Vice President), Klaus Peter Jochum (GeoReM Database group leader), Doug Miles (Head of IAGeo Limited), Phil Potts (Chair of GGR Editors-in-Chief board), Chris Jackson (Treasurer), Michel Grégoire (member of GGR Editors-in-Chief board), Mathieu Benoit (Council member), Matt Horstwood (IAG Geochronology Interest Group leader), Steve Wilson (invited liaison from the U.S. Geological Survey) and Jennifer Cook (Secretary). Not in the photo: Peter Webb (Manager of the GeoPT programme) and Ed Williams (GGR Business and Publication Manager). PHOTO: THOMAS MEISEL (CHAIR OF IAG CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE)

Council members also discussed pre- and post-conference activities, the scheduling of IAG activities associated with the triennial conference and field trip offerings which will take advantage of the unique geological and cultural heritages of Brazil.

ISO/REMCO The IAG Council agreed to send a representative to both the 2011 annual meeting in Delft, the Netherlands, and the 2012 meeting in Vienna, Austria. IAG participation at this event has now become a mainstay activity of our Society. IAG presence at ISO/REMCO provides the main voice representing the interests of the geochemist within the global metrological community.

Goldschmidt Award For the fifth year running, in conjunction with the 2011 Goldschmidt conference in Prague, the IAG will sponsor its Early Career Researcher Award. This year saw amazing growth in the number of submissions to the pool of abstracts for consideration by the IAG's selection jury. The objective of the award is to recognize an outstanding young scientist's contributions towards the goals of our Society. For 2011, 1150 submissions were evaluated, resulting in a short list of 7 abstracts which Council ranked at the May 2011 meeting. In view of the near doubling of the number of submissions as compared to previous years, this was a particularly challenging task. The winner of this award will be announced at the Goldschmidt conference and will be reported in the next issue of *Elements*.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: REMINDER

Your annual IAG membership subscription entitles you to online access to both *Geostandards & Geoanalytical Research* and *Elements* magazine, including all archived issues. Information about accessing these contents is available at www.geoanalyst.org. If you encounter any problems with this, please contact the IAG's secretary.