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–Marrakesh–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.

Wolf Uwe Reimold
Museum of Natural History, Berlin