



# The Clay Minerals Society

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The role of the annual long-range planning (LRP) meeting of the Executive Committee is to address longer-term issues of The Clay Minerals Society. This meeting was held in January. One of the issues on the agenda has been the planning for our annual meetings. This year, the CMS annual meeting will be co-organized with the Clay Science Society of Japan and the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays, and will be held in Hawaii (3–6 June 2024). As you read this, the

deadlines for abstract submission and early registration have passed, and we now approach the final opportunity for participating in this meeting. Find more information about CMS annual conferences at [clayconferences.org](http://clayconferences.org). The next CMS annual meetings will be organized in Dublin, Ireland, on the occasion of the XVIII ICC (13–18 July 2025), and in Salt Lake City, USA, in 2026. We would be pleased to hear suggestions from any members who would be interested in hosting a CMS annual meeting in the future.

The LRP meeting addressed the successional plan for the Source Clays repository and the business office, along with improving our society's financial trend.

The future of our journal *Clays and Clay Minerals* under the new partnership with Cambridge University Press was also under focus during the meeting. *Clays and Clay Minerals* has been published since 1952 and is one of the primary raison d'être of our Society. We express our gratitude to Joseph W. Stucki and Kevin Murphy, who have ensured a seamless transition for authors and readers in their roles as Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, respectively. Each of us can also contribute to this goal by submitting and reviewing papers. If you are newly submitting manuscripts, do you know that a video on "How to write a paper" is available on our [website](http://www.clays.org) and [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)? This video is the first of the new online "Clayminar Series". The website will be regularly updated with new videos as soon as they become available. Should I add that taking part in the Clayminar event live would allow you to ask questions to the speakers? It is free for all—why not enjoy it?

Sabine Petit, CMS President

## CMS PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2024 SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our recipients of the prestigious CMS professional awards! **Dr. Prakash Malla** (retired as a Director of R&D from Thiele Kaolin Co., USA) was crowned with the George W. Brindley Lecture Award, **Dr. Eric Ferrage** (IC2MP, Université de Poitiers – CNRS, France) as Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist, **Dr. Jan Środoń** (Polish Academy of Sciences) with the Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award, and **Dr. Toshihiro Kogure** (The University of Tokyo) for the CMS Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture. The CMS communication team is excited to feature their bios in this and future *Elements* issues.



**Dr. Prakash Malla** receives the 2024 G. W. Brindley Clay Science Lecture Award. He is recognized as a clay scientist who infuses the Society with new ideas, someone who is both a dynamic speaker and involved in innovative research. Dr. Malla is the director of R&D at Thiele Kaolin Company, with 31 years of experience in researching and enhancing kaolin and silica products and processes for diverse industrial uses. He holds a PhD in clay mineralogy and clay

chemistry from Rutgers University (USA), where he studied the layer charge properties of expandable 2:1 clay minerals. He also holds certificates in Mid-Management Program from Georgia Institute of Technology (USA) and Executive Certification Management & Leadership from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA). Dr. Malla spent 5 years working in the area of material science and engineering (Materials Research Laboratory) at Pennsylvania State University (USA) where he developed special classes of nanoporous materials from pillared clays, silica gels, and zeolites for dehumidification applications. These materials also have potential for water harvesting under dry desert conditions.

Dr. Malla served as the President of The Clay Minerals Society (2015–2016) and the Chair of the Coating & Surface Enhancement Division of Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry - TAPPI (2010–2011). He is a Fellow of TAPPI and the American Society of Nepalese Engineers. He serves on the Editorial Board of the journals *Clays & Clay Minerals* and the *Journal of Porous Materials*. He is the inventor or co-inventor of 16 U.S. patents.

Dr. Malla will discuss his professional journey, "Transition from Expandable to Non-expandable Clays via Nanoporous Materials" during the annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in June of 2024 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## CMS LAUNCHED CLAYMINAR SERIES!

The Clay Minerals Society recently launched a new webinar program called the "Clayminar Series" that is open to CMS members and the public alike. Topics covered in this series range from scientific writing advice to clays-relevant technical guides, and suggestions for future topics are always welcome! For more information on the Clayminar Series and to view recordings of past sessions, please visit <http://www.clays.org/clayminar-series>.



THE  
CLAYMINAR  
SERIES

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### Join CMS

Join us with new types of membership! Please visit [www.clays.org](http://www.clays.org) or contact the Business Office at [cms@clays.org](mailto:cms@clays.org).

### Save the Date!

**Expanding Clay Science  
Over the Pacific and Beyond**

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society and  
the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Clay Conference  
Location: Honolulu, Hawaii  
Time: June 3-6, 2024