

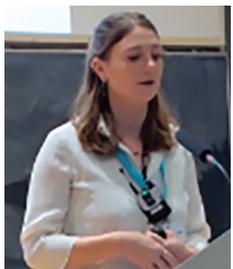


Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles

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Dublin (Ireland) was the host city of the 18th International Clay Conference sponsored by AIPEA and organized by the Clay Minerals Group (CMG) of the Mineralogical Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The theme was *Sustaining Clays*, and over 650 clay scientists from 56 nations—including 130 remote attendees—presented and attended sessions on a wide range of topics, including soil clays and climate, environmental remediation, critical mineral and energy resources, nuclear waste disposal, zeolites, clays on Mars and other extraterrestrial bodies, layered double hydroxides (LDHs) and nanomaterials, and much more. AIPEA wishes to extend our gratitude for this excellent conference to the local organizing committee of Steve Hillier, Kevin Murphy, Russell Rajendra, Emma Tomlinson, and David Chew, as well as members of the scientific advising committee and student award coordinators.

The 18th ICC kicked off Sunday July 13th with four workshops: (1) ICDD® PDF-5+ and JADE® Pro Workshop (sponsored by ICDD), (2) Kaolin, Kaolin and Kaolin – Everywhere, (3) Key Determinative Methods in Clay Science, and (4) 1D X-ray diffraction pattern modelling. The conference program itself featured 38 sessions spread over four days, as well as plenary lectures and awards given by participating societies, including two AIPEA recognitions: **Dr. Alexandra Jourdain** was the recipient of the William F. (Bill) Bradley Award and presented the plenary lecture “Clay mineral formation in a MgO-SiO₂-H₂O low temperature system by hydrothermal synthesis,” and **Dr. Paul Schroeder** was recognized as an AIPEA Fellow for his career devoted to promoting clay science and supporting the clay science community. Mid-conference field trips included an excursion to Giant’s Causeway, where Paleocene basalt columns are spectacularly exposed on Ireland’s northern coast, and to a state-of-the-art cement plant near Drogheda followed by a visit to the Trim Castle located in County Meath.



Bradley Medal recipient Alexandra Jourdain



AIPEA President Bruno Lanson and AIPEA Fellow Paul Schroeder.

Awards to students for oral and poster presentations were given jointly by AIPEA, the CMG, and CMS. Recognized for excellent oral presentations were Giulia D’Agostino, Bruno de Azevedo, Celia Martín Morales, Trung Nguyen, Dillon Stevenson, Wolfgang Sucha, and awardees for outstanding poster presentations were Daniel Dodoo, Viktoriya Planetová, Julien Talon, and Maria Tijero-Martín. Early Career Clay Scientist (ECCS) travel grants were awarded to Zachary Burton, Elisa Laita Florian, and Urmi Ghosh, and AIPEA student travel grants to



AIPEA President Bruno Lanson and the awardees of AIPEA Travel Grants.



The AIPEA flag handover from 18th ICC organizers to organizers of CLAY2027.

Jessica Arjona, Ayesha Asbat, Sristi Das Gupta, Tomoya Eda, Berthe Irma Obam, Elise Le Gougec, Hanane Miri, Oluwaseye Oyetade, Elena Real Fernández, and Md Zuber Hosen.

The 18th ICC closed with a General Assembly where the AIPEA Council and Officers for 2025–2029 were approved, as follows: Mercedes Suárez (President), Tsutomu Sato (Vice-President), Liva Dzene (Secretary-General), F. Javier Huertas (Treasurer), Tanya Peretyazhko (Councillor 2nd term), Adi Radian (Councillor 2nd term), Erzsébet Harman-Tóth (Councillor 2nd term), Jae-Min Oh (Councillor 1st term), Vera Leopoldo (Councillor 1st term),



Shiyong Sun presents the proposal to host CLAY2029 in Chengdu.



AIPEA President Mercedes Suárez with three past-presidents (Saverio Fiore, Reiner Dohrmann, Bruno Lanson).

and Xionghan Feng (Councillor 1st term). Karolina Rybka will become chair of the ECCS committee, and Jaime Cuevas and Shiyong Sun will join Council as representatives of CLAY2027 and CLAY2029, respectively. Bruno Lanson will continue as Chair of the Nomenclature Committee. Also at the GA, the AIPEA flag was transferred to hosts of CLAY2027 (Madrid, Spain, June 2027), and the location of CLAY2029 (Chengdu, China, July 2029) was presented. The 18th ICC was the final quadrennial ICC conference; from here forward, the AIPEA-sponsored conference will be known as the CLAY conference series, which are slated to take place on a biennial basis from 2027 forward.

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