



SEM-SEA 2012: JOINT MEETING OF THE SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY

The joint meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society and the Spanish Clay Society (SEM-SEA 2012) was held in Bilbao on 27–30 June 2012. The event was organized by the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU. The program can be downloaded from the conference website: congresomineralogia.es.

The opening ceremony was attended by the presidents of the two societies, Mercedes Suárez (SEA) and Carlos Ayora (SEM), and by representatives of the organizing committee (Javier Arostegi and Jose Miguel Herrero), the University of the Basque Country (Miguel Angel Gutierrez-Ortiz, vice chancellor, and Esther Dominguez, dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology), and the Basque Government (Begoña Ochoa).

These joint meetings have become the most important Spanish forum for discussion and debate among researchers and professionals working in mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, mineral deposits and clays. More than 150 participants attended the meeting. A program of grants and awards encouraged the participation of young researchers.

A workshop entitled “Archaeometry and Cultural Heritage: The Contribution of Mineralogy,” organized by the Spanish Mineralogical Society, was included in the meeting program. The workshop program featured 7 lectures (Dr. Dominguez Bella, Cadiz; Dr. Prudêncio, Lisbon; Dr. Maggetti, Fribourg; Dr. Artioli, Padova; Mr. Hradil, Prague; Dr. Vendrell, Barcelona; and Dr. Rodriguez-Navarro, Granada) and a discussion session. The papers have been published in volume 9 of the Seminars of the Spanish Society of Mineralogy collection and can be downloaded from the SEM server.

The SEM-SEA 2012 program included four plenary lectures: “Mineralogy in the study of historical buildings” (Dr. Vendrell), “Marine minerals as tracers of detrital provenance and transport agents” (Dr. Fagel), “Using clay to bioremediate oil spills” (Dr. Warr), and “Structure and lithology of the oceanic crust: What do we know today?” (Dr. Juteau). A total of 111 scientific contributions were presented at the conference (50 oral presentations and 61 posters), involving 385 authors. These contributions were on the following themes: “Archaeometry and Heritage Conservation” (24), “Teaching and Museums” (2), “Applied Mineralogy” (3), “Clay Minerals” (23), “Environmental Geochemistry” (13), “Mineral Synthesis and Crystal Growth” (8),

“Instrumental Techniques” (4), “Petrology and Geochemistry” (3), and “Mineral deposits” (31). The plenary lectures and communications have been published in volume 16 of *Macla* magazine, which also includes geological information about two scheduled field trips: “Cretaceous Submarine Volcanism of the Basque-Cantabrian Basin” and “Mineralogical Heritage of El Valle de Carranza.”



Rubén Martos-Villa (left) receiving his award from Carlos Ayora (SEM president)



Chiara Cappelli receiving her award from Mercedes Suárez (SEA president)

Four awards for young researchers were given out for the best communications. The winners were:

- Rubén MARTOS-VILLA: “Molecular simulations of methane hydrate crystal structure and spectroscopic properties”
- Anna ARIZZI: “La influencia de la Interfase Árido-Matriz (ITZ) en las propiedades de Morteros de Cal”
- Ana C. S. ALCÂNTARA: “Bionanocomposites based on the megamolecular polysaccharide sacran and clay minerals”
- Chiara CAPPELLI: “Monitorización de la alteración de biotita mediante microscopio confocal de contraste de fase de interferencia diferencial”



Ana Alcântara receiving her award from Mercedes Suárez (SEA president)



Participants in the SEM-SEA 2012 field trip to El Valle de Carranza