

## EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL CONFERENCE 2012

<http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de>

In early September 2012, 820 mineralogists gathered at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität in Frankfurt, Germany, for the inaugural European Mineralogical Conference. By any measure, the conference was a huge success. The number of delegates, the quality of the venue and presentations, the co-operation showed by the participating national societies, the outstanding welcome and hospitality from our German hosts, and the desire to hold future such events all signaled a successful outcome and bode well for the future.



An icebreaker party kicked off the meeting. PHOTOS: SALAR BAYGAN

Thirty-three scientific sessions were built around the following broad themes: Mantle petrology and geochemistry, Magmatism and volcanology, Metamorphism, Applied mineralogy, Mineral physics, Mineralogical crystallography, Planetary materials, Mineral deposits and raw materials, Low-temperature geochemistry, Geochronology, Geobiochemistry, Advanced analytical techniques, and Archaeometry, care and preservation. A key feature of the meeting was the high-quality presentations, both oral and poster, of the post-graduate students. Poster sessions were well attended, with beer, wine and soft drinks provided by a large number of industrial sponsors. The synergies between instrument companies and mineralogical scientists were obvious during the meeting, and all are grateful to the industrial sponsors for their support.

In addition to the scientific programme, held at the university, there were two post-conference fieldtrips to Eifel and Odenwald and a guest-programme excursion to the Rhine Valley.



An excursion took guest delegates to the Rhine Valley

The conference was a joint venture involving ten European mineralogical societies: the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft (DMG), the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain & Ireland (MinSoc), the Mineralogical Society of Finland (MinSocFin), the Österreichische Mineralogische Gesellschaft (ÖMG), the Mineralogical Society of

Poland (PTMin), the Russian Mineralogical Society (RMS), the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía (SEM), the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie (SFMC), the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia (SIMP), and the Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SSMP). All these societies agreed to participate in EMC2012 rather than (or in addition to) holding their own national meeting this year. The sessions were, in all cases, convened by international teams to help strengthen the pan-European aspect of the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included a public lecture by Thomas Stachel, "Diamonds are Forever – But When and Where Are They Formed?", and plenary lectures by Hilary Downes on mantle and core formation viewed from meteorites, by Rod Ewing on "roads not taken" in nuclear waste disposal, and by Tim Elliot on tracing mantle evolution with novel isotopic systems. David Green received the IMA Medal and gave a plenary lecture on the experimental petrology of peridotites. All events, including award ceremonies, which are normally part of national meetings, were incorporated into the EMC2012 schedule. The EMU Medal for research excellence was presented to Sébastien Merkel (who also delivered a plenary lecture), the Mineralogical Society-Schlumberger Award was presented to Simon Redfern, the Hallimond Lecture of the MinSoc was delivered by Patrick O'Brien, Bernie Wood received the Abraham-Gottlob-Werner Medal of the DMG, and the SIMP made a number of "best PhD" awards.

Most of the participating societies held business meetings while in Frankfurt, and the editorial boards of *Mineralogical Magazine* and the *European Journal of Mineralogy* held policy meetings. The IMA and EMU



(A) Bernard Wood (left), recipient of the Abraham-Gottlob-Werner Medal, with DMG president Rainer Altherr. (B) From left to right, Gerhard Brey, local organizer, David Green, winner of the IMA Medal, and Ekkehart Tillmanns, IMA President. (C) Hallimond Lecturer Paddy O'Brien. (D) Mineralogical Society-Schlumberger Awardee Simon Redfern (left), David Dobson, and Peter Treloar. (E) EMU Medal recipient Sébastien Merkel, flanked by Patrick Cordier and EMU Past President Roberta Oberti. PHOTOS: SABINE SEITZ



(A) Heidi Höfer and Gerhard Brey, local organizers, and (B) the EMC2012 volunteer crew. PHOTO: SABINE SEITZ

also held a number of business meetings. Clearly, replacing national meetings in favour of a single international one is a feasible strategy for the future.

The EMC2012 was not the first time that learned societies have come together to co-organize such an event. Previous conferences in Cambridge in 2007 and Edinburgh in 2009 (although on a smaller scale) were forerunners to the 2012 event. All scientists will say that there are too many meetings to attend every year. The EMC meeting is a new event to add to the calendar, but it replaces a number of smaller national meetings.

Gerhard Brey and Heidi Höfer, the local organizers in Frankfurt, were responsible for most of the effort and organization needed to make this meeting the success it was. The support they provided to the participating societies and the session organizers was outstanding. Heidi and Gerhard, along with the local team of volunteers, managed to make delegates feel welcome, and the meeting provided nice introduction to local cuisine and German beer and wine to non-Germans!

The success of the meeting raises an important question that needs to be considered by European mineralogists and petrologists. Should there be a regular EMC meeting? The mineralogical community meets every four years under the auspices of the International Mineralogical Association. Aside from that, mineralogists seeking an international audience for their work find themselves giving presentations at geochemical, geophysical or geological conferences. Of course the bound-



Giuseppe Cruciani, president of the Italian society SIMP. PHOTO: HEIDI HÖFER

aries are blurred between these disciplines, but EMC meetings can provide a new forum for mineralogists to come together and present high-quality work to an international mineralogical audience.

The ten participating societies have already agreed that the next EMC meeting will take place in Italy in 2016. Other European mineralogical societies are welcome to join the conference. Please contact the president of the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia, the society responsible for the next meeting.

Many thanks to our hosts and the convenors for launching what we hope will become a regular event on our calendars.

**Kevin Murphy, Peter Treloar and Jose Miguel Nieto**  
(MinSoc and SEM)

## Geochemical Society *Cont'd from page 471*



system assumptions (fractionation), carbon reservoirs (pool-size changes, transfer between reservoirs, and rates of exchange) and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange.

The following recommendations for improving the resourcefulness of the DIPPI-C website to the wider community were made:

Develop a resources area that includes

- A compilation of datasets from modern through to palaeo contexts
- A searchable database of publications on the website
- Method protocols

Develop a forum for discussion of themes and projects

The DIPPI-C working group has an open call for manuscripts for a special theme issue of *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems (G-Cubed)* (covering all aforementioned topics) and is working on the logistics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> DIPPI-C workshop in 2013, to be hosted at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, USA. We encourage all those interested in organic and inorganic carbon geochemistry in modern and palaeoenvironments to sign up to the DIPPI-C mailing list (via the DIPPI-C home page at [www.dippi-c.org](http://www.dippi-c.org)) to keep up to date with developments and contribute to future activities. DIPPI-C thanks the Geochemical Society, the British Ecological Society, IsoPrime, and Durham University for financial support.

**Chris Brodie** (University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)  
**James Casford** (Durham University, UK)  
**Melanie Leng** (NERC Isotope Geoscience Facility / Leicester University, UK)  
**Erin McClymont** (Durham University, UK)