



## Association Internationale pour l'étude des Argiles

[www.aipea.org](http://www.aipea.org)

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

AIPEA is an umbrella organization for the world's national clay societies. It organizes the International Clay Conference, which occurs every four years, and strives to encourage and support young researchers. In order to maintain a continued presence in the careers of young researchers, AIPEA actively participates in the Euroclay Conference, which is held between the International Clay Conferences. The most recent Euroclay meeting was jointly organized by the Turkish National Committee on Clay Science and the European Clay Groups Association (ECGA), and took place in Antalya, Turkey, from 26 June to 1 July, 2011. The conference theme, "Clay Science at the Crossroads of Civilisation," was very popular and attracted over 350 oral presentations and posters addressing the topics of clay geology, clay mineralogy, the methods of clay research, the properties of clays and clay minerals, the modification/interaction of clay minerals, applications, nanoclays and nanoscience, and non-clay fine-grained materials.

During the previous Euroclay meeting, held in Aveiro in 2007, AIPEA inaugurated a programme of student awards. These cash awards were distributed at the Aveiro meeting and at the last International Clay Conference, in Castellenata Marina in Italy, in 2009. The standard of competition at the Euroclay Conference in Antalya was extremely high, and this made the judging especially difficult but very rewarding at the same time. After much deliberation, the worthy winners were chosen: **Yohei Ishida** (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan) took



Prof. Schoonheydt (RIGHT) and Yohei Ishida, winner of the oral presentation prize, during the Euroclay opening cocktail party



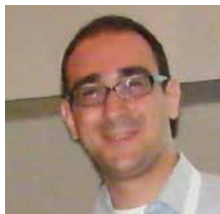
AIPEA President C. Breen and Natalia Matskova, winner of the poster prize

first place for his talk "Visible light-harvesting ability of cationic dyes assembly on an anionic clay surface: The effect of adsorption conditions." **Laure Delavernhe** (Institut des Matériaux Jean Rouxel, France) was runner-up with her paper "Relationship between macroscopic water affinity of kaolinites and their surface properties." **Natalia Matskova** (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia) took first place for her poster entitled

"Characteristics of palygorskite clays from the Dahkovskoe industrial deposit (Moscow region, Russia)." **Mazen Ziadeh** (University of Bayreuth, Germany) received the runner-up



Laure Delavernhe, runner-up in the oral presentation category, during the Euroclay closing ceremony



Mazen Ziadeh, runner up in the poster competition



## Mineralogical Society of Poland

[www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl](http://www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl)

### UPCOMING POLISH CONFERENCES

The Geochemical Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland and the Institute of Chemistry, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, will convene the second "Contemporary Problems of Geochemistry" conference in Kielce on September 24–26, 2012. The theme of this conference will be the application of geochemical, mineralogical, and petrological studies in environmental sciences and will include the following topics:

- geochemical interactions in/between various environmental systems
- identification of natural and anthropogenic pollution sources
- establishment of background concentrations
- analytical methods used for solving various environmental issues
- other environment-oriented aspects

Details on registration, the program, and events are available on the website [www.ujk.edu.pl/geochemistry2012](http://www.ujk.edu.pl/geochemistry2012).

The Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Institute of Chemistry, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, and the Geochemical Group of the Mineralogical Society of Poland will hold the 11<sup>th</sup> geochronological conference "Dating of Minerals and Rocks XI" in Kielce, September 26–27, 2012. The conference will be the latest in a series of all-Polish symposia on the theme of geochronology. The main topics for this conference will include:

- U–Pb, U–Th, Rb–Sr, K–Ar, <sup>40</sup>Ar–<sup>39</sup>Ar, <sup>210</sup>Pb, and other isotope dating methods
- non-isotope dating, including fission track, chemical Th(U)–Pb dating, TL and OSL methods
- stable isotopes (strontium, sulfur, etc.) related to dating of geologic materials

The conference program will include a tour of a Neolithic flint mine at Krzemionki and the Romanesque Cistercian abbey at Wąchock. Details on registration, the programs, and events are available on the website [www.ujk.edu.pl/geochronology2012](http://www.ujk.edu.pl/geochronology2012).

award for his poster entitled "A facile approach for producing high aspect ratio fluorhectorite nanoplatelets by utilizing a stirred media mill."

AIPEA will hold its next meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2013. The meeting is being organized jointly with the Brazilian Clay Group, a member of the Sociedade Brasileira de Geoquímica, with the very welcome involvement of Petróleo Brasileiro S.A., Petrobras. Rio will provide an excellent backdrop for another great opportunity for mineralogists, soil scientists, physicists, geochemists, engineers, chemists, materials scientists and other specialists to debate their findings, share ideas and transfer knowledge.

With the 15<sup>th</sup> ICC now on the horizon, it is a good time to visit the AIPEA website ([www.aipea.org](http://www.aipea.org)) and refresh your knowledge regarding the different awards. Council is particularly keen that the student travel awards, which AIPEA provides every four years to ensure that the best young scientists are able to attend the International Clay Conference, are well publicized within the student community.

**Chris Breen**, President