INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

1st Business Meeting

Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall, Vancouver, BCV6T 1Z1

Room 124

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by President Takamitsu Yamanaka**
2. **Roll call of the Delegates**
3. **Approval of the Business Meetings in Kobe, July 2006**
4. **Appointment of the Auditing Committee** (Constitution, Article 5c)
5. **Reports of the Executive officers**
   - **5.1 - IMA Communication**
   - **5.2. - The IMA Medal Committee**
   - **5.3 - The Outreach Committee**
6. **Designation of the first IMA Medallist**
7. **Future meetings**
   - **7.1 - 20th IMA General Meeting in Budapest, Hungary (2010):** Bonds and Bridges. Mineral Sciences and their applications:
   - **7.2 - 21th General Meeting (2014) - Proposal from South Africa**
8. **Other Business : IMA Commissions and Working Groups**
   - **8.1 - Election of Officers**
   - **8.2 - Proposal for a new Working Group**
9. **Closing by President Takamitsu Yamanaka**

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INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Society News

International Mineralogical Association

www.ima-mineralogy.org

International Mineralogical Association

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

The excellent 19th general meeting of IMA in Kobe is described by the organizers elsewhere in this issue of *Elements*. Everyone I spoke to agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable event. The scientific standard of the talks was particularly high, reflecting the emphasis placed by universities and government on mineralogy and materials science in Japan. Heartfelt thanks are due to Takamitsu Yamanaka and his team for an extremely smoothly run meeting and some memorable (sometimes deafening!) social events.

Slightly smaller and more mineralogical than competing conferences, it is the emphasis on 'international' that gives IMA meetings their distinctive flavour. IMA has an important role in fostering international collaboration, particularly for the smaller mineralogical societies, and it is always a pleasure to renew old acquaintances. It is, however, disappointing that many members of the larger mineralogical societies do not automatically make IMA meetings their first choice of 'big' meeting. They should. I contend that the international character of science – the set of common rules and practices that all scientists share – is of enormous potential benefit to mankind, well worth the effort of some extra travel or the need to concentrate a little harder on slightly less-than-perfect English.

IMA meetings are complex for the officials of IMA. As president, I had to chair two meetings of the IMA Council and two business meetings (at which supporting organizations are represented, in proportion to their size, by between one and five national representatives), before handing the reins over to Takamitsu Yamanaka, my successor as president, for a final council meeting. All this activity has to be orchestrated, and papers provided, by our very hard-working Secretary, Maryse Ohnenstetter. Thanks from all of us, Maryse. In addition, the various commissions and working groups of IMA each hold at least one meeting – thanks too to their chairs and secretaries.

Practical Matters

From this behind-the-scenes activity emerged both formal changes and exciting initiatives for IMA. The Council for 2006–2010, was approved, with some new members (see photo page 318). Missing from the picture is a new communications officer, yet to be appointed, who, together with the president, secretary and treasurer, will be a member of the Executive Committee. New officials were appointed to commissions and working groups. Dogan Paktunc, Katsuo Tsukamoto and Sergey Smirnov become chairmen of the Commission on Applied Mineralogy, the Commission on Mineral Growth and Interface Processes and the Working Group on Inclusions in Minerals, respectively. A full list of officials can be found at **www.ima-mineralogy.org**.

IMA president welcoming delegates at the opening ceremony. PHOTO TAU IOANIC

The Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) has been merged with the Commission on the Classification of Minerals (CCM) to form the new Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC). These commissions represent the most widely known activities of IMA. The merger will solve problems encountered in the past at the boundaries of the fields of activity of the former commissions. The CNMNC will operate under the leadership of the hard-working Ernst Burke, who described the activities of CNMMN in *Elements* 1 (3).

Although far in the future, IMA needs to find a venue for the 2014 general meeting. In view of the locations of recent meetings and the 2010 meeting in Budapest, it would be appropriate to meet in North America, and we hope that proposals will come forward. Business meetings take place every two years, and it was decided to hold business and council meetings at the time of the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver, Canada. Council will meet during the combined societies 'Frontiers in Mineralogy' meeting in Cambridge, England, in 2007.

We hope that the problems of collecting membership dues (*Elements* 2 (1)) have been solved. The formula for calculating subscriptions leads to per capita payments that are smallest for the largest societies. Rather than increasing contributions paid by the larger societies, the subscriptions of our fifteen smallest societies, each with less than 25 members, will be reduced from 60 to 30 US$. The decrease in income will be compensated by an improvement in our annual investment income. The problem of the costs of international bank transfers has been solved by Bob Downs' discovery of a bank that will not charge for accepting cheques in foreign currencies. We can further help societies by accepting payment up to four years in advance at business meetings.

Strategic Initiatives

Several initiatives will be developed in the months to come:

- An annual IMA Medal for Excellence has been founded. A Medals Committee will be formed, chaired by Joel Grice. Candidates can be nominated by national societies and by individuals.
- IMA will become the home of the comprehensive Internet mineral database, being built by the RRUFF project, which is led by Bob Downs and George Rossman, with support from Michael Scott, the first president of Apple Computers, who himself is a keen mineral collector. The database will contain X-ray diffraction data, Raman and infrared spectra and microprobe data and analyses. It has spectacular opportunities to be linked to new, miniaturized spectrometers for mineral identification in the field.
- Many councillors feel that some of the commissions and working groups are not fulfilling their role adequately. Suggestions include forming a nucleus of experts in each field to lead developments, making more use of the Internet, and ensuring that chairmen serve no more than four years.
- The presidency of IMA will, in the future, be decoupled from chairmanship of the general meeting, a connection that has developed through custom rather than statute. A democratic system and a shorter term of office for the president would ensure that an increasing number of leaders in the field of mineralogy would become aware of the workings of IMA and contribute fresh ideas.

I will end by wishing my successor, Takamitsu Yamanaka, every success in the next four years.

Ian Parsons
President of IMA, 2002–2006

Conference News

IMA 2006, KOBE, JAPAN

The 19th general meeting of the International Mineralogical Association took place on July 23–28, 2006. The National Committee for Mineralogy of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) has supported IMA since it was established in 1958. At a business meeting during IMA 2002 in Edinburgh, a proposal from the National Committee of SCJ for a meeting in Kobe was accepted. The meeting was run jointly by the Science Council of Japan, the Mineralogical Society of Japan, the Association of Mineralogists, Petrologists and Economic Geologists, and the Society of Resource Geology. The organizing committee would like to express hearty thanks to all participants for their cooperation and contribution to this conference. A total of 975 participants registered (including accompanying persons), from 50 countries. A total of 874 papers (488 oral presentations, 386 poster presentations) were contributed during the six days. Six hundred delegates attended the receptions and banquets, maintaining old friendships and making new ones, and discussing recent and future progress in science.

Mineral science has expanded widely, not only in geosciences but also in planetary science, bioscience, and materials sciences. Mineral scientists contribute strongly in interdisciplinary fields. Consequently we decided that the catch phrase of the conference would be "Expansion to Nano, Bio and Planetary Worlds." After considering many significant suggestions and comments from our international program committee and from IMA commissions and working groups, the local program committee prepared a timetable of 37 sessions. We express our gratitude to the Science Council of Japan for their cooperation and large financial contribution. We also extend our appreciation to Kobe City and to many companies for their financial donations or support. Many thanks are due to Dr. K. Konokawa, president of SCJ, and to Mr. T. Yada, mayor of Kobe, for their welcoming speeches during the opening ceremony. We greatly appreciated the message from Mr. S. Koizumi, prime minister of Japan.

Kobe City is one of the most beautiful port cities in Japan. Unfortunately, eleven years ago, an enormous tragedy struck Kobe. More than 6000 lives were lost during a big earthquake. But the city was completely rebuilt. I personally believe many of the participants enjoyed the night view of Kobe, and I hope they took pleasure in the Japanese culture during the meeting. Finally, we hope the Kobe conference will be fondly remembered by all participants.

Takamitsu Yamanaka
President of IMA 2006–2010

Impressions from the out-going President

From the standpoint of a participant, without the considerable responsibilities of actually running the meeting, Kobe 2006 was thoroughly enjoyable. Takamitsu and his team did a magnificent job, and the organization was relaxed and faultless. The scientific programme was intense, based on 37 sessions with up to 7 oral sessions running simultaneously. The organizers had assembled a galaxy of international plenary lecturers (Catherine McCammon, Bayreuth; Christoph Heinrich, ETH Zurich; Eiji Ito, Okoyama; Jillian Banfield, Berkeley; Lindsay Keller, NASA Houston; Lukas Baumgartner, Lausanne; Yoshiyuki Tatsumi, JAMSTEC Yokosuka; Michael Carpenter, Cambridge; Sumio Iijima, Meijo) whose excellent early afternoon talks were very well attended. The overall scientific standard of the oral presentations was extremely high, reflecting, I think, the quality of the science done in Japan and the resources that its government puts into our field of science.

Kobe near the conference centre

Drumming during the banquet – less inhibited delegates were invited to 'have-a-go'. PHOTO TAU IOANIC

Dragon dancer

Session topics covered all of mineralogy, with experimental and theoretical work at the very high pressures of the deep Earth well represented, as one would expect in Japan. Crystal and glass structure and properties, of both natural and synthetic materials, and modern applications of spectroscopy, synchrotron radiation and neutron science figured strongly, together with crystal growth and texture formation; the big word 'nano-' appeared in two contexts. Petrological sessions had a distinctly active margin emphasis: sea-floor hydrothermal systems; metal deposits in magmatic arcs; extreme P–T metamorphism; subduction factory; ocean crust and mantle. Fluid- and bio-mineral interactions, environmental mineralogy, clays and zeolites were all covered, as was the role of minerals in the emergence of life. Solar system evolution, lunar and martian rocks and several up-to-the minute accounts of interplanetary dust returned by the Stardust mission from the comet Wild-2 contributed to strong sessions on matter extraterrestrial. The very distinctively mineralogical topics of new minerals and mineral classification, and of museums, were well supported. IMA Kobe more than lived up to the reputation of these meetings as the flagship international conference of the mineralogical world.

Kobe is a dramatic place, and the one-hour drive through the extraordinary close-packed industrial landscape from Osaka airport, with steep, densely forested hills rising immediately behind the coastal lowlands, leaves an indelible impression. As little driver-less trains shuttle faultlessly about, it is hard to believe that such a complex, high-tech urban area could have been devastated by a great earthquake so recently. Only a strangely deformed block pavement, preserved near the conference centre, provided a reminder of the displacements and mighty forces involved.

Japanese society is renowned not just for its energy and efficiency but also for its calm and devotion to good manners. All these were very visible at the meeting. But when they let go, our Japanese friends clearly like brilliant colours, violent movement, and a great deal of noise. We were treated to dragon dancers, lion dancers and ear-splitting drumming as well as more restrained, and very beautiful, Japanese traditional music. Kobe more than fulfilled the 'international' in IMA and it was good to see mineralogists from 50 countries so obviously enjoying themselves. I'm already looking forward to Budapest in 2010.

Ian Parsons

Organizing Committee of IMA 2006, Kobe:

- General Chairman – T. Yamanaka
- Secretary – E. Ohtani
- Science Program – K. Fujino
- Scientific Excursions – S. Matsubara
- Treasurer – T. Murakami
- Donations – H. Kaneda
- Publicity Chair – R. Miyawaki
- Local Arrangements – M. Matsui

International Mineralogical Association

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

At its 2006 business meeting held in Kobe, Japan, IMA made several decisions. Ian Parsons, outgoing president, proposed that a council meeting be held every year and a business meeting every other year. The recent council meeting in Cambridge was the first trial of this policy. We were able to move forward on various topics and policies included in the long agenda. I am sure the activity of IMA will be much enhanced by these more frequent gatherings. The mineral sciences have expanded into many broad fields, and our assembly is now composed of mineralogical societies and groups from 38 countries. Hence it is high time to have annual council meetings. Another decision was to create a new communications officer post, and Frances Wall joined the council meeting as the new officer. I appreciate her efforts in organizing features for *Elements* and in gathering news related to mineralogists worldwide.

One of the important discussions at the last council meeting was the term of office of the president. There is no consensus in the constitution of the duration of this term, but in practice the president actually serves 12 years on council (quite a sentence!). It is planned that the appointment will be limited to six years, two as vice-president, two as president, and two as past president. Some aspects still remain to be discussed, such as the relationship between the president and the chairperson of the IMA general meeting; at the moment they are one and the same person, but this need not necessarily be the case. Council was in general agreement to shorten the term, and the idea will now be formalized and put forward at the council and business meetings in Vancouver in 2008. The new rule will come into effect during the IMA business meeting in Budapest in 2010.

In addition, the council also agreed that it would be beneficial to reduce the term of office for councilors, but we have not decided on the best duration of term.

A recent accomplishment of the IMA is the establishment of an IMA medal. We will award the medal to honor a person who has made a great contribution to research in mineral sciences. The IMA Medal Committee, chaired by Joel Grice, is responsible for recommending the winning candidate to Council. All IMA mineralogical societies and groups can nominate individuals, as can committee members. The award can be made every year, and I encourage all mineralogical communities to recommend a candidate.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all councilors for their wonderful cooperation, especially to Maryse Ohnenstetter for her enormous contribution to the IMA secretariat.

Takamitsu Yamanaka
President of IMA

NEW INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN MINERALOGICAL RESEARCH

The IMA Medal will be presented by the International Mineralogical Association for the first time in 2008. It will be awarded for excellence in mineralogical research and will be one of the pre-eminent awards in this discipline. The recipient will be chosen for scientific eminence as demonstrated primarily by the awardee's scientific publications of outstanding original research in mineralogy. It will be a lifetime achievement award. The successful candidate will be drawn from one of the 36 nations that are members of the IMA.

Service to mineralogy, teaching, and administrative accomplishment will not be the primary consideration for the award.

Nomination packages must be up to date and complete. Each nomination must be accompanied by a "nomination checklist," which is available online or from the IMA secretariat. A nomination package must include

- a cover letter from the nominator outlining the candidate's qualifications in light of the criteria for the award.
- supporting letters from at least three but no more than five individuals. These letters should focus on how the candidate meets the criteria for the award.
- a complete curriculum vitae and a bibliography of published works, exclusive of abstracts, book reviews, and papers that have not yet been accepted for publication.

The IMA encourages the nominator to send an electronic version of the nomination package to the committee chair. Much of the committee work can then be done by e-mail.

The recipient of the IMA Medal is required to present a lecture on a topic related to the award at the meeting during which the medal is presented. The lecture will be published in a suitable international journal of mineralogy, with the agreement of the IMA Medal Committee.

Nomination packages are to be received by the chair of the IMA Medal Committee before **April 1, 2008.**

Joel Grice
Chair, IMA Medal Committee
E-mail: jgrice@museum-nature.ca

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Canadian Museum of Nature,
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From the Past-President, Ian Parsons

From the New President, Takamitsu Yamanaka

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Item 3 : **Approval of the Business Meetings in Kobe, July 2006**

The following decisions were taken in Kobe, 2006

(1) Communications Officer Position in the Council

The Council consists of the President, the First and Second Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, The Treasurer, a Communications Officer, five ordinary Councillors, and the retiring President. The first six of these will hereafter be referred to as the Officers. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Officer form the Executive Committee.

(2) Election of the Council

N°	Position	Name
1	President	Takamitsu Yamanaka
2	First Vice-President	Ekkehart Tillmanns
3	Second Vice-President	Nicolai Yushkin
4	Past-President	Ian Parsons
5	Treasurer	Robert Downs
6	Secretary	Maryse Ohnenstetter
7	Councillor	Joel Grice
8	Councillor	Kari Kojonen
9	Councillor	Anhuai Lu
10	Councillor	Walter Maresch
11	Councillor	Marcello Mellini

Item 3 : **Approval of the Business Meetings in Kobe, July 2006**

(3) Merging of the CNMMN and CCM

A new commission resulted called

'Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification' (CNMNC).

(4) Election of Officers of IMA Commissions and Working groups

Commission or Working Groups	Position	Name
Com. on Applied Mineralogy	Chair	Dogan Paktunc
Com. on Mineral Growth and Interface Processes	Chair	Katsuo Tsukamoto
Com. on Museums	Secretary	Dermot Henry
Com. on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification	Vice-Chair 1 Vice-Chair 2	Frédéric Hatert Stanislas K. Filatov
W.G. on Inclusions in Minerals	Chair Secretary	Sergey Smirnov Pei Ni

Item 3 : **Approval of the Business Meetings in Kobe, July 2006**

Other decisions and informations (end)

(5) Rotation of the IMA General Meeting - It makes sense that the IMA General Meeting would occur successively in Europe, within the Pacific rim and in the Americas.
(6) Business Meeting - There was general agreement in the IMA Council to hold a business meeting every two years. The next BM has to be hold in 2008.
(7) IMA medal : An IMA Medal for Excellence was proposed, to be awarded every year. A committee will be created for the nomination of the distinguished medallists.
(8) Mineral Database - IMA will move ahead with plans to become the home of the mineral database known as the RRUFF project, being developed by Bob Downs and funded by Mike Scott, founding president of Apple Computer. An expert steering committee will be created, chaired by Bob Downs, which will look after the development of the project.
(9) IMA funding - There was discussion about the way IMA is funded.
Societies may pay in advance for up to four years to avoid the cost of bank transfer

(10) Two other sets of discussion within the Council:
- how to develop the activities of the IMA Commissions and Working group
- how to nominate the IMA President if decoupled from the running of the General Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 4 : **Appointment of the Auditing Committee** (Constitution, Article 5c)

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Officer form the Executive Committee.
President: Takamitsu Yamanaka
Treasurer: Robert Downs
Secretary: Maryse Ohnenstetter
Communication Officer: Frances Wall

The Communication Officer is mainly in charge of publishing IMA news within Elements which appeared every two months.
The Communication officer contacts all the IMA components, council members, national representatives, and officers of IMA commissions and working groups, to get information to be published, and informs readers on IMA activities.
The Communication officer also assists the IMA secretary to maintain the IMA website, and Commissions and Working Groups to become interactive e-mail newsgroups.

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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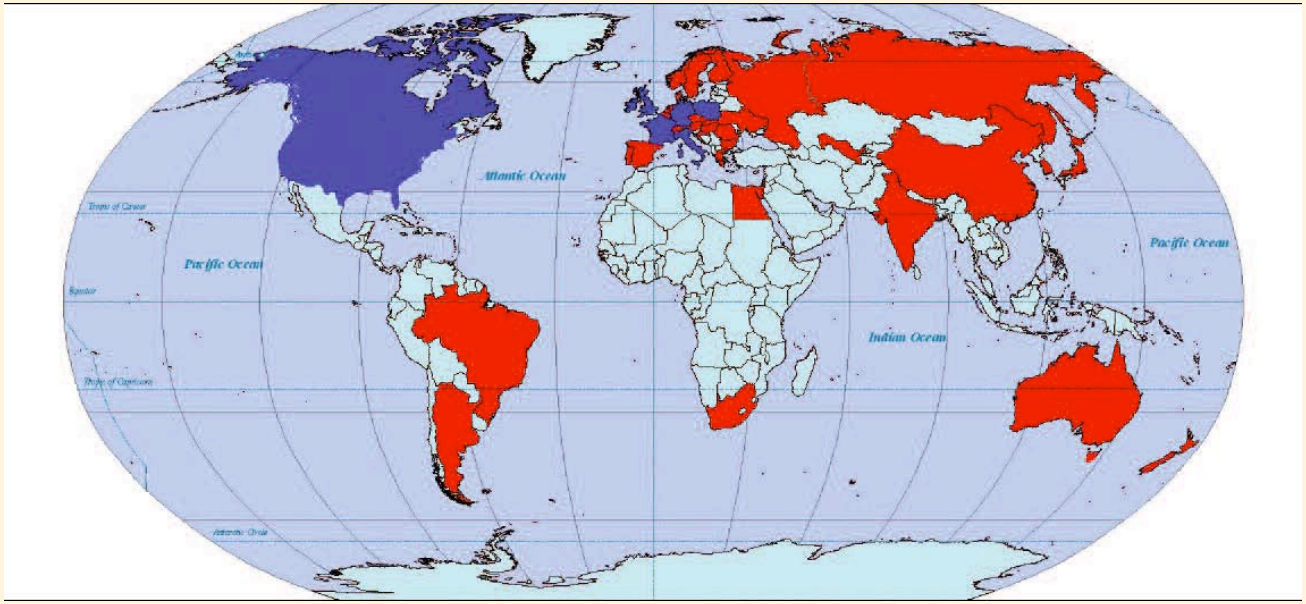
Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

Communication in Elements



From Elements
Feb. 2007

They are 38 member mineralogical societies or groups within IMA after the adhesion of the Mineralogical group of Slovenia. Seven societies are partners of IMA.
We will learn more about the 31 other societies or groups within Elements.

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Communication in Elements

August 2007 - Mineralogical Group of Brazil

SOCIETY NEWS

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International Mineralogical Association

MINERALOGY IN BRAZIL

The image of Brazil as a fabulous place for minerals is a matter of fact, says IMA national representative Fábio Ramos Dias de Andrade in a letter describing the history and present scientific environment in Brazil. Mineralogists in Brazil are experiencing the best job market in 30 years.

The vast piece of land known as Brazil, the only Portuguese-speaking country in Latin America, was once called the giant asleep, the land of the future, referring to its potential to become an outstanding world economy. Although the country has not reached this status so far and its wealth is poorly distributed among the population, Brazil is an El Dorado for mineralogists and Earth scientists, a place where much has been done and much more is still to do.

The Brazilian autochthonous, pre-colonial population of the Tupi-Guarani culture did not use metals, in contrast to the coeval Incas, Mayan and Aztecs. Their artefacts were and still are made of wood, bone, ceramic, stone, vegetal fibres and leather. It was the European newcomers who triggered the gold fever that still burns today.

Natural resources attracted the colonial powers in the sixteenth century, starting with the arrival of the Portuguese in 1500 AD and followed by several incursions of Dutch, English, Spanish and French pirates. In the seventeenth century, expeditions into the continent from the Atlantic coast towards the Andes and in the Amazon region, in search of gold and gemstones, were important in establishing the borders of the country. Gold was a leading resource in colonial Brazil—gold was sent by ship to the Portuguese crown, mostly to pay off debts with the British Empire and Holland. Mineral exploration in Brazil took the lives of many African slaves and was an important cause of the genocide of its original population, the indios.

The image of Brazil as a fabulous place for minerals is a matter of fact. Brazilian gemstones, amethyst geodes, diamonds, the world's largest niobium reserves, huge iron, gold, copper and tin deposits, world-class oil fields and abundant industrial minerals, among other geological highlights, make the mineral resources one of the pillars of the Brazilian economy. A recent boom in the mineral sector owing to a decade of relative economic stability has led to the best job market for geologists and mineralogists in more than 30 years. Some fields of applied mineralogy, such as ore processing and environmental mineralogy, are following this trend thanks to increasingly restrictive environmental laws. With the job market improving, mineralogy is attracting more students, and new research fields, from cultural heritage to medicine, from petrology to solid-state physics and from gemology to materials science, are being explored. Hence, mineralogy is no longer regarded merely as a subject for an elementary course in the geology undergraduate curriculum; it now receives attention as a key for professional advancement. As Brazilian universities do not offer degrees in mineralogy, the field is primarily occupied by geologists and a few physicists and engineers. Scattered throughout universities and corporations, mineralogists are grouped according to their research interests, rather than by associations or institutions. Therefore, it is difficult to establish the size and shape of the Brazilian mineralogical community, although it certainly counts a few hundred members. IMA national representation comes under the umbrella of the 2600-member Sociedade Brasileira de Geologia. There is no formal mineralogical group, and national representation for Brazil was reinstated following discussions between the author of this article and IMA officers at the International Geological Congress in Brazil in 2000. Additionally, few Brazilian journals publish papers on mineralogy, and most of our contributions appear in international journals in English. A milestone in this regard was the 8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy (ICAM2004), held in Brazil in 2004 under the auspices of the International Mineralogical Association and its Commission on Applied Mineralogy (IMA-CAM), with Henrique Kahn from IMA-CAM in charge of the organising committee. This meeting brought together more than 200 people from around the world and contributed to knowledge on both traditional and unconventional fields of mineralogy (Pecchio et al. 2004).

About 50 minerals have been described for the first time from Brazil (Atencio 2000). One of the first was native palladium, observed in 1809 by W.H. Wollaston in samples from Brazilian gold mines given to him by the Portuguese ambassador. New minerals are still being discovered, in the last few years mainly by the team led by Daniel Atencio, the Brazilian member of the IMA Commission on New Minerals,

Cont'd on page 292

Paraíba tourmaline cut in oval shape (3.15 and 3.25ct), from São José da Batalha, Paraíba, Brazil. This tourmaline has a unique colour (neon blue) owing to its high copper content, and is one of the most expensive varieties of tourmaline. Photo: Antonio Liccardo

Amethyst geode (1 kg) from Ametista do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul. Brazil is the leading amethyst producer, mostly from geodes in the Cretaceous continental flood basalts from Rio Grande do Sul. Photo: Antonio Liccardo (www.geotursmorais.com)

IMA (cont'd from page 291)

Nomenclature and Classification (IMA-CNMNC). One of them is coutinhoite, named in honor of José Moacyr Vianna Coutinho (1924–), a leading Brazilian mineralogist and a professor of mineralogy at the Instituto de Geociências of the Universidade de São Paulo.

1mm

Coutinhoite $[Th_xBa_{1-2x}(H_2O)_y](UO_2)_2Si_2O_{7+}H_2O]$ $(0 < x < 0.5$ and $0 < y < (2+x))$ – a new mineral described from Brazil by Atencio et al. (2004).

Brazilianite $(NaAl3(PO4)2(OH)4)$ in quartz, from the pegmatites of Galiléia, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Photo: Antonio Liccardo

Brazil has up-to-date analytical facilities, including the Synchrotron National Laboratory (www.lnls.br) and more than 40 well-equipped laboratories in public universities. By the end of 2007, the national collaborative 'GeoChronos' agreement will have resulted in the establishment of a SHRIMP laboratory in the University of São Paulo (www.igc.usp.br/shrimp), thus continuing the institution's pioneering tradition in isotopic and geochronological research in South America. Closer connections between Earth scientists and physicists are likely to bring increasingly interesting results in the future.

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Atencio D, Carvalho EMS, Matioli PA (2004) Coutinhoite, a new thorium uranyl silicate hydrate, from Urucum mine, Galiléia, Minas Gerais, Brazil. American Mineralogist 89: 721-724

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SOCIETY NEWS

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NEW IMA WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MINERALOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY UP AND RUNNING

David Vaughan, Chair of WGEMG

The past decade has seen the emergence of a new field of research activity in the Earth and mineral sciences, one that is best termed "environmental mineralogy and geochemistry." The recently established IMA Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy and Geochemistry (WGEMG) is now up and running. It seeks to promote this field through organization of sessions at international conferences, short courses, specialist publications, networking, and a presence on the Internet. The officers of the WGEMG are Chairman David Vaughan (Manchester, England), Secretary John Jambor (Tsawwassen, B.C., Canada) and Vice-Chairman Tom Sato (Sapporo, Japan). They and the other scientists involved believe that mineralogy and geochemistry have a central role to play in the larger field of environmental science and in tackling the many environmental problems faced by humanity in the 21st century. In consultation with colleagues, they have produced a working definition of this field, as follows:

> Environmental mineralogy and geochemistry is an interdisciplinary field dealing with systems at, or near, the surface of the Earth where the geosphere comes into contact with the hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. This is the 'environment' on which plants and animals (including humans) depend for survival and which can be disrupted by human activity, particularly that associated with exploitation and utilization of Earth's resources. It deals with those systems containing minerals that constitute key environments (modern sediments, soils, atmospheric aerosols, parts of certain micro and macro-organisms including the human body). Both pure systems and those contaminated through human activities are considered, with emphasis on a fundamental (predictive) understanding of such systems at scales that can range from molecular to global. The full armoury of modern analytical, imaging, diffraction, spectroscopic and computer modelling techniques are employed.
>
> Examples of specific topics within the scope of environmental mineralogy and geochemistry include the release, transport and dispersal of toxic wastes from mining and industry (including the nuclear industry) and the safe containment of such wastes; mineral-based atmospheric aerosols; minerals in the human body; geochemistry and human health; and preservation of minerals and rocks in culturally important buildings and artefacts.

Elements cover image September 2005 highlighting environmental mineralogy and geochemistry. The image shows low-pH acid mine drainage and reddish Fe-oxyhydroxide precipitates at the periphery of a tailings impoundment in the Joutel area, Quebec. The tailings are from a former copper producer, and the site has since undergone remediation. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN JAMBOR.

Two conference sessions sponsored by the WGEMG have already been held: "Mineralogy and Geochemistry of Acid Mine Drainage and Metalliferous Minewastes" at Goldschmidt 2005, Idaho, USA, which resulted in the publication of a collection of papers as a special part-issue of *Applied Geochemistry* (volume 21, pp 1249-1334, 2006), and "Environmental and Medical Mineralogy" at the IMA conference in Kobe, Japan, in August 2006. Future plans include sponsorship of a session at Goldschmidt 2007 in Cologne, Germany ("Microbial Biomineralization: From Environmental Processes to New Technologies") and, in the longer term, sponsorship of sessions at Goldschmidt 2008 (Vancouver) and IGC 2008 (Oslo).

WGEMG now requires national representatives to contribute to its activities. If you are interested in helping, please contact WGEMG Secretary John Jambor or one of the other officers.

For further information see the IMA website www.ima-mineralogy.org or contact a WGEMG officer.

CHAIR: **David J. Vaughan**
The University of Manchester School of Earth, Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Manchester, M13 9PL, UK
david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk

VICE-CHAIR: **Tom Sato**
Hokkaido University, Laboratory of Environmental Geology Graduate School of Engineering Sapporo, Japan
tomsato@eng.hokudai.ac.jp

SECRETARY: **John L. Jambor**
Leslie Research and Consulting Tsawwassen, BC V4M 3L9 Canada
jljambor@aol.com

The next Council meeting of IMA will be at the Frontiers in Mineral Science meeting, 26-28 June 2007, Cambridge, UK.

Please see the IMA website www.ima-mineralogy.org and contact one of the councillors if there is an issue you would like the councillors to discuss.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COUNTRY TO HOST THE IMA CONFERENCE IN 2014?

IMA Council is calling for expressions of interest to host the 21st IMA General Meeting in 2014. Recent conferences have taken place in Toronto, Canada (1998), Edinburgh, UK (2002) and Kobe, Japan (2006, with about 1000 attendees; see *Elements* volume 2, issue 5, October 2006). The next event will be in Budapest, in August 2010, and will be organized jointly by Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia.

The 2018 conference is planned for the USA and will highlight the Mineralogical Society of America centenary in 2019. IMA encourages geographic variation in the venue. If your society is interested in hosting the international mineralogical community in 2014, please contact IMA secretary, Maryse Ohnenstetter, mohnen@crpg.cnrs-nancy.fr, for further details and initial discussion.

ELEMENTS 145 APRIL 2007

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

Communication in Elements

Articles are explaining what the IMA Commissions and Working Groups are doing

Elements - April 2007 - David Vaughan - Chair of the Working Group On Environmental Mineralogy and Geochemistry - WGEMG

1st Business Meeting, Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall, **Room 124**

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Society News

International Mineralogical Association

www.ima-mineralogy.org

International Mineralogical Association

THE END OF CNMMN AND CCM —LONG LIVE THE CNMNC!

Two commissions of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA), the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) and the Commission on Classification of Minerals (CCM), jointly proposed to the IMA Council in 2005 to merge their activities into a single, new commission to be named the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC). The main reason for this proposal was the conflicting control over certain tasks in the field of mineralogical nomenclature.

In the early 1990s, the then-chairman of the CCM embarked on a plan for the CCM to develop an overall classification system for minerals, probably the scheme currently in use by the International Centre for Diffraction Data. This proposal sparked an immediate response from the then-chairman of the CNMMN who forcefully expressed the view that the proposal was in conflict with the jurisdiction of the CNMMN over all matters affecting mineralogical nomenclature. Following some acrimonous debate, which culminated during the 1994 IMA general meeting in Pisa (Italy), the issue was ultimately resolved by the IMA deposing the then-chairman of the CCM.

In another area of possible conflict, the CCM has never played, surprisingly, an active part in developing or revising classification schemes for specific mineral groups. This role has, instead, been assumed from the start of the IMA by the CNMMN, which established special subcommittees to review the classification and nomenclature of large mineral groups, such as amphiboles, micas, pyroxenes and zeolites.

In the early 2000s, some officers and members of CCM and CNMMN renewed efforts to arrive at a necessary standardisation of mineral groups and their nomenclature. A joint working paper was drafted for this purpose and submitted to both commissions. During the 2004 Paris (France) meetings of the two commissions (on the occasion of the 5th Conference on Mineralogy and Museums), it again became clear that classification of minerals is inseparable from mineral nomenclature and that CCM and CNMMN cannot function independently on this issue. Ernest H. Nickel, vice-chairman of the CCM and former vice-chairman of the CNMMN, then came up with the logical proposal to amalgamate the two commissions.

The proposal to merge the two commissions into a new commission was voted on in 2005 and was approved with overwhelming majorities by the members of both commissions. There were many suggestions for the name of the new commission. The name that was chosen – Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification – was proposed by Gheorghe Udubasa, who represented Romania in both commissions. This name encompasses all fields of interest and activities of the new commission. And moreover, as pointed out Gheorghe, the acronym CNMNC is symmetric, as befits a mineralogical name.

The IMA council members expressed their agreement with the proposed merger in May 2006, and the final decision was made during the business meeting of the IMA in Kobe (Japan) in July 2006. A play on words was necessary to obtain this result because the IMA Statutes and By-Laws do not consider the possibility of a merger of two commissions, only 'termination' and 'initiation'. Closing down both commissions would have had a serious drawback: a new commission must be initiated as a working group, which does not have the same status as a commission. It was therefore decided to terminate one commission and to rename the other commission as the CNMNC.

In order to avoid a heavier workload for the officers of the new commission with its expanded duties, the CNMNC has decided to add an additional officer – a second vice-chairman who will specifically be responsible for classification matters.

Ernst A.J. Burke
Chairman CNMNC

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

Communication in Elements

Elements -
December 2006 -
Ernst Bürke - Chair of the Commission on New Minerals, nomenclature And Classification
- CNMNC -

1st Business Meeting, Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall, **Room 124**

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Medal Committee - IMA Medal for Excellence in Mineralogical Research

Chairman : Joël Grice

The IMA Medal is for scientific excellence as represented by long-term outstanding scientific publication in the field of mineralogical sciences which are defined in its broadest sense

Creation of the IMA Medal pattern in 2006-2007, in Canada

IMA Medal Committee Handbook - The updated version was achieved in September 2007.

The handbook contains 8 chapters among which are depicted :
Responsibilities of the IMA Medal Committee
Guidelines for Selecting the IMA Medalist

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Medal Committee

Chairman : Joël Grice

Joel Grice

Masaki Akaogi

Christian Chopin

Barb Dutrow

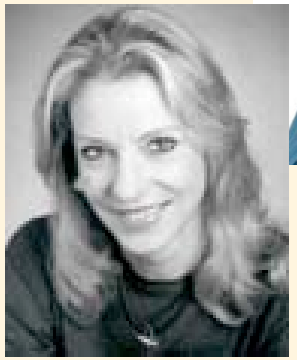
Herta Effenberger

Catherine McCammon

Roberta Oberti

Igor Pekov

Mark Welsch



The Committee
Was complete
In October 2007

1st Business Meeting, Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall**, Room 124**

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006 - IMA Medal Committee -

Checklist for IMA Medal Nominations

REQUIRED INFORMATION

N° Doc.	Types of documents required for the nomination package	Number of pieces	Status on the nomination package (to be fulfilled by the Committee Chair)
1	this cover page (checklist for IMA Medal Nominations)	1	
2	a cover letter from the nominator outlining the candidate's qualifications in light of the criteria for the award	1	
3	supporting letters from at least three (3) but no more than five (5) individuals. Letters should focus on how the candidate meets the criteria of the award.	3 to 5	
4	Complete CV* * Bibliography of published works exclusive of abstract, book reviews, and papers not yet accepted for publication	1	

NOMINEE

Nominee	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Phone	
e-mail	
Age	

For Nominee Nominator & Sponsor

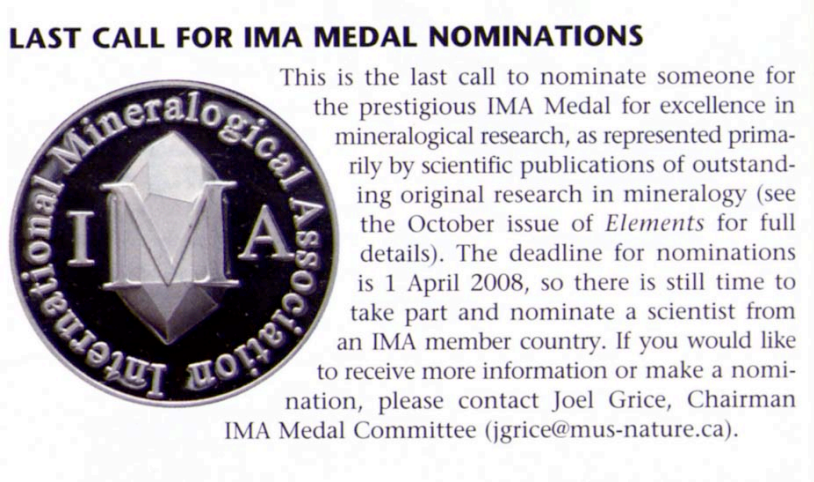
1st Business Meeting, Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall**, Room 124**

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Medal Committee



LAST CALL FOR IMA MEDAL NOMINATIONS

This is the last call to nominate someone for the prestigious IMA Medal for excellence in mineralogical research, as represented primarily by scientific publications of outstanding original research in mineralogy (see the October issue of *Elements* for full details). The deadline for nominations is 1 April 2008, so there is still time to take part and nominate a scientist from an IMA member country. If you would like to receive more information or make a nomination, please contact Joel Grice, Chairman IMA Medal Committee (jgrice@mus-nature.ca).

Notification for the IMA Medal nomination was published in Elements in October 2007 and the last call in February 2008.
Nomination packages were received before the 1rst of April as required.
The medal Committee members worked hard in April to design the first candidate for the IMA medal.
On the 5th of May, the IMA Secretariat received a report from the chair of the IMA medal Committee

The IMA Medal Committee recommends
PROFESSOR CHARLES PREWITT
as recipient of the IMA Medal for
Excellence in Mineralogy.

Item 6 : Designation of the First IMA medallist

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

Item 6 : Designation of the First IMA medallist
'IMA Medal for Excellence in Mineralogical Research'

On the 5th of May, The IMA Medal Committee recommended
PROFESSOR CHARLES PREWITT
as recipient of the IMA Medal for Excellence in Mineralogy.

On the 13th of July, the IMA Cpuncil unanimously agreed with the Medal Committee proposal

Charles Prewitt is nominated as the inaugural recipient of the IMA Medal for Excellence.
The Committee expressed their admiration for his research eminence in developing a wide variety of new fields in crystal chemistry, material sciences and mineral physics.
In crystallography he was one of the pioneers in the use of the single-crystal diffractometer, creating computer programs to handle diffraction data and more recently in his use of synchrotron radiation for solving problems in mineral physics. In experimental techniques he was in the forefront of developing new methods in high-temperature and high-pressure mineral synthesis.
Charles Prewitt has not only produced an enormous number of extraordinary publications of his own but he is responsible for directing much larger research projects on an international basis.
(From the IMA Medal Committee report)

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Outreach Committee

From a draft of the outreach Committee Handbook:

Mission

The mission of the Outreach Committee is to aid the IMA Council in identifying programs and activities that have an external focus with the objective to improve the visibility, understanding and appreciation of the IMA and its related commissions and Working groups.

Emphasis will be concentrated on developments of tools for mineralogists, including database development, interactivity between mineralogists through IMA websites development, and communication to members and non-members.

Several subcommittees should be created to work on the different objectives pointed out for the IMA development. Subcommitees have to be created in response to this.

For an example, a subcommittee has been created following the Kobe Business Meeting to develop a database for minerals and their properties. This project is based on the cooperation between the RRUFF project and the IMA-CNMNC.

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IMA Database on Mineral Properties

The duties of the IMA Database on Mineral Properties include managing the content of the website at www.rruff.info/ima, that interactively displays the list of all the IMA CNMNC minerals recognized as valid species with accessory information and links and its functions. It is actually a database and JAVA program that is downloaded and used through a browser. A professional programmer is funded by the RRUFF project to write the computer code for the website.

The main items are as follows:

1. Managing the definitive list of mineral names and their chemical compositions. Our highest priority is to ensure that this information is perfect. The effort primarily involves two components, a) identifying new mineral information, from the CNMNC website b) keeping track of changes to the existing minerals.
2. A goal of the committee is to identify the original descriptive articles for each mineral, and obtain and post the associated PDF.
3. The ability to group minerals into various classification schemes is important. To this end the website has invoked the web-design concept of tags.

Additional goals for the next year include:

1. Get others involved! especially from the IMA Commissions and Working groups
2. Streamline the access to the database so that other websites and individuals can make optimal use of it.

Chair : Bob Downs - rdowns@u.arizona.edu

Current members :

Marco Ciriotti	- marco.ciriotti@libero.it.
Frédéric Hatert	- fhatert@ulg.ac.be
Pat Mooney	- prmooney@email.arizona.edu
Ernie Nickel	- Ernest.Nickel@csiro.au

Item 5 :
Reports of the Executive officers

IMA Outreach Committee

IMA Subcommittee On IMA Database & Mineral Properties

Chaired by Bob Downs

1st Business Meeting, Monday, July 14th, 2008 (17H00-19H00)
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Building : Chemistry, 2036 Main Hall**, Room 124**

Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Outreach Committee

Why to do that ?

Committee has a light structure:
With a Chair designed by the Council
With a Chair chosing the committee members
With clear and simplified objectives

Information is displayed to the IMA members through
the production of an annual report updated for the council
and/or business meetings

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 5 : **Reports of the Executive officers**

A summary of the IMA activities since Kobe 2006

IMA Outreach Committee

Some other objectives which could be developped in the frame of the IMA Outreach Committee

- Commission and Working Group Interface
- Museum Interface
- Technological Information - Databases
- Links with Associations, Foundation, and Meetings
- Publications
- History, Traditions and Archives
- Academic Interface, Education and Public Information
- Strategic planning

If anybody is interested in the development of a specific topic through the creation of an Outreach Subcommittee, please contact the IMA secretariat

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 7 : Future Meetings

7.1 - 20th IMA General Meeting in Budapest, Hungary (2010):
Bonds and Bridges. Mineral Sciences and their applications by Ekkehart Tillmanns

7.2 - 21th General Meeting (2014) - Proposal from South Africa by Sabine Verryn

In Kobe, due to the rotation of the General Meeting, it was expected that the 2014 IMA GM would be hold in Americas.
Because of the centenary of the MSA in 2019, and the organization of the 2018 GM in USA, it was decided to look for an other continent for the 2014 GM of IMA.
A call was published in Elements and on the IMA Website.
Finally, only the Mineralogical Association of South Africa can present in due time, that is to-day, a proposal for the organization of the 2014 GM of IMA.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR COUNTRY TO HOST THE IMA CONFERENCE IN 2014?

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149

APRIL 2007

Item 8: IMA Commissions and Working groups

The activity of the IMA Commissions and Working groups will be examined during the second Council Meeting on IMA which will be held on Wednesday afternoon, the day before the second business meeting.

Significant modifications have occurred in the management of some Commissions and Working Groups.

Several chairs have to be elected during the Vancouver Business Meeting,
9 for the commissions, and 3 for the Working groups.
In addition, the creation of one working Group will be proposed to the IMA delegates.

Item 8: IMA Commissions and Working groups - Election of Officers of Commissions

Commission on Applied Mineralogy (Dogan Paktunc): 3 chairs of subcommissions

- on Mineralogy applied to building materials : **Maarten Broekmans**
- on Cuttural Heritage and Archaeolpiica Materals : **Isabella Memmi**
- on Advances Ceramics and Glasses : **Hans Joachim Kleebe**

Commission on Gems Materials : New chairs : **Lee Groat**

Commission on Mineral Growth and Interface Processes (K. Tsukamoto):

- Vice-chairman : **Andreas Luttge**
- Secretary: **Jeanne Paquette**

Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification

- Chair: **Peter Williams**
- Secretary : **Stuart Mills**

Commission on Ore Mineralogy (Nigel Cook):

- Secretary : **Federica Zaccharini**

INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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Item 8: IMA Commissions and Working groups -
Creation of a new Working Group on Solid Earth Composition and Evolution

Chair : Yaoling Niu

Mission: To encourage and promote collective effort through the international community using petrology and geochemistry of igneous and metamorphic rocks as a basic means, assisted by tectonic and geophysical methods, to understanding the origin and evolution of the solid Earth, including its mantle and crust on land and beneath ocean basins.

Tasks: To promote petrologic and geochemical investigation of the Earth's crust and mantle through
(1) organizing symposia on the subject at international meetings/conferences;
(2) publishing proceedings of sponsored conferences; and importantly
(3) supporting participation of young Earth Scientists (students) in international conferences, symposia and workshops.

Item 8: IMA Commissions and Working groups - Election of Officers

Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy (David Vaughan):

- Vice-chairman: **Tom Sato**
- Secretary : **Anne Thompson**

Working group on Solid Earth Composition and Evolution

- Chair: Yaoling Niu

J. Grice - don’t forget Davos Goldschmidt meeting

Ppp of South Africa on blue kee