



Meteoritical Society

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>

from 16 countries, including 6 North African and Middle East countries. Twenty-one keynote and invited lectures, another 14 oral presentations, and 19 posters were given.

The 2-day meeting closed with a synopsis by David Baratoux (University of Toulouse), who recounted important aspects of the proceedings, for example, the observation that Earth is not an isolated system but interacts with a diversity of solid bodies in the Solar System and beyond. Impact cratering is one of the main geological processes related to planetary evolution. Current research is focused on the origin of bolides, the present flux of asteroids and dust particles onto the Earth, tracking the fall of meteorites, the search for meteorites, and the effects of impact cratering on the terrestrial environment. Presentations in comparative planetology dealt with the effects of oblique impact on planetary surfaces, the cratering record on other planets, and impact rates in the Solar System as determined using remote sensing data of planetary surfaces or analysis of shocked meteorites. Another important topic concerned public outreach about planetary processes (presentations on the Ries Crater Museum and the Vredefort World Heritage Site). Much time was devoted to recognition criteria for impact structures. Detailed studies of known impact structures are important for better understanding impact processes at various scales. Impact processes are hard to study in the laboratory, and many aspects related to high-pressure shock in geological media must be studied by comparing natural and experimentally produced effects, in conjunction with state-of-the-art numerical modeling.

Participants recommended that the AICAC series be continued, with the goal of further enhancing the efforts of researchers in Arab countries. As there are already several groups working on impact structures in Algeria, those colleagues were requested to nurture collaborations and to investigate the possibility of an international field trip to some of these structures, as a basis for an AICAC III meeting in the near future. The possibility that an AICAC symposium could be part of the 2014 annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society in Casablanca was also discussed.

After the symposium in Casablanca, 35 participants joined a 5-day excursion along the route Casablanca–Fes–Erfoud/Merzouga–Ouarzazate–Marrakech–Casablanca. Participants viewed the area's varied and scenic geology and were exposed to the 1200-year cultural-historical heritage of Morocco.



AICAC II was made possible thanks to support from the president of Hassan II University, Casablanca, the dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the university, the CNRST, the Cultural Center of the Atlas Golf Marrakech, and Lafarge Ciments. The Meteoritical Society Endowment Fund and the Barringer Family Fund generously provided travel grants to 15 graduate students and young researchers.

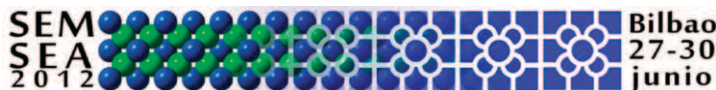
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Museum of Natural History, Berlin



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

www.ehu.es/sem



JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY

SEM-SEA 2012, the joint scientific meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA), will be held in Bilbao from June 27 to 30, 2012. This event corresponds to the 32nd meeting of the SEM and the 22nd meeting of the SEA. Organization of the joint meeting has been entrusted to the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of The University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU).

The SEM-SEA 2012 program includes the following three components:

Seminar A one-day workshop seminar titled "Archaeometry and Cultural Heritage Preservation: The Contribution of Mineralogy and Related Sciences" will take place on June 27. Scientists of international prestige will deliver seven master lectures on the contributions of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry to the characterization, dating, and provenance of man-made and natural artifacts constituting part of our cultural heritage. New conceptual and methodological advances will be examined, and the presentations will be aimed at young scientists.

Scientific sessions These sessions will take place on June 28–29 and will feature plenary lectures by invited scientists on topics of general interest. Submissions for oral and poster presentations on all aspects of clays, mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry will be accepted. Our main objective is to organize high-quality scientific sessions that will provide a platform for debate and exchange of ideas, and lead to new scientific collaborations.

Geological excursions Two field trips, to proceed in parallel, will be held on June 30:

- E1 – Marine volcanic outcrops in the Upper Cretaceous of the Basque Cantabrian Basin (Bizkaia area)
- E2 – The Carranza Valley and its geological heritage. This excursion will include visits to karstic caves with helictites (Pozalagua), the banded dolomites of Ranero, and an old underground Zn–Pb–F–mine (Matienzo).

Deadlines and Events

- 8 March 2012 – Preliminary abstract submission ends
- 26 April – Closing date for submission of revised and accepted abstracts
- 10 May – Registration at normal rate ends
- 27 June – International seminar on archaeometry and conservation
- 28 June – SEM-SEA 2012 starts; membership assemblies
- 29 June – SEM-SEA 2012 open sessions; conference dinner and awards ceremony
- 30 June – Field trips

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