Association Internationale pour l’Étude des Argiles

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Family Name ___________________________  Given Name ___________________________

Title ___________________________  Phone ___________________________  Email ___________________________

Institution ___________________________

Mailing Address ___________________________

Type of membership* ___________________________  Amount of dues ___________________________  for _____ years

Your Society ___________________________

If you are an individual member of an affiliated Society, give the name of the Society

Date ___________________________  Signature ___________________________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

Family Name ___________________________  Given Name ___________________________

Title ___________________________  Phone ___________________________  Email ___________________________

Institution ___________________________

Mailing Address ___________________________

Your Society ___________________________

Date effective ___________________________  Signature ___________________________

Fees: $30.00 USD/4-year individually; $15.00 USD/4-year student (students must prove their status through an official document provided by their university); $100.00 USD/4-year corporate sponsor.

*student/retiree - professional - corporate

Note: Affiliated Societies pay dues on behalf of their members.

Payment by PayPal and credit card: visit www.aipea.org/membership.html

Wire Transfer: emailing treasurer@aipea.org

Dear clay community! A full year with SARS-CoV-2 virus and without physically present meetings is nearing its end. We improved our video technique skills for meetings both in our small working groups and as tools for international conferences. That enabled participation for low cost; on the other hand, discussions during oral and poster sessions, or in breaks and in the evenings were missing. Particularly for our young generation this has cut them from intensive discussions with (senior) scientists. We try to serve clay societies in these hard times. Following discussion with Representatives of National Clay Groups, AIPEA Council agreed to the goal of supporting scientists that are within 5 years after completion of their PhD: Early Career Clay Scientists (ECCS). Often these early career scientists are at the most productive stage of their scientific careers, including PostDocs or similar positions. In 2021 we will get this ECCS group started.

The pandemic forced us to make a hard decision: The ICC-17 in Istanbul (Turkey) was rescheduled to July 2022; see more information about the ICC inside this newsletter and on the aipea website. This forced us also to extend Council term be from 2017-2022 in accordance with statutes, and to decide about the year for ICC-18 to take place in 2025.

Website Our renewed AIPEA website seeks to serve you as a platform for worldwide clay research. In Paris at Euroclay 2019 we discussed with the Representatives of the National Clay Groups how this can be achieved. Our plan is to host as many National Clay Group websites at www.aipea.org, at least the basic information. These webpages shall be linked to existing websites for deeper information. Anyone who searches for “clay” should find this collection of National Clay Group websites and should be able to find YOUR clay group website in your country along with much other information about clays. I’m sure we are on a good track to finish that in the next years.
AIPEA Membership Application Form

Becoming member of AIPEA is recommended to everybody interested in clays and clay minerals. At the moment, the main mean of communication among all members of this association is its website (www.aipea.org). There, all information is concentrated and made available to all members of this association is its website (www.aipea.org). Meanwhile most of our affiliated societies contributed to our 5th Newsletter. We encourage all national society Representatives to respond promptly to our Secretary-Generals and Treasurer's requests for information. Please take some time to check if your society / group has effectively sent a report to AIPEA. If not, I would like to encourage you to contact your Representative and reinforce the importance of doing this small gesture of international cooperation and sharing of information. AIPEA continues to publish reports in Elements magazine as a powerful means to communicate with the mineralogical and geochemical community. In the last 2 years we used parts of our Newsletter reports to inform the global mineralogical community about our worldwide activities. We used your contributions in Elements with thousands or readers. Please let Prof. Peter C. Ryan, our Secretary-General, or me know if you have information that deserves the attention of the scientific societies. We can include it on our six-month report in this journal. AIPEA also continues to be an affiliated society to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and provides information for the IUGS bulletin, another excellent way to communicate with scientific societies all around the world and to integrate AIPEA and clay research into international geological activities.

Registration of AIPEA: In 2018 we started an initiative to register AIPEA as a non-profit society with great support from our Treasurer Alberto Lopez Galindo. This has required editing of our Statutes and By-laws. In 2019 Past President Saverio Fiore made it possible to carry out AIPEA's first electronic voting using a CNRS platform. We can be proud that this was a fully secret voting and members supported legalizing AIPEA as a registered society in Spain. In 2020 we were registered in Spain.

With best wishes

Reiner Dohrmann March 9, 2021

By-Laws:
“Individuals 65 years of age and older who have been individual members for 12 years or more shall automatically become Life Members on notification to the Treasurer. A Life Member must verify his membership every 4 years coinciding with the year of the International Clay Conference...”

To facilitate the admission of new members, AIPEA made available the Membership Application Form at its web page www.aipea.org/membership.html. Those interested in being part of this organization should fill it out and mail it to the AIPEA Treasurer, who will send information of how to pay the annual fee.

Dr. Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO, Treasurer
Institutos Andaluzes de Ciencias de la Tierra, Director
CSIC - Universidad de Granada
Phone: +34 958 230 000 ext. 190212
Fax: +34 958 552620
Email: alberto@ugr.es
The AIPEA Council has been elected during the 16th International Clay Conference at Granada (Spain), in July 2017. The Officers and Councillors who will work for AIPEA during 2017-2022 are as follows:

### AIPEA Executive Officers for 2017-2022

**Dr. Reiner Dohrmann**
President
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Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)
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**Prof. Jocelyne Brendle**
Vice President
Institute of Material Science of Mulhouse
CNRS UMR 7361
Mulhouse Cedex France
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**Dr. Saverio Fiore**
Past President & Chair Hazardous Minerals Committee
Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis – CNR
c/o Dpt Earth & Geoenvironmental Sciences – Bari – Italy
Phone:+39 080 5442618
Email: saverio.fiore[at]cnr.it

**Prof. Peter Ryan**, Secretary General
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Phone: +1 802 443 2557
Email: pryan[at]middlebury.edu

### AIPEA Council Members for 2017-2022

**Prof. Georgios Christidis**, Councillor (2nd term)
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Chania – Greece
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**Prof. Makoto Ogawa**, Councillor (2nd term)
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**Dr. Jana Madejovà**, Councillor (1st term)
Institute of Inorganic Chemistry
Slovak Academy of Sciences Dubravska – Slovakia
Phone: +421-2-59410406
Email:jana.madejovà[at]asvba.sk

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**AIPEA OFFICERS AND COUNCIL**
Upcoming Meetings

2021

Eurosoil
23-27 August 2021
Geneva (Virtual format)
https://eurosoil-congress.com/

3rd European Mineralogical Conference
29-August to 2-September
Krakow Poland (Virtual)
https://emc2020.pmin.eu/

DTTG Workshop - Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Clays and Clay Minerals
13 - 17 September
FGK - Research Institute for Inorganic Materials, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany

DUST 2021
4th International Conference on Atmospheric Dust
4-7 October
Monopoli Italy (Hybrid Format)
https://www.dust2021.atmodust.net/

Clay Minerals Society: CMS webinar – Clay Minerals in Health Applications
14-15 October
https://www.clays.org/2021-meeting-2/

The 5th World Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-5) and AIPEA Short Course
October 16-19, 2021
Chi Zhou City, China
Obituary:
PETER KOMADEL
(1955-2021)

PETER KOMADEL, internationally distinguished clay scientist, passed away peacefully on 27 February 2021 in Bratislava, Slovakia at the age of 65. He was born in Bratislava, where he also obtained his BSc and PhD degrees in Chemistry at Comenius University. Peter Komadel's research activities were focused primarily on the chemical modification of clay minerals, mainly smectites. He was engaged in characterization of the main minerals and admixtures present in the fine fraction of bentonites, layer charge modification via Fe(III) to Fe(II) reduction or via fixation of small cations (e.g. Li+) upon heating, acid treatment of clay minerals, interactions with organic cations, (un)stability and properties of H-smectites, catalytic activity, swelling and water sorption properties. Very fruitful was also Peter's high level of international collaboration. In 1986-1987 he was postdoc at the University of Illinois, Urbana, USA where he worked under the leadership of Professor J. W. Stucki on the microbial reduction of structural Fe(III) in smectites. During his abroad visits, for example in the UK, Australia, France, Germany, Greece and many others, he found not only research colleagues but also very good friends. Peter was author or co-author of more than 100 scientific papers, which together have garnered over 4600 citations. In recognition of his scientific achievements, Peter received many prestigious awards, namely the 2nd George Brown Lecturer (awarded by The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland), Marion L. & Christie C. Jackson Mid Career Award (awarded by The Clay Mineral Society, USA), Premium of the Slovak Literary Foundation for a Scientific Echo, Honorary Plaque of Donnyz-Š垢 for achievements in natural sciences and Medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for support of science (conferred by the President of Slovak Academy of Sciences). Peter was very active member in scientific societies. He was President of the Slovak National Clay Group (2001-2008), The Clay Minerals Society (2012 – 2013), European Clay Group Association ECGA (2011-2015), and also member of AIPEA council (2001-2005, 2005-2009). He took part in editorial boards of the most important clay journals, Clays and Clay Minerals, Clay Minerals and Applied Clay Science.

Peter has been very well-known and appreciated by the clay communities all over the world both because of his scientific significance and friendly close personality. He will be forever remembered as an outstanding scientist and researcher, and above all as a righteous and kind man. Many people still remember when they met Peter for the first time. AIPEA expresses its gratitude for Peter Komadel’s warm cooperation and his clear view on things and needs of young researchers. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Ludka, who he missed very much. We send sincere condolences to his two sons Daniel and Jan.

By Jana Madejova
AIPEA is pleased to announce the 3rd volume in the AIPEA Educational Series (AES). The preface to this volume is presented below.

Preface AES3, Hannover 18.03.2021

Computational Mineralogy in Clays is the third volume in the AIPEA Educational Series (AES), the first one dealing with the Interstratified Clay Minerals and the second one with Magnesian Clays.

The first two volumes were prepared in conjunction with the ASYS, the AIPEA School for Young Scientists. ASYS was successfully convened at the Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences (CSIC-UGR, Granada, Spain) on July 15 and 16, 2017, under the supervision of Dr. Claro Ignacio Sainz Díaz, researcher of this centre, and in close connection to the 16th International Clay Conference in Granada (ICC. 2017). Young and not so-young clay scientists actively participated in the ASYS providing a fertile cultural substratum for discussing a third volume, Computational Mineralogy in Clays.

The organization of the chapters in this book follows the didactic approach of the 3rd ASYS.

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The organization of the chapters in this book follows the didactic approach of the 3rd ASYS. The didactic material, accompanied by an extensive literature, has been collected to form 8 chapters authored by Ignacio Sainz-Díaz (Spain), Andrey Kalinichev (USA), Tiq Jamal (Pakistan) and Hendrik Heinz (USA), Alonso Hernández-Laguna (Spain), Pauline Simonnin, Duo Song, Vitali Alexandrov, Eric J. Bylaska and Kevin Rosso (USA), Sergey V. Churakov and René Schleienmann (Switzerland), Edgar Galicia-Andrés, Peter Grančič, Martin H. Gertzbek, Chris Oostenbrink and Daniel Tüne (Austria), and Ana Borrego-Sánchez and C. Ignacio Sainz-Díaz (both Spain).

It is my certitude that this book will highlight very relevant developments in the fast growing application of computational approaches to the study of clay minerals.

Volume 3 covers aspects dealing with Introduction into Computational Mineralogy in Clays (Chapter 1) and Atomistic Modeling of Clays and Related Nanoporous Materials with ClayFF force field (Chapter 2). Chapter 3 introduces Simulations of Clay Minerals with IFF All Atom Models: Advantages, Validation, and Applications and Chapter 4 Fundamentals of Ab Initio calculations. Chapter 5 details Modeling Electron Transfer in Iron-Bearing Phyllosilicate Minerals and Chapter 6 discusses on Ab initio simulations of clay minerals reactivity and thermodynamics. And finally, Chapters 7 and 8 focus on Modeling of interactions in natural and synthetic organoclays as well as on Absorption of Pharmaceutical drugs onto clay minerals surfaces. These book chapters are milestones in AIPEA Educational Series (AES).
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Reiner Dohrmann
AIPEA President
The activity of Ukrainian Clay Group was initiated in 1949 in the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine by academicians Fedor Ovcharenko, famous for his studies of dispersive systems, clays, colloid and surface phenomena. During the previous year (2020), the activity of the members of clay groups in Ukraine includes different directions:

1. Study of Laponite suspensions’ properties, 1) studies have covered the organization of nano-disks of synthetic clay Laponite® in soft colloidal systems, electro-
terface properties of mixed aqueous suspensions of clays and carbon nanotubes, behaviour of temper-
ature sensitive hydrogels cross-linked by magnetic Laponite RD®, electrokinetic behaviour of Laponite platelets in aqueous PEO-CTAB mixed system, 2) Several reviews on behavior of Laponite RD®-based systems and elongated particles were issued, 3) The packings of anisometric particles were studied by computer simulation methods. The results were published in 8 articles and 1 conference talk [1-9].

2. Nanochemical, nanostructural and biocolloidal as-
pects of transformations in dispersions of iron-alu-
nominate clays. The work considers the development of ideas of colloidal nanoscience and
biocolloidal chemistry concerning complex transfor-
mational processes in iron-aluminoisilicate minerals (including clays) widespread on the Earth surface and in ocean depths. For the first time it is shown that such processes can provoke catastrophic respons-
es ascribed to the shifts of marine turbiditic-pelitic sediments or dam soils. The causes and mechanisms of catastrophic phenomena are considered. The rec-
ommendations of their prevention are stated. The
results of investigations of nano- and microstructur-
al contact transformations of dispersive mineral parti-
cles of iron-aluminoisilicate compositions are given.
There are considered the application possibilities of the compositions in building of ecobiogeotechno-
logical protective constructions, in bionanotechnology and medicine, and for receiving of high-clean iron-ore concentrates in metallurgy. Data concerning stability of iron-aluminoisilicate dispersions and their move-
ment on the slopes from the point of view of phys-
ticochemical geomechanics is given. For the first time the ultraanomaly of viscosity phenomenon, which reveals in concentrated dispersions and influences the described above processes, is revealed. [10-14]

Educational courses on clay sciences
1. The courses on computation physics in Kyiv Univer-
sity and Kiev Moglya University (spring 2020) in-
cluded parts related to behavior of colloidal systems, elon-
gated particles and related topics;
2. Innovations in technology of application (spa and medicine) materials in National Technical Universi-
ty of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institu-
te";
3. Physicochemical methods of identification of sub-
stances in National Technical University of Ukraine, "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute".

Clay meetings organized during 2020:  
1. Scientific readings “Physical chemistry of dispersive systems” dedicated to academician Fedor Ovcharenko (famous for his studies of dispersive systems, clays, colloids and surface phenomena) – February 2020
2. Scientific seminar “Bicolloidal science” – September 2020
3. Round table on “Best practices of industrial waste disposal” (including clay contained materials) – Oc-
tober 2020

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Rev. E (102), 2020, pp. 022133.
In 2020, the CSS initiated cooperation with a number of national non-profit societies for research and development projects concerning the clays of Turkey. We are cooperating with Turkish Spas Thalasso and Health Resorts Association (TURKSPA) to initiate research on the potential of Turkish clay sources for medical and cosmetic applications.

The website of the CSS was redesigned and updated in 2002 so that the recent information and news were announced to the public and to attract potential members. It contains information crucial for the Society such as its mission statement, membership information, symposiums and conferences which will be hosted by the CSS. The website has link to the website of AIPEA. The website can be visited at kilbilimleri.org and claysciencesociety.org. Unfortunately, the spread of Covid-19 pandemic all over the world slowed down our Society’s activities since March 2020. Almost all of the Committee meetings and event activities had to be realized online-only or to be postponed to minimize the risks and also to follow to the decision of WHO to declare Covid-19 as a global pandemic and comply with governmental rules.

One of the most important events for our Society is the co-organization of 17th ICC in Istanbul with the Clay Minerals Society (USA). The Organizing Committee worked hard during 2020 to ensure that 17th ICC would be one of the greater events of AIPEA and a truly outstanding as well as a memorable Conference. As a result of the pandemic crisis, the 17th ICC 2021 was postponed to 2022 as announced on the AIPEA website icc.aipea.org.

February 2021
Asuman Günlük Türkmenoğlu
President
The Clay Science Society-Turkey

Haluk Akgün
General Secretary
The Clay Science Society-Turkey

Dear Clay Scientists,

We hope this message finds you in good health in these uncertain times. The organization committee of the 17th ICC, together with the AIPEA Council, have agreed to postpone the scheduled conference from July 2021 to July 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and the resultant force majeure situation. We do hope to accomplish a more face-to-face meeting at the Istanbul 2022 conference and seek to achieve the most successful and memorable outcomes for clay sciences. For those that still may be limited by physical factors, we will do our best to include hybrid opportunities. The same excellent ICC field trips, workshops, and tours will be moved forward along with 33 updated thematic sessions. All new ICC-deadlines are posted on the meeting website icc.aipea.org. The ICC organizers hope that participants will be able visit Istanbul in 2022 to explore one of the most fascinating cities in human history. This will certainly be an opportunity of a lifetime for many from both scientific and cultural perspectives. We believe that this postpone-ment will add new horizons in science and culture to our experience via professional and personal exchanges in the historical city of Istanbul.

We are eager to host all of our colleagues and students and their families from all over the world to be able to show our hospitality in a safe environment.

Most sincerely,

Selahattin Kadir,
Conference General Chair
Paul A. Schroeder
Conference Co-Chair

AIPEA NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE

We are happy to announce that Bruno Lanson has taken over the role of Chair of the AIPEA Nomenclature Committee.

The purpose of the AIPEA Nomenclature Committee is to make general and specific recommendations concerning:

1. definitions of mineralogical and crystallographic clay-related terms;
2. classification and terminology of clays, clay minerals and related terms;
3. standardization of structural and descriptive terms;
4. the establishment of procedures/criteria for determining species;
5. the emphasis (or re-emphasis) of the proper use of terms; and
6. any additional aspects relating to nomenclature.

Approximately 25 published and unpublished reports have been written since the 1950s. An extensive report was published in Clay Minerals (2006; 41, 863-877).

Committee Members are:
Bruno Lanson
(CNRS-Grenoble) – Chair (2020-2021)
Jan Dietel
(Landeslabor Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany)
Karja Emmerich
(Karlsruhe Inst. Technol., Germany)
Hongping He
(Guangzhou Inst. Geoch., China)
Steve Hillier
(James Hurtun Institute, UK)
Toshihiro Kogure
(Univ. Tokyo, Japan)
Balwant Singh
(Univ. Sydney, Australia)
Elizabeth Rampe
(NASA Johnson Space Center, USA)
Marek Szafera
(Polish Acad. Sci., Poland)
George E. Christidis
(Clay Minerals Editor, ex officio)
Joseph Stucki
(Clays and Clay Minerals Editor, ex officio)
Yuan Peng
(Applied Clay Science Editor, ex officio)
The international community of clay mineral researchers benefits from two AIPEA list-serves. They are intended to make information pertaining to all areas of clay sciences available quickly. The first AIPEA list-serve (members@aipea.net) contains the e-mail address of all AIPEA members and those of its affiliated societies (national and regional clay groups). These e-mails are updated annually, and all members are automatically included in the AIPEA Members List. If you are a member of any AIPEA affiliated society and are not receiving messages, please check whether your affiliated society has sent an updated list of e-mails to the AIPEA webmaster. If your affiliated society is not yet affiliated with AIPEA, please encourage those in charge to make contact with the AIPEA President (president@aipea.net) or Secretary (secretary@aipea.net) for information. Alternatively, please also check the spam or junk or clutter box to be sure that AIPEA messages have not been misdirected to it.

AIPEA has also organized a “talk list” (talks@aipea.net) for people interested in clay science but who are not yet engaged in affiliated societies or AIPEA. Those interested in participating in the AIPEA talk list should send a message to talk.subscribe@aipea.net. Subscription to the list is completely free and you may remove your name from the list at any time just by sending a message to talk.unsubscribe@aipea.net.

Finally, if you wish to share information about any topic related to clay minerals with AIPEA members, please send a message to the AIPEA webmaster (webmaster@aipea.org) and/or to the AIPEA Secretary-General (secretary@aipea.org).

Peter Ryan
Secretary-General, AIPEA
April 2021
Activities of the Spanish Clay Society (Sociedad Española de Arcillas – SEA) in 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Spanish Clay Society was held via a virtual platform on November 13. A plenary lecture was offered by Julyan Cartwright (Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, CSIC-UGR) entitled “¿La chispa de la vida? Jardines químicos y el origen de la vida” (“The Spark of Life? Chemical gardens and the origin of life”).

The “Initiation to Clay Studies” Award in 2020 was granted to Adrián Lorenzo Hernández from the University of Salamanca for his Master’s Thesis entitled “Caracterización cristaloquímica y propiedades de bentonitas” (Crystallochemical characterization and properties of bentonites), supervised by Prof. Mercedes Suárez and Dr. Juan Morales Sánchez-Migallón. The Selection Committee of the Award was formed by Prof. Fernando Nieto García (University of Granada, SEA President), Dr. Jaime Cuevas (University Autónoma of Madrid, SEA Vice-President) and Dr. África Yebra Rodríguez (University of Jaén, SEA Secretary).

Some new SEA Council Board members were elected during the Annual General Meeting: Dr. Jaime Cuevas (University Autónoma of Madrid, Vice-President) and Dr. África Yebra Rodríguez (University of Jaén, Secretaries). Some new SEA Council Board members were elected during the Annual General Meeting: Dr. Jaime Cuevas (University Autónoma of Madrid, Vice-President) and Dr. África Yebra Rodríguez (University of Jaén, SEA Secretary).

In 2020, AIPEA was legally registered in the Spanish National Registry of Associations and got its own Tax Code. AIPEA is now able to issue valid invoices in its own name and act as a full legal entity.

We have contributed to Elements magazine, which ensures promotion of the AIPEA among the wider mineralogical community.

National Clay Groups
Dues corresponding to 2018-2019-2020 were received from Spain, Italy, Croatia, DTTG, France, North American CMS, Slovakia, Portugal, Turkey and China groups; 2018-2019 dues from Czech group; 2019-20 dues from British CMS; 2019 dues from Japan.

Individual Membership
Request to pay individual dues has been sent to those individual members finishing their affiliations during the last three years. Payment has been received for 1 renewal period (4 years).

PayPal
Payment of membership fees is facilitated through the use of PayPal (treasurer@aipea.org). Dues can be paid in either US dollars or Euros.

Website Support
The website is supported by AIPEA. We continue to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Saverio Fiore and the Italian Clay Group for keeping it up to date.

The AIPEA documental archive has been periodically transferred from one President to the following one. It consisted of five boxes mainly containing letters, communications among Representatives of AIPEA and National Clay Groups but also drafts of old Newsletters and some books. This archive had no interest for the current international relationships and activity of the Association but surely it is interesting from an “historical” point of view. Now it is in digital format: more than 10,000 documents were scanned and are now waiting cataloguing.

In 2020, AIPEA was legally registered in the Spanish National Registry of Associations and got its own Tax Code. AIPEA is now able to issue valid invoices in its own name and act as a full legal entity.

We have contributed to Elements magazine, which ensures promotion of the AIPEA among the wider mineralogical community.

National Clay Groups
Dues corresponding to 2018-2019-2020 were received from Spain, Italy, Croatia, DTTG, France, North American CMS, Slovakia, Portugal, Turkey and China groups; 2018-2019 dues from Czech group; 2019-20 dues from British CMS; 2019 dues from Japan.

Individual Membership
Request to pay individual dues has been sent to those individual members finishing their affiliations during the last three years. Payment has been received for 1 renewal period (4 years).

PayPal
Payment of membership fees is facilitated through the use of PayPal (treasurer@aipea.org). Dues can be paid in either US dollars or Euros.

Website Support
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AIPEA Balance Sheet
January through December, 31st 2020

ASSETS
Current Assets
Chequing/Savings
Bankia Current Acct. 79,929.29 €
Paypal 703.57 €
Cash 28.03 €
Total Chequing/Savings 80,660.89 €

Total Current Assets 80,660.89 €
TOTAL ASSETS 80,660.89 €

LIABILITIES & EQUITY
Equity
Unrestricted Net Assets 75,946.18 €
Net income 4,714.71 €

Total Equity 80,660.89 €
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 80,660.89 €

AIPEA Profit & Loss
January through December, 31st 2020

Ordinary Income/Expenses
Income
Program Income
Membership Dues 8,333.01 €
Total Program Income 8,333.01 €

Total Income 8,333.01 €

Expense
AIPEA newsletters n. 52 624.00 €
AIPEA regularization 1,639.49 €
Digitalization of old AIPEA documentation 800.00 €
Advertising Expenses (Elements) 509.81 €
Bank Charges & Interest 45.00 €

Total Expense 3,618.30 €

Net Ordinary Income 4,714.71 €

Net Income 4,714.71 €
other activities planned after our annual workshop were canceled.

The Mineralogical Society of Poland, at the Annual Meeting in Krakow on 10.12.2020, bestowed upon Peter Komadel the title of its Honorary Member. As a tribute to his great achievements in the field of clay mineralogy and his huge contribution to the development of cooperation between Polish and Slovak scientific communities. Unfortunately, the current situation did not allow Peter to accept this award personally.

Demänovská dolina – venue of VIIth Workshop of Slovak Clay Group

The small audience of the workshop 2020 chaired by J. Bujdák.

M. Štefánek talks about a hybrid film based on saponite and phloxine B.

Young P. Boháč taking care of even younger colleagues.

D. Furka describes the development of Q-vent.
ian Clay Group.

AIPEA has three committees working on key themes of international interest: Nomenclature, Teaching, and Hazardous Minerals. AIPEA also co-operates in international programs for excellence in Clay Science, such as the International Master in Advanced Clay Science (IMACS), a program jointly delivered by: the University of Poitiers (France); the Technical University of Crete (Chania - Greece); the University of Aveiro (Portugal); the University of Ottawa (Canada); and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre – Brazil).

Chief products:

The International Clay Conference (ICC), which takes place every four years, is the main AIPEA activity, and the next one is scheduled for Istanbul in July (12-16) 2021. AIPEA continues to improve its website as a source of information and support for the worldwide clay community (www.aipea.org).

AIPEA also produces an annual Newsletter that is distributed to members via e-mail and is also made accessible via the AIPEA Website. AIPEA has published two monographs of the book series AIPEA Educational Series (AES; ISSN: 2283-687):

- Interstratified clay minerals. Origin, characterization & geochemical significance;
- Magnesian clays: Characterization, origin and applications.

Electronic copy of the 1st AES volume, 2nd edition, is available for free download. Information can be found at www.aipea.org.

Chief accomplishments for 2020 and plans for 2021:

AIPEA produces an Annual Newsletter in digital format, which is available at the Association website. One of the main objectives of AIPEA is the quadrennial International Clay Conference. Planning is underway for 12-16 July, 2021 in Istanbul https://icc.aipea.org/.

AIPEA is now a legally-registered non-profit society in Spain, a process that was necessary to undertake in order to comply with international regulations. We are in the process of registering members who represent regional clay societies.

Through AIPEA.org, a members email list and a list-serve, AIPEA continues to serve as a means to communicate updates on news and forthcoming conferences.

AIPEA officers and council have convened electronically to assess the ICC-17 situation and along with the ICC-17 local committee in Istanbul, have decided to postpone ICC-17 to 2022.

Specify how any IUGS Allocation was used:

AIPEA is financially independent and receives income from individual members and affiliated societies and from registrations to the International Clay Conferences.

Budget request with justification (only applicable to low income groups):

None.

Does your website have a link to IUGS?

Yes.

Name, address and e-mail of person preparing this report:

Dr. Peter Crowley Ryan
Geology Department
Middlebury College
Middlebury Vermont 05753 USA
pryan@middlebury.edu
January 29, 2021

Siberia) (fig. 6), as well as to the Hydrothermal clays sites of Kamchatka (fig. 7).

Fig. 6. 10th Khutor bentonite deposit (Republic of Khakassia, Siberia)

Fig. 7. Hydrothermal clays of Kamchatka.

Preliminary information is now available on the website www.2023ruclay.ru.

We will be glad to welcome you to Moscow!

The group’s activities are covered on several resources:

- ruclay.com (under construction) - the official website of the group
- www.ruclay.com - dedicated to scientific projects
- www.argillas.ru - website of the initiative group

Despite the current situation, the Russian group managed to organize many different social mostly on-line events that contribute to creating a warm atmosphere within the group. On behalf of RCG, I wish you all creative success and invite you to scientific events!

President of Russian Clay Group
Dr. Victoria Krupskaya
(krupskaya@ruclay.com)

SLOVAK CLAY GROUP (SCG)

THE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FROM 2020

Common and everyday life, as we knew it before, was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during the year 2020. So, it is not a surprise that also clay societies and their activities were significantly restricted. Many of us looked forward to the 10th Jubilee Conference, MECC 2020, in Klécków Castle in Poland. Unfortunately, the conference was postponed for the pandemic situation to 2022 after consulting all members of the Central European Clay Group.

The SCG had planned an annual workshop in May 2020. It was also canceled because the rules during the pandemic did not allow such activities. We thought about postponing to next year at the first moment. However, the situation in Slovakia was very favorable at the end of spring and during summer. Therefore, we decided that if the situation allows, the workshop could be organized in early September. The situation in autumn was still good and most of our members were interested in participating in the workshop, so the SCG finally decided to organize the VIIth Workshop of Slovak Clay Group in Demänovská dolina, 7-9 September 2020. Demänovská dolina is a beautiful, long valley situated on the northern side of the Low Tatras mountains (Photo 1). 24 participants presented 24 contributions. 12 of them student oral presentations (Photos 2-6). The invited lecture described the way from the first idea to a serial product of emergency artificial lung ventilator Q-vent developed during the first month of the Coronavirus crisis by a group of young scientists leading by the Furka brothers, partly supervised by M. Janek. Newly developed composite organic-inorganic hybrid material based on thermoplastic with antimicrobial activity was applied as a mask to composite material with antimicrobial properties (e.g. D. Hromniková et al., N. Dadi et al.). The mineralogy of hydrothermal illite-smectite was presented by Y. Bai et al. The interactions of organic dyes with clay minerals were presented by a group of four presenters (e.g. T. Baranyaiová et al., M. Barlog et al.). Two talks were about theoretical studies aimed at beidellite interactions (e.g. D. Moreno et al.). Our group was lucky. We were able to organize a successful workshop in a very friendly and pleasant atmosphere (Photo 7, 8) and enjoy nice weather when hiking in Demänovská dolina. Unfortunately, the second wave of COVID-19 came later, and
the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS) gGmbH (Germany), Japanese Research Institute of Georesources and the Environment (AIST), Institute of Geological Sciences of Poland, and others.

Awards
In December 2020, the Mineralogical Society of Poland nominated Professor Victor A. Drits as its Honorary Member, a title awarded to scientists who have made outstanding contributions to mineralogical science and have rendered special services to PTMin.

Scientific events
On December 1-2, 2020, members of the Russian Clay Group organized and held the All-Russian Internet Symposium “Chemically modified minerals and biopolymers in the XXI century”. CHEMOPOLYS 2020 featured international participation and was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of polymer science. The focus areas included natural polymers of inorganic (layered minerals, zeolites, geopolymers) and organic (polysaccharides, biopolymers) compounds, issues of chemical modification of the structure and properties of polymers, and synthesis of hybrid and composite materials based on them. [http://vglin.ru/universitet/fakultety/lesopromyslyshen-nyj/fakultet/kafedry3/kafedra-himi/chemopolys-2020/]

Announcement
On November 15-19, 2021, the jubilee V Russian Clay and Clay Minerals Meeting - “CLAYS -2021” will take place, and will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of B.B. Zyvgian, the outstanding Russian scientist in the field of crystal chemistry of clay minerals. Regular Russian events on clays have been held since 2011, when the First Russian Clay and Clay Minerals Meeting “CLAYS -2011” took place.

Scientific program:
Session S1: Crystal chemistry of clay minerals, modern methods of diagnostics and research.
Session S2: Geology, mineralogy and geochemistry, soils and sediments
Session S4: The behavior of clay minerals in weathering crust, soils, palaeosols, and organo-clay relationships
Session S5: Clay and clay materials as sorbents and insulating safety barriers in the disposal of toxic waste.

The VII Russian School of Clay Minerals “Argilla Studium-2021” (November 8-12, 2021) will take place before the start of the Russian Clay and Clay Minerals Meeting. The conference will be combined with face-to-face and online participation. At the moment, restrictions on holding events have been lifted in the Russian Federation, but we cannot predict the development of the situation in the future. When holding face-to-face meetings, all the necessary requirements for epidemiological safety will be met.

Venue: IGM RAS, 119017, Staromonetny per. 35, Moscow. The language of the event is Russian and English. Info, registration and possibility for abstract submission will be available soon at: [www.argillas.ru]

EUROCLAY-2023
At a meeting of the European Clays and Clay Minerals Association (ECGA) during EUROCLAY-2019 in Paris (France), it was decided that the next Euroclay conference will be held in Moscow in 2023. For the first time in the history of major international conferences on clays and clay minerals, Russia has been honored to host the international scientific community.

EUROCLAY 2023
Moscow, 25-29 July 2023
[www.euroclay2023.ru]

Planning for EUROCLAY-2023 is ongoing with the support of ECGA, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Mineralogical Society and others. The main organizers are the Institute of Geology of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IGEM RAS); the Institute of Precambrian Geology and Geochronology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, IGGD RAS; M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (Lomonosov Moscow State University); Commission on Clay Minerals of the Russian Mineralogical Society (http://minsoc.ru); Bentonite Company LLC; I-Globeclage Corporation Company together with Rigaku Company, ANO “Research Center “Open Region”, and more.

In addition to the actual scientific sessions, several geological fieldtrips of varying duration are planned. Information on short excursions will be published closer to the beginning of the conference.
One planned trip is a 3-day geological excursion to the 10th Khutor bentonite deposit (Republic of Khakassia, Republic of Khakassia, Republic of Khakassia, Republic of Khakassia, Republic of Khakassia). "CLAYS -2011" took place.

Qing Yang Institute for Industrial Minerals (QYIM) and Zhejiang University of Technology, and the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays, along with some other universities and research institutions successfully organized and held THE 4th FORUM ON INDUSTRIAL MINERALS (WFIM-4) on October 17-19, 2020, in Qing Yang, Anhui Province, China. The meeting is chaired by Prof. Chun Hui ZHOU and co-chaired by Kang De BAO, Chu Wang LIU, Zheng Li SUN and Jing Long PANG. Around 200 attendees consisted of clay mineral scientists, experts, technologists, managers, science journalists, and staff from relevant governmental sectors. Profs Mao Song ZHEN, Kang De BAO, Hou Sheng Xia, Chun Hui ZHOU and Postgrad Wen Kai CAI delivered plenary speeches, demonstrating and discussing new advances in technological innovations and increasing commercialization of high value-added industrial minerals-based products in the context of building a sustainable and green world. Qian Jia WANG and Zhen Wei YANG from companies also gave presentations on seeking new driving force of sci-tech for better R&D of clay and other industrial minerals.

Australian Clay scientist Will P Gates, in his video-recorded speech to the opening ceremony of WFIM-4, said, “I am delighted that today so many of you have gathered in Qingyang for the 4th WFIM to have discussions on this year’s theme ‘New Driving Force of Sci-Tech for Better Developing Industrial Minerals’. I know that Qingyang is rich in industrial minerals, in particular limestone and dolomite. Due in part to the great efforts of various sectors and the strong support of science and technology advanced by institutes such as the Qingyang Institute for Industrial Minerals, the minerals industry has made great progress in recent years in improving mineral processing and turning the industry ‘much greener’. Additionally, several new factories have been built in the Qingyang Shi-An Industrial Park. The product chain from these factories now extends to nano calcium carbonate, mineral/polymer composite-based furniture and functional paints and coatings. Industrial mineral products underpin nearly all aspects of modern society, involving construction, energy exploitation, electronics, environmental applications, medicine and veterinary science, as well as materials for everyday needs, including paper, cosmetics and food. All these applications of industrial minerals – and the processes that the factories support in the Qingyang area as well as worldwide – are important for economic development and for improving people’s lives. Through science and technological developments, together we can overcome many of the challenges facing the industrial minerals industry.”

Together snapshot of some participants of the 4th Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-4) [photo courtesy of Chui-Hui Zhou]
Scientists watching video on clay minerals and other industrial minerals made by Qing Yang Institute for Industrial Minerals (QYIM) during WFIM-4 opening ceremony. [photo courtesy of Chui-Hui Zhou]

A Team for Organizing the 4th Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-4) [photo courtesy of Chui-Hui Zhou]

ANNOUNCEMENT

Now Scientists in the field of clay minerals and other industrial minerals around the world are all welcome to submit latest work to and attend:

The 5th World Forum on Industrial Minerals (WFIM-5) & AIPEA Short Course – 2021

Theme: Working Together on Industrial Minerals in a Green and Sustainable Future

October 16-19, 2021. Qing Yang (Jiu Hua Shan), Chi Zhou City, Anhui, China

E: wfm5_2021@126.com

The activities expect to range from oral and poster presentations, enjoyable social banquets to pleasure one-day field trips to gorgeous UNESCO World Geological Parks.

For details on WFIM-5, please contact: wfm5_2021@126.com & Will P Gates: will.gates@deakin.edu.au

For AIPEA Short Course – 2021, please contact: wfm5_2021@126.com & Jeanne Percival: jeanne.percival@canada.ca

Looking forward to meeting you in Oct 2021 just in scenic Qingyang County and Jiu Hua Shan World geological park!

In the summer of 2020, a group of geologists conducted a field trip to the ultramafic massifs of the Polar Urals in order to develop a predictive exploration model of alpine-type chrome mineralization of the high-chromium type. Also, the work was carried out to provide methodological support for the first stage of prospecting works (Fig. 3, materials provided by Nikita Chupalenkov, VIMS).

Fig 3. Geological work along the Iskisoim and Kutlopsoim streams, Polar Urals.

In September 2020, members of the RCG participated in fieldwork at the Khotynetskoe deposit of zeolite-bearing triplite. It is the largest developed triplite and zeolite deposit in Russia. Samples were taken and the geological structure of the deposit was documented. The mineral and chemical compositions and sorption properties of rocks were studied.

Fig. 4. Geological work at the Khotynetskoe deposit of zeolite-bearing triplite.

Members of the RCG specialize in different research areas, including structures and structural heterogeneities of layered silicates, the behavior of clay minerals in soils and organomineral interactions, modern and ancient weathering crusts, bentonite, kaolin and palygorskite clay deposits, clay minerals as indicators of diagenesis and epithermal transformations, geochronology, palaeogeography and paleontology, the effect of clay mineral composition on permeability and capacitive properties of hydrocarbon reservoirs, physico-chemical and physico-mechanical properties of clay soils and clay barriers for isolation of nuclear heritage sites and radioactive waste (RW) storage, microstructure and colloidal properties of clays and clay soils natural state vs compacted, features of diffusion and migration of technogenic components through clay soils and compacted bentonites, sorption of radionuclides (Cs, Sr, U, Am, Np), argillotherapy in a complex of restorative treatment, the swelling of clays, theoretical and experimental study of rheology, and electrochemical clay properties and polymer-clay dispersions, organoclays, modification of clays as additives for plastic lubricants, stabilizers of inverse emulsions, and much more.

International collaborations

Despite the restrictions that arose in our lives during 2020, international collaboration of Group members only grew due to the strengthening of ties with the Joint Institute for Energy and Nuclear Research – “Sosny” – of...
RUSSIAN CLAY GROUP

The Russian Clay Group (RCG) is affiliated to the European Clay Group Association (ECCGA). RCG was created in 1994 and includes 39 members who confirmed their membership in 2020.

Honorary President: Prof. Victor Drits, Geological Institute RAS.
President: Dr. Victoria Krupskaya, Institute of Ore Geology, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry RAS.
Secretary: Dr. Petr Belousov, Institute of Ore Geology, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry RAS (since 2018).

A difficult time during 2020 prevented group members from participating in conferences and meetings, as many scientific events were canceled. However, the transition to the on-line mode made it possible to maintain scientific activity at a sufficiently high level. Traditionally, members of the Russian Clay Group take part in various field trips activities. The geography of field research is very wide: European platform, the Urals, Siberia, Far East, Antarctica, Arctic, etc. During 2020, travel opportunities were reduced, however, some interesting courses did take place and were carried out quite successfully. In July-August 2020, field studies of modern hydrothermal formations of the Kamchatka Peninsula were carried out in the area of the South Kambalny Central Thermal Field (Fig. 1), with material provided by Mikhail Chernov (Lomonosov Moscow State University).

During field work in the summer of 2020, samples were taken from Vendian sedimentary rocks of the Southern Urals in order to clarify the volume and formational affiliation of Vendian lithostratigraphic units, and the relationship of Vendian deposits with the underlying Riphean and overlying Paleozoic formations (Fig. 2, material provided by Tatyana Zaitseva, IGGD RAS).

This session of the AIPEA Newsletter brings together the reports about the many activities developed by its Affiliated Societies/Groups up to December 2020. It represents an effort to coordinate communication among all National (Regional) Clay Group (NCG) members and the individual members of AIPEA. It aims to become a key vehicle for communication of all clay scientists.

For this issue, AIPEA Newsletter has received reports or announcements from the majority of AIPEA affiliated societies and groups. We are grateful to all our collaborators, as we believe that sharing information will provide inspiration and ideas for collaboration and initiatives within and among societies. The readers will notice that the content of each report is particular to each society.

All has been done with much care and interest and we wish you a pleasant reading.

Peter Ryan
Secretary-General, AIPEA
December 2020

CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS

The 2020 Annual Meeting of Chinese Geoscience Union (CGU) was held on 17-21 October 2020, in Chongqing, China. This conference was organized by CGU. More than 2000 participants attended this conference, and seventy sections were organized. Among them, the 69th section focused on mineral science and technology. About 25 oral presentations were given in this section, and about half of them were from the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC) members. For example, Dr. Hao Liu applied clay minerals to store heat energy and Prof. Runliang Zhu synthesized novel silicon materials from clay minerals as effective Li battery storage materials.

The 4th Asian Clay Conference (ACC-2020) was held in Thailand, June 8-9, 2020. This conference was in a fully-online style, because of the effect of COVID-19 virus. Prof. Makoto Ogawa was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee. Many CASC members attended the conference. Prof. Hongping He was a member of the organizing committee, and Prof. Chuanhui Zhou, Qiang Wang, Min Wei and Peng Yuan were in the international advisory board.
The 2nd Forum on Innovative Technology and Industry Development of Non-Metallic Mineral Materials was held on December 3-5, 2020, in Wuhan, China. Prof. Shaoxian Song from Wuhan University of Science and Technology was the president of this forum. This forum focused on the development and application of non-Metallic Mineral Materials. Over 300 attendees attended the conference, among which over half were from CASC. Prof. Hongjuan Sun was the vice president of the forum, and Prof. Libin Liao, Aiqing Wang, Runliang Zhu, Peng Yuan, and others gave invited talks in the conference.

In February 2020, the website for the 10th European Clay Conference was opened (www.mecc20.pl). In March 2020, a manufacturing company started to produce the famous handcrafted Bolesławiec pottery with the logo of the conference, based on the previously prepared original project. The tradition ally-decorated cup presented to the integration of the Polish and Slovak scientific communities, his personal involvement in ensuring the high quality of clay mineralogy research carried out in both countries, and initiation of the Mid-European Clay Conference cycle.

Katarzyna Górnia, Tadeusz Szydłak

In April 2020, the session proposals were completed. Unfortunately, at the end of April, due to the covid-19 pandemic situation, the Polish Clay Group, after the agreement with the co-organizer of the conference (National Clay Group of Croatia, Austria-Germany-Swiss, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia), has decided to postpone the 10th Mid-European Clay Conference from September 2020 to September 2022. We decided to move the Conference forward to 2022 in order to avoid overlapping with the International Clay Conference and Euroclay (planned for 2023). The Polish Clay Group would like to inform the community that at the Annual General Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Poland held in Krakow on 10.12.2020, Professor Peter Komadel was awarded the title of Honorary Member of the Society. This honorary title was granted at the request of the Polish Clay Group, which particularly appreciated the enormous contribution of Peter to the integration of the Polish and Slovak scientific communities, his personal involvement in ensuring the high scientific level of clay mineralogy research carried out in both countries, and initiation of the Mid-European Clay Conference cycle.

Katarzyna Górnia, Tadeusz Szydłak

CROATIA
CROATIAN CLAY GROUP

In 2020, an election was held to renew the board of the Croatian Clay Group (CCG) for the next 2 years. Dr. Nikolina Ilijanić was elected as new president and Jasmina Martinčević Lazar became new secretary, both from the Croatian Geological Survey (HGI-CGS). Currently, CCG has 13 members actively involved in the work of CCG, while 13 are passive members. During 2020, certain activities were planned that include one or two excursions to clay pits and industrial factories, but due to the global pandemic situation, they were postponed until further notice.

Because of the still ongoing situation with COVID-19, the work of CCG was limited and the activity of members redirected mostly to holding lectures and writing publications. Some of these have been published in prestigious journals (Chemosphere, Environmental Geotechnics, Applied Soil Ecology and others). A very interesting series of lectures about qualitative and quantitative analysis of clay minerals and their applications in geosciences was given by Branimir Segvić (PhD, Assistant Professor on Texas Tech University and member of CCG). Lectures were held at the University of Geneva.

Members of CCG actively participated in various projects. The great importance for the clay mineralogist’s community had a project “VIRTULAB - Integrated laboratory for primary and secondary raw materials” with funding from European Structural and Investment Funds (Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020). The aim of this project was to reestablish and improve laboratory equipment at the University of Zagreb. Within the framework of the project, along with a number of other equipment, the new X-ray diffractometer Empyrean Panalytical was procured. The instrument is installed at the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering and it will certainly contribute to the future research work of clay mineralogists from CCG.

President: Dr. Nikolina Ilijanić (Croatian Geology Survey)
Secretary: Jasmina Martinčević Lazar (Croatian Geology Survey)
of Juris Burlakovs (University of Latvia), Inga Jurgelāne (Riga Technical University), Jūlija Karasa (University of Latvia), Solvita Kostjukova (AELBA), Olita Medne (Riga Technical University), Rūta Ozola-Davidāne (University of Latvia), Ilze Vircava (Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies).

We are looking forward to the next Nordic Clay Meeting in real life!
FRANCE
FRENCH CLAY GROUP (GFA)

1. Committee
The French Clay Group has had a stable membership base of more than 100 members during the last two years. Efforts are being made to attract more non-permanent members, in particular by including Representatives of Ph.D and postdocs as members of the GFA advisory board.

2. Accomplishments
The health crisis has forced us to cancel the annual conference initially scheduled for May 2020. This meeting has been postponed to May 2021 and should take place remotely. Meanwhile, we proposed an e-meeting on December 8th for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows to present quickly their work and to discuss with members of the group. This event realized on Zoom gathered 11 presentations and 40 participants during one afternoon. The feedback is positive and confirms the benefits of this type of event for young researchers.

In 2020, the GFA launched a newsletter sent to members every three months. It summarizes current actions proposed by the Executive Committee, upcoming events (national/international conferences), open positions for application and historical anecdotes about GFA. The GFA’s Twitter account (@gfa_clays) has also been created. Most of the tweets are post in English for a broader audience. In particular, a series of messages has been proposed by Liva Dzene about GFA’s history based on the work of Bruno Lanson.

3. Implementation of GFA awards
Currently, the GFA awards prizes for young researchers at its annual conference (best oral communication / best poster presentation). Like some other national groups, the GFA would like to introduce two awards for senior researchers:

1. Award for “Young” investigator (< 40 years old) with a call for applications and the setting up of a commission from the members of the Advisory board. This award is not exclusive to GFA members and will be disseminated to other national societies (SFC and others) to reach anyone working with “clay” materials.

2. Award for advanced scientists (~ 40 - 50 years) with the same modalities (call for nominations and selection committee from the Advisory board). This award is open to international application to give more visibility to GFA.

The GFA Young investigator award was attributed to Fabien Hubert (Insitut de Chimie des Milieux et Matériaux de Poitiers).

4. Implication in international instances
Bruno Lanson, Research Director at CNRS-Grenoble, now serves as President of the Clay Minerals Society (USA). Andrey Kalinichev, Professor at the Ecole des Mines de Nantes, is the new Past President of the Clay Minerals Society (USA).

For further updated information: http://www.cssj2.org/ english/ or contact Jun Kawamata, Yamaguchi University, e-mail: j_kawa@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp.

Jun Kawamata
January/2021

LATVIA
NORDIC CLAY MEETING
Nordic Clay meeting took place on February 8-10, 2021 online. The event was organized by the Latvian Clay Science Society with support from the University of Latvia and Alina. The meeting was attended by forty delegates from France, Germany, Sweden, Russia, Slovakia, Denmark, Norway, Great Britain, Estonia and Latvia. The participants presented their research in five sessions: clays environmental aspects in geology and modern soils, clay-based composite materials, clay mineral properties, clay mineral synthesis and clays in archaeology and arts. The book of abstracts and program of the event is available here: https://www.latclay.lv/.

During the coffee break the clay artwork of Liga Skariņa, associate professor at the Art Academy of Latvia, was showcased. Although an online meeting cannot replace a real in person meeting, the event was still a success. It allowed researchers to present and discuss their work, and to keep in touch during this challenging time.

The scientific committee consisted of: Reiner Dohrmann (AIPAE), Steve Hillier (The James Hutton Institute), Kalle Kirs密ce (Tartu University), Ulla Grit Nielsen (University of Southern Denmark), Michael Holmboe (Umeå University), Ilze Vircava (Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies), and Liva Dzene (Université de Haute-Alsace). The organizing committee consisted

Examples of some tweets about GFA’s historical anecdotes
In 2020 the DTTG learned to look into the future. It started when we decided with our members that the officers were to keep their posts until the Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC) which will be held 2022 in Kliczków, Poland. Fortunately we did not have to cancel a DTTG workshop, which is scheduled for 2021. It will be held September 13 to the 17th 2021 at the Research Institute for Inorganic Materials Glas / Keramik GmbH FGK near Koblenz. For registration information check the DTTG website or contact Christoph Piribauer (Christoph.Piribauer@fgk-keramik.de) directly.

How has life changed for the DTTG during the pandemic? Actually we had more online meetings than we ever had before. Long email exchanges were replaced by virtual meetings, which seem to be more effective than the email exchanges. We all enjoyed seeing and talking to our clay colleagues even if it was only virtual. But there was one thing missing, we could not share a beer or glass of wine. That is something to look forward to in 2022 when we are looking forward to having in person meetings and conferences.

As an update the current board consists of Matthias Schellhorn (left); Stephan Schmidt KG in Dornburg as President; Georg Grabhoff (middle) University of Greifswald, as VP; and Kristian Ufer (right). BGR Hannover, as treasurer. Further details of upcoming meetings, workshops, and the composition of the complete board can be found on the DTTG website https://www.dttg.ethz.ch/

1. Board of the Hungarian Clay Group
The board of the Clay Mineralogy Section, affiliated to the Hungarian Geological Society (HGS) (in the following, for simplicity, the Hungarian Clay Group, HCG) works for the period 2018-2021. The board is heading for new election, due in May-June, 2021.

The board consists of the following:
President: Erzsébet Harman-Tóth (Eötvös Museum of Natural History, Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
Secretary: István Koves (Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)

Members of the Committee: Brigitta Réka Báics (Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)
Izabella M. Farkas (MOL Plc., Group E&P Production Management, Applied Materials, Technologies & Laboratories, Geoscience Thematic Unit, Budapest)
János Kristóf (Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary)
Tibor Németh (Department of Mineralogy, Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest; Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)
Béla Raucsik (Department of Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology, Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged, Szeged)
Péter Sipos (Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, HAS, Budapest)

2. Meetings of the Hungarian Clay Group in 2020
In 2020, the Hungarian Clay Group had 3 meetings, all of them organised jointly with other society branches; one of them was held online due to the pandemic.
17th-18th January: 15th Winter School on Mineral Sciences, “Interfaces, interface processes, frontiers”. (Veszprém, jointly organised by Subcommittee on Nano-Mineralogy of HAS, HGS MGB, HGS HCG, and the University of Pannonia; meeting language: Hungarian)


4. Defence of relevant Hungarian PhD Theses in 2020:

31st August: Hegyesi, Nóra (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, supervisor: Pukánszky, Béla): Nanofilms: properties, surface modification and applications.

3rd September: Zacháry, Dóra (Eötvös Loránd University, supervisor: Szalai, Zoltán; Jakab, Gergely): The effect of the mineral phase on the soil organic carbon cycle (Az áványi fázis hatása a talaj szerveszén forgalmára, in Hungarian)

9th December, 2020: Kovács, Ivett (Eötvös Loránd University, supervisor: Németh, Tibor): Formation of the hydrothermal clay and APS mineral assemblages in the Velence Mountains (Hidrotermális agyag- és APS áványnádasok képződése a Velencei-hegységben, in Hungarian).

5. Others:

The best thing that could have happened in 2020 to the locked-down Hungarian Clay Group was the 100th birthday of Professor Ernő Némecz (22nd August). He was congratulated on this occasion by the President of the Hungarian Geological Society (Támás Budai, in Hungarian, Feldtani Közöny, 2020, 150/3, pp. 367–368; https://ojs.mtak.hu/index.php/foldtanikozlony/article/view/4583/3584 ) and a compilation of his relationship to HGS was published by Gábor Papp and colleagues (Némecz Ernő and the Hungarian Geological Society, in Hungarian, Feldtani Közöny, 2020, 150/3, pp. 369–374; https://ojs.mtak.hu/index.php/foldtanikozlony/article/view/4584/3585 ). The Board of the Hungarian Clay Group presented a compilation of clay-related literary citations.

Technology (DST), University of Sannio, Benevento
Rocco LAVIANO (Department of the Earth and Geo-environmental Sciences, University of Basilicata, Meteotecnica)
Laura SCIRANO (Department of European Cultures and Mediterranean (DICEM), University of Basilicata, Potenza)
Lara MARITAN (Department of Geosciences, University of Padova)
Chiiara Zanelli (Institute of Science and Technology for Ceramics – ISTEC-CNR, Faenza, Ravenna)

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Antonio Lertino
Secretary, AISA
E-Mail: segretaria@aipsa.it

THE CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY OF JAPAN

1. Committee
The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2021 and 2022.
President:
Prof. T. Kogure, The University of Tokyo
Vice president:
Prof. M. Nakagawa, Kochi University
Dr. H. Chino, Obayashi Corporation
Secretary General:
Prof. T. Sato, Hokkaido University
Principal Editors:
Dr. T. Hishino, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Nendo Kagaku)
Prof. T. Nakato, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Clay Science)

2. The 64th annual meeting
The 64th annual meeting of the Clay Science Society of Japan was originally scheduled at Shinshu University from 15 to 16, September 2020. It was principally organized by Prof. Seichi Taruta of Shinshu University. However, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, it was postponed to next September. Only the general member meeting was held on 15th September 2020 using an online meeting system.

3. Awards
The society presented awards to the following members at the occasion of the general member meeting.
Clay Science Society of Japan Award was given to K. Tamura, National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS).
Achievement Award was given to S. Wada, Astec Co., Ltd.
Young Researcher Award was given to H. Mukai (University of Tsukuba).
Best Technological Award was given to Hazama Ando Corporation.
Best Paper Awards were given to J. Kemi et al. (Clay Science, 23, 31-39) and M. Okawara et al. (Clay Science, 23, 19-24).
Young Student Award was given to K. Arakawa (Tokyo Metropolitan University).

3. Clay-related presentations at other meetings in Hungary:
Presentations on clay minerals were presented also at several other organisations, in other sections of the Hungarian Geological Society (HGS) and in various branches of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). The meetings were held not only in Budapest but in other places, too (in the following report these locations and organisations are specially indicated). The following meetings and presentations related to clay problems were held:

26th November (Budapest): 7th Workshop of Earth Sciences Related Higher Education Institutions (organised jointly with the Higher Education Working Committee, Committee on Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; Earth Sciences Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; HGS MGR; HGS Education and Training Section; Department of Mineralogy, Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
The yearly meeting helps networking and collaboration of earth and environmental sciences-related higher-education institutions. This year the meeting was held online and concentrated on sharing the experiences with online teaching.

3. Clay-related presentations at other meetings in Hungary:
Presentations on clay minerals were presented also at several other organisations, in other sections of the Hungarian Geological Society (HGS) and in various branches of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS). The meetings were held not only in Budapest but in other places, too (in the following report these locations and organisations are specially indicated). The following meetings and presentations related to clay problems were held:

13th January (Budapest) (organised jointly with the Mineralogical-Geochemical Branch of the Hungarian Geological Society, abbreviated as HGS MGB in the following):
Review of conferences held in 2019 and overview of the coming conferences in 2020
At the meeting, 8 conferences of 2019 were reviewed, and 5 conferences due in 2020 highlighted. The following conference presentations were of clay mineralogical relevance:
Györkös, D.: 15th Geological Society, abbreviated as HGS MGB in the following):
Review of conferences held in 2019 and overview of the coming conferences in 2020
At the meeting, 8 conferences of 2019 were reviewed, and 5 conferences due in 2020 highlighted. The following conference presentations were of clay mineralogical relevance:
Györkös, D.: 15th
THE ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CLAYS – AISA

2020 ACTIVITIES:
AISA members were mainly involved during 2020 in the presentation of research results at international and national conferences and in the participation on research programs. AISA members focused last year’s international activities on the organization of the GEOHEALTH 2020 from 1 to 5 September 2020. The Organizing Committee decided to manage GHC2020 Virtual Meeting as closely as possible to a physical meeting. Talks and poster presentations had in live mode as well as the questions to the speakers. About one hundred participants of different nationality attended the sessions during which they were shared ideas and knowledge on the impact of natural environment on health. The material of the conference is available at: https://geohealth-scientists.org/

INDIA

CLAY MINERAL SOCIETY OF INDIA: ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES – A CONCEPT NOTE

Background:
The Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI) is a premier professional interdisciplinary not-for-profit scientific society in the service of scientists, industrialists, technologists and others to meet and foster the advancement in the various fields of Clay Science, viz., clay mineralogy, soil science, geology, material sciences, nanotechnology, ceramics, mining, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, and a host of other kindred academic and industrial disciplines, where clay minerals are of primary focus.

The Society has been organizing conventions, workshops, conferences and regularly publishing its journal, Clay Research, a double-blind peer-reviewed scholarly publication. It is indexed in Scopus, Google Scholar, CNKI Scholar, EBSCO Discovery, and Summon (ProQuest). Since the inception of the society in 1981, it follows publication ethics aiming for international standard of global dissemination of scientific knowledge. Therefore, the journal does not charge authors any fees for submission, and accepts papers from authors irrespective of contributing author(s) nationality, race, gender and membership of the CMSI. Its publication profile of contributing authors, editors and reviewers is international. CMSI earns annual revenue from the journal “Clay Research”.

The present COVID 19 pandemic has disturbed the ecosystem of the entire world. It has changed the functional mechanism of every nation. Prima facie this pandemic has made a significant dent in the economy of almost all nations. However, this has opened another window of virtual world. No matter where you are, your thoughts can be captured in your mobile phone in real time. The true spirit of A3 (Anywhere, Anytime and Anyone) is a reality now. Infact, this pandemic has forced us to traverse through a technology driven path in almost all walks of life.

After initial jolts during first phase of Lockdown in India, all organisations are defining their new norms to continue their regular activities. CMSI also is now geared up to unfold its activities. The annual convention of CMSI could not be organised in the usual way and, therefore, virtual platform is the only option this time. This will give CMSI an opportunity to invite international Clay Scientists to deliver talks through Webinar.

DUST 2021 will focus on inorganic atmospheric particulates and there will be a wide range of scientific contributions, such as the techniques used to characterize the particulates, the impact on human beings and the environment and the importance of dust in geological times, etc. The meeting will provide a unique opportunity for mineralogists, physicists, geochemists, engineers, volcanologists, chemists and for many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of atmospheric particles. Information is available at: https://www.dust2021.amedium.net. The proposal is related to the following themes:

- Chemistry & Mineralogy
- Geological Records
- Health & Environment
- Instrumentation & Measurements
- Transport & Deposition
- Universe of Dust [miscellaneous]

AISA Council Board members 2018-2021

President:
Vito SUMMA (Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis, IMAA-CNR, Tito Scalo, Potenza)

Secretary:
Antonio LETTINO (Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis, IMAA-CNR, Tito Scalo, Potenza)

Treasurer:
Saverio FIORE (Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis, IMAA-CNR, Tito Scalo, Potenza)

Vice President:
Fernanda Nora ANDREOLA (Department of Engineering “Enzo Ferrari”, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

Councillors:
Luca ALDEGA (Department of the Earth Sciences, University of Rome La Sapienza)
Mariano MERCURIO (Department of Science and...
which otherwise could not even dreamt of. Let us harness the full potential of this situation.

Keeping these issues in mind, the following activities are planned to take up in the next six months. A webinar may be organised solely for the Prof S K Mukherjee - CMSI Foundation lecture.

The lecture may be delivered by an eminent International Clay Scientist, preferably not of Indian origin. Time and date may be fixed as per the convenience of the speaker, but keeping in mind the participation of proper audience also.

A monthly lecture on different aspects of Clay Science of about 30 minute duration may be organised on every fourth Sunday of the month around 6 pm followed by discussions not necessarily restricting to the delivered lecture but also on general matters of the subject and the society. The initiation of this monthly lecture programme may preferably be done by an expert from the Industry.

Webinars involving student’s presentation may be organized and may be rewarded with cash prize and certificate.

Regional coordinators may organize lectures on different branches of Clay Science at least once every six months.

CLAY RESEARCH IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Clay research is developing in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at the Chemistry Department of the University of Sulaimani as well as in Salahaddin University, Koya University, Raparin University and University of Duhok. Clays in this geologically complex region at the boundary of the Arabian and Eurasian plates have been used for millennia as architectural, medicinal and industrial materials and more; today, saponite deposits in the Tagaran and Topkhana regions and smectite-rich bentonites in many areas have potential application for wastewater treatment, and various deposits in Miocene sediments have strong potential ceramic uses. Recent work headed up by professors Diler Shwan, Bakhtyar K. Aziz, Irfan Omar Mousa Yara and Karukh Ali Babakr have revealed distribution and composition of a wide array of clay mineral types in the Kurdistan region and there is potential for international collaboration efforts. These photographs from field excursions reveal some of the beauty in the clay attractions of Kurdistan.

Field work by researchers in the Sharbazher District, Kurdistan.

Sampling deformed sedimentary rocks in Garmek-Penjwin area, Kurdistan.

Dissected plateau and bentonite landscape, Garmian Region, Kurdistan.

ISRAEL
ISRAELI SOCIETY FOR CLAY RESEARCH

This last year has been a peculiar one, to say the least. The Covid-19 health and social challenges have affected all of us to some extent. Still, these obstacles can bring with them opportunities and possibilities that were previously overlooked. Online international seminars and conferences, flexible working hours and an opportunity for reflection. In this respect, our small tight knit scientific society offers many advantages, such as strong personal connections and the inside track to the different disciplines within the clay field. Our society has over 40 members from several research institutions and varied scientific fields, including geology, environmental science, material science, biotechnology, water and soil sciences, and chemical engineering. I would like to build on this diversity and our personal connections to improve the research we do and our international visibility. To that end, we have launched a new webpage on the AIPEA website: https://israel.aipea.org/. The webpage will be updated periodically with announcements, job postings and other topics of interest. In addition, we are working on a spring workshop dedicated to displaying the different areas of our research. We already have two proposed topics that will be covered, the first dealing with FTIR surface characterization of clay-based materials (headed by Prof. Rytwo) and the latter dealing with the use of isotopes in clay research (headed by Dr. Zaarur). Please feel free to contact me with more ideas for relevant and interesting topics. The workshop will also encourage student participation and there will be time allotted for student poster presentations. I hope to see you all there. Lastly, I would like to welcome our new members: I wish you all the best and hope you will find this society a valuable resource. Let us all use this platform to create new and meaningful collaborations by merging the classical and the emerging areas of clay research.

Dr. Adi Radian