



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

IAG COUNCIL MEETING

The IAG's governing council held its most recent meeting on 28 October 2011 at the University of Leoben in Austria. This venue was selected as Council wished to visit the venue selected for the Geoanalysis 2015 conference. The very modern facilities available at Leoben were found to be well suited for a conference size of a few hundred delegates, and the access to Leoben via the train from Vienna was found to be of excellent quality. The proximity of the venue to the historic town centre was also considered a major plus, as this will contribute to the relaxed and productive social environment for which the Geoanalysis meetings are well known.



Members of the IAG's governing council and invited IAG members during a review of the conference facilities at the Montanuniversität Leoben. From left: Mathieu Benoit, Jerome Chmeleff, Phil Potts, Doug Miles, Klaus Peter Jochum, Jacinta Enzweiler, Thomas Meisel, Chris Jackson, Jenny Cook and Michael Wiedenbeck

The meeting of Council was highly productive and, with a duration of eight and one-half hours, was the most lengthy such meeting in the 15-year history of the IAG. For the first time an Internet video link was provided to allow the participation of Council members unable to travel to Austria. This approach was successful and may provide a means to broaden further the geographical distribution of the members that lead our association. One of the main topics discussed by Council was the refinement of the content on the www.geoanalysis.org and www.IAGeo.com websites. Particularly valuable was the fact that Mr Wolfgang Neff, who has taken on the responsibility of optimizing the IAG's web presence, was also in attendance at the meeting.

Another theme of the Council meeting was the development of a major initiative within the Association to support training courses and workshops relevant to the geoanalytical community. This activity was initiated in 2007 with Quality Assurance short courses, which have been held alongside the Goldschmidt and at other venues ever since. The IAG has already begun to enlarge the spectrum of courses it supports: it co-sponsored a two-day workshop devoted to detrital zircon geochronology, held this past August in advance of the Prague Goldschmidt conference and attended by 51 scientists. Council has received applications for support for three more short courses in the coming year. Details about these new offerings will appear on the geoanalysis.org website once details have been worked out.

The Quality Assurance in Geochemistry short course series was expanded in 2011 to include venues in Brazil and Finland, both of which attracted over 20 participants. This attendance suggests a large demand for such courses, beyond our traditional venues at the Goldschmidt and Geoanalysis meetings, and Council will encourage such presentations at "external" venues.



Final plans are now in place for the September 2012 Geoanalysis conference in Búzios, a charming and relaxed beach town situated on the southeastern coast of Brazil. The organizing committee of Geoanalysis 2012 warmly invites readers to attend the 8th International Conference on the Analysis of Geological and Environmental Materials. Visit the conference website at www.ige.unicamp.br/geoanalysis2012.

Invited Speakers

- Meinrat O. Andreae, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany
- Thomas D. Bullen, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, USA
- Virginia S. T. Ciminelli, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil
- Detlef Günther, ETH-Zürich, Switzerland
- Gwendy E. M. Hall, Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Paulo Vasconcelos, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- Robert D. Vocke Jr., NIST, Gaithersburg, USA

Important Dates

- 1 February 2012 – Registration and abstract submission open
- 15 May 2012 – Deadline for abstract submission
- 16–20 September 2012 – Geoanalysis 2012 in Búzios

Short Courses

- Can you trust your data? Quality assurance in analytical geochemistry
- Guidelines for better practice in LA-ICP-MS U-Th-Pb geochronology
- Quantitative X-ray phase analysis of geomaterials by the Rietveld method

