



# aipea

Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles  
International Association for the Study of Clays  
Internationale Vereinigung zum Studium der Tone  
Международная ассоциация по изучению глин

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# President's Report

Dear clay community!

As you probably know, our community is on the move: The last meeting of the Euroclay series was successfully organized last July in Bari (Italy) by Saverio Fiore and the Associazione Italiana sulle Argille, and the final International Clay Conference will be organized in July next year (13-18 July 2025) in Dublin by Steve Hiller, Kevin Murphy and the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland (<https://icc.aipea.org/>). From 2027

onward, these two historical conferences will merge to give rise to a new series of conferences simply titled CLAY. This unified series of CLAY conferences will be held every other year ideally with hosts and locations alternating between ECGA-affiliated societies and National Clay Groups (NCGs) worldwide. The first conference of this new series will be CLAY 2027 organized by the Sociedad Española de Arcillas in Madrid (Spain) in June 2027. As proposals to organize the CLAY 2029 conference will be due before the July 2025 Dublin ICC conference, it is thus time for potential organizers to begin planning and inquiring about possible venues for this future conference. As clay scientists, do not hesitate to attend these different gatherings as they testify to the vivid character of our community. They are also great opportunities to share your research results, to benefit from the experience of other participants, to discuss and enrich that of others with your own experience and expertise, to create or broaden your network, and to generate new projects.

The environmental footprint of our research activities is becoming an increasingly poignant concern, however, and hybrid attendance to these conferences is increasingly available. Combining a reduced environmental footprint of remote



## AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

- Algerian Clay Group
- Chinese Association for the Study of Clays (CASC)
- Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society (GB and Ireland)
- Clay Minerals Society of India (CMSI)
- Clay Science Society of Japan (CSSJ)
- Croatian Clay Group
- Czech National Clay Group (CNCG)
- European Clay Group Association
- French Clay Group (GFA)
- German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG)
- Korean Clay Science Society (KCSS)
- Hungarian Clay Group (HCG)
- Israel Society for Clay Research
- Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA)
- (North American) The Clay Minerals Society (CMS)
- Polish Clay Group (PCG)
- Portuguese Clay Group (APA)
- Russian Clay Group
- Slovak Clay Group
- Spanish Clay Society (SEA)
- Tunisian Clay Group (TCG)
- Clay Science Society-Turkey
- Ukrainian Clay Group

and in-person attendance to these enriching, constructive, and pleasant moments should bring additional incentive to attend meetings organized locally by your NCG, or regional gathering thereof. AIPEA will help to publicize and foster these local/national/regional initiatives as our strong international community relies to a large extent on the strength of NCGs. Do not hesitate to communicate on your broad-interest initiatives through the AIPEA list.

As long-term strength and dynamism of NCGs depend to a large extent on the number and involvement of their young members, AIPEA has created an Early Career Clay Scientist (ECCS) committee which has been extremely proactive over the last couple years with dedicated workshops organized at international conferences and a series of webinars to publicize research works performed by young members of NCGs worldwide. If your NCG has not yet participated to this great initiative, please get in touch with your representatives or with the chair of the ECCS committee to develop further this initiative by involving your NCG.

More generally, please get involved and contribute more to the activities of NCGs, not only through your membership or participation at events but also by being actively involved in organization, for example by assuming positions on council or proposing new activities such workshops or conferences, all of which contribute to the visibility and rigor of the society. AIPEA will encourage such local initiatives aiming at the promotion of clay science.

Bruno Lanson – President AIPEA

# AIPEA OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

## AIPEA OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 2022-2025

The current AIPEA Council was elected during the 17<sup>th</sup> International Clay Conference held in Istanbul in July 2022. Term lengths for officers and council members will carry through the 18<sup>th</sup> ICC in 2025, at which new AIPEA Officers and Council will be elected.

### AIPEA Executive Officers for 2022-2025

Dr. Bruno Lanson, President  
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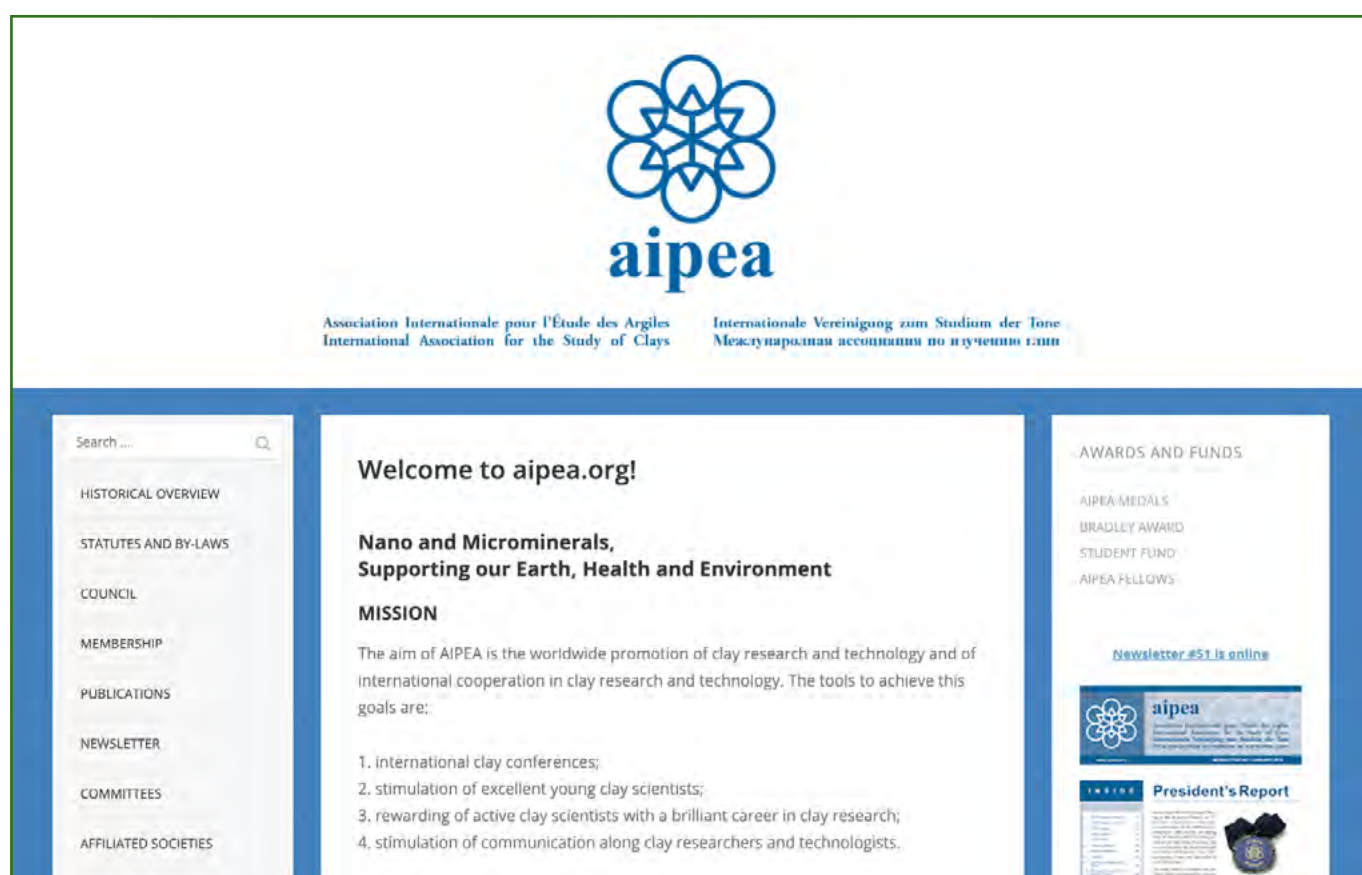
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# AIPEA Website



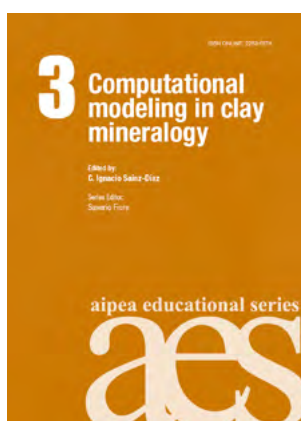
The AIPEA website serves as one of the main means of communication for the international clay research community. A new feature of the aipea.org website is the capacity to host English-language websites for national and regional clay groups. A snapshot of CSSJ's page is shown below. If you are president or webmaster of your clay society, please contact the AIPEA webmaster to establish a site for your society (webmaster@aipea.org). The CSSJ page is shown here as an example. It is easy to fill in the page containing information about your National Clay Group. You need basic WordPress knowledge! Is it a problem? Don't worry: we can do it at a very low cost (€100.00+tax). Rules? yes, there are: You cannot change the template and the page must be in English!



## The Clay Science Society of Japan

The Clay Science Society of Japan is an academic organization established for basic and applied research on clay and clay-related materials, dissemination of the research results and promotion of communication among members and non-members inside and outside Japan. Clay is one of the materials familiar to us, as it is widely present on the surface layer (i.e. the crust) of our planet Earth. The relationship between clay and humans goes back a long way. A few thousand years ago, our ancestors used clay for pottery or sun-dried bricks. Today clay is used in various fields as a basic material for industries such as ceramics, papermaking, plastics, nuclear power, civil engineering, construction, agricultural chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics. It is also being applied to nanocomposites, optical recording materials, thin-film materials, catalysts, and other fields as part of advanced industrial materials. Clay thus has many applications in varying fields, needless to say, this is because of its varying characteristics as an inorganic polymer. On the other hand, clay is deeply related to the birth of life and the great environment as one of the essential materials that constitute the Earth's system, and it is attracting a large amount of attention as a key material that is helping to unravel the billions of years of Earth's history. The CSSJ is Japan's only academic organization that comprehensively handles a wide range of clay research, from basic to applied, and it enjoys a high reputation inside and outside Japan.

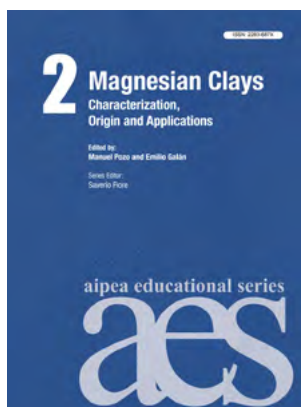
# AIPEA Educational Series (AES)



## **Computational Modeling in Clay Mineralogy**

AIPEA Educational Series  
Publication No.3 (2021)  
Editor: C. Ignacio Sainz-Diaz

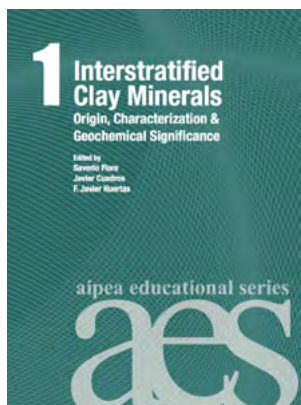
Based on lectures held mainly at the 3rd AIPEA School for Young Scientists Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, Granada, Spain, July, 2017 Digilabs Pub., Bari, Italy, 270 pp.  
ISBN: 978-88-7522-048-8 ISSN: 2283-687X  
doi: 10.14644/AES.003



## **Magnesian Clays: Characterization, Origin & Applications**

AIPEA Educational Series  
Publication No.2  
Editors: Manuel Pozo & Emilio Galán

Based on lectures held at the 2nd AIPEA School for Young Scientists Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 6-7, 2013  
Digilabs Pub., Bari, Italy, 380 pp. + XII  
ISBN: 978-88-7522-093-6 - ISSN: 2283-687X  
doi: 10.14644/AES.002



## **Interstratified Clay Minerals: Origin, Characterization & Geochemical Significance**

AIPEA Educational Series  
Publication No.1  
Editors: Saverio Fiore, Javier Cuadros & F. Javier Huertas

Based on lectures held at the 1st AIPEA School for Young Scientists University of Bari, Italy, June 12-13, 2009  
Digilabs Pub., Bari, Italy, 175 pp. - 2nd edition (2013)  
ISBN: 978-88-7522-046-4  
doi: 10.14644/AES.001

All three volumes are free to download at <https://aipea.org/publications/>

# Council Affairs

## Council Affairs 2023

The following is a summary of issues addressed by AIPEA Council in 2023.

### **AIPEA Council Discussion No. 1a/2023 – Treasurer Report 2022 - Financial report and statement**

The Treasurer's Report requested by President and Treasurer was approved by all AIPEA Officers and Councilors without discussion. This report is presented in this newsletter.

### **AIPEA Council Discussion No. 1b/2023 – Approval of ECCS Proposal 2022**

Council approved without objections the proposal by the Early Career Clay Scientist committee to appoint two new members to the ECCS committee, Mohamed Mouafon (Cameroon) and Javier Garcia-Rivas (Spain).

### **AIPEA Council Discussion No. 2/2023 – Future of ICC/Euroclay meetings**

Council approved without objections the organization of an ad hoc ICC/Euroclay committee to develop a proposal for the merging of ICC and Euroclay meetings. This committee consisted of the AIPEA Conference Advisory Committee -- Chun Hui Zhou, AIPEA Vice President; Bruno Lanson, AIPEA President; Peter Ryan, AIPEA Secretary General; Jeanne Percival, AIPEA Teaching Committee Chair; Alberto López Galindo, AIPEA Treasurer and organizer of the ICC 2017 in Spain; Saverio Fiore, AIPEA webmaster and organizer of the ICC 2009 in Italy -- as well as Stephen Hillier (Organizer of ICC 2025 in Dublin) and Reiner Dohrmann (AIPEA Past President).

### **AIPEA Council Discussion No. 3/2023 – CLAY Conferences**

Council approved without objections the proposal by the ad hoc ICC/Euroclay committee to combine the current "Euroclay" and "International Clay Conference" series into a single series, the first meeting of which will be CLAY2027 in Madrid. Proposals to host CLAY2029 must be submitted to the AIPEA Secretary 4 weeks prior to the 18-25 July 2025 ICC in Dublin. (This proposal was also approved by the Council of the European Clay Groups Association, ECGA).

### **AIPEA Council Meeting at Euroclay, 23-July-2024**

An AIPEA Council meeting was convened on Sunday July 23rd at 5:00 pm at Gatti Bistro in Bari. The meeting included (1) approval of modifications to AIPEA statutes and guidelines for meeting organization that are required by the merging of Euroclay and ICC into a single conference series; (2) approval of the decision of the AIPEA Conference Advisory Committee (ACAC) recommending Madrid as the location of the Clay 2027 mtg (that would then have to be approved by ECGA Council on Monday); (3) reports of Treasurer, Secretary, President, Committees; (4) a progress report on organization of ICC 18 (2025, Dublin Ireland).

### **Meeting of NCG Representatives with AIPEA Officers at Euroclay July 2023**

An informational meeting of AIPEA officers and representatives of national clay groups was convened on Wednesday 26-July-2023 at Euroclay in Bari Italy. Minutes of that meeting are presented in the following section.

# Treasurer's Report

## (Jan.-Dec. 2023)

### **National Clay Groups**

Annual dues corresponding to 2023 were received from Italy, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, North American CMS, Czech R., Slovakia, Tunisia, Turkey and DTTG (2023) national clay groups, as well as those coming from Japan (2022) and France (2022-2023).

### **Individual Membership**

Requests to pay individual dues have been sent to those individual members finishing their affiliations during these last years. Payment has been received for 1 one renewal period and 1 new affiliation.

### **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.

### **“Elements” magazine**

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

### **Website Support**

The website is supported by AIPEA. We continue to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Saverio Fiore for keeping it up to date.

### **Financial Statement**

The Balance Sheet and Profits & Loss statements are provided for 2023.

Alberto López Galindo  
January 2024

<b>AIPEA</b>							
<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>							
January through December, 31th 2023							
	Ordinary Income/Expenses						
		Income					
			Program Income				
				Membership Dues		3,248.27 €	
				The Clay Minerals Society (1)		2,941.99 €	
				Total Program Income		6,190.26 €	
		Total Income				6,190.26 €	
		Expense					
			AIPEA newsletters n. 55			624.00 €	
			Advertising Expenses (Elements)			557.72 €	
			Advance ECCS Research Grant (2)			782.00 €	
			Bank Charges & Interest			263.40 €	
		Total Expense				2,227.12 €	
	Net Ordinary Income					3,963.14 €	
	Net Income					3,963.14 €	
	(1)	\$10 per participant in the ICC to support AIPEA Travel Grants					
	(2)	Jemaa Amakrane					

AIPEA						
Balance Sheet						
January through December, 31th 2023						
ASSETS						
	Current Assets					
		Chequing/Savings				
			CaixaBank Current Acct.			69,573.78 €
			Paypal			1,048.27 €
		Total Chequing/Savings				70,622.05 €
	Total Current Assets					70,622.05 €
TOTAL ASSETS						70,622.05 €
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
	Liabilities					
		Current Liabilities				
			Accounts Payable (1)			85.00 €
		Total Current Liabilities				85.00 €
	Total Liabilities					85.00 €
	Equity					
		Unrestricted Net Assets				66,573.91 €
		Net income				3,963.14 €
	Total Equity					70,537.05 €
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY						70,622.05 €
	(1)		Best Student Poster Presentation Runner Up Istanbul 2022			

# AIPEA Listserves

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.org**) 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.org](mailto:president@aipea.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@aipea.org](mailto:secretary@aipea.org)) 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” (**talk@aipea.org**) 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 listserv should send a message to [talk.subscribe@aipea.org](mailto:talk.subscribe@aipea.org). 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.org](mailto:talk.unsubscribe@aipea.org).

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](mailto:webmaster@aipea.org)) and/ or to the AIPEA Secretary- General ([secretary@aipea.org](mailto:secretary@aipea.org)).

Peter Ryan  
Secretary-General, AIPEA  
April 2022

# Summary of NCG – AIPEA officers meeting

## **EUROCLAY, BARI ITALY, WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2023 13:00-14:20**

The meeting was attended by 25 colleagues, 24 in-person and 1 by Zoom connection. The topic of discussion was future AIPEA-sponsored conferences and began with a summary of recent initiatives put into place by AIPEA officers and AIPEA Council pertaining to the plan to merge ICC and EUROCLAY conferences into a series of biennial CLAY conferences; for example, instead of EUROCLAY in 2027, it will be CLAY 2027, then CLAY 2029 etc. The 2025 conference in Dublin is currently “18-ICC” and may remain with this label, which would mean that Madrid 2027 would be the first “CLAY” conference, i.e. “CLAY 2027”. Bruno Lanson prepared a short series of slides to summarize the main points involved with this new initiative and shared with attendees the goals and changes associated with this re-branded series. Some of the main points are:

1. In keeping with prior recurrence of Euroclay and ICC conferences, 2027, 2031, 2035 etc are targeted for CLAY conferences in the ECGA zone (Europe and circum-Mediterranean);
2. Conferences in 2029, 2033, 2027 etc will preferably take place in locations outside of the ECGA zone, e.g. Asia-Pacific, Americas, Africa;
3. A new AIPEA committee named the AIPEA Conference Advisory Committee (ACAC) will confer with potential conference hosts and make a recommendation to AIPEA Council for upcoming hosts of CLAY conferences. This committee will contain some ex officio members as well as chairs of past international clay conferences;
4. In order to encourage a diversity of host locations and participation from many NCGs and LOCs, there will be an embargo period of two CLAY 20xx conferences; for example, if a national clay group were to host a CLAY conference in 2029, they would not be able to

host or co-host one again until 2035;

5. As has been the case with ICCs, AIPEA shall not be responsible for shortfalls financially, and if the conference were to have a positive balance at the end of the conference, this would be split between the NCG/host organization and AIPEA, with proceeds to AIPEA redirected to student grants and early career awards (travel and research);
6. A student travel fund is augmented by a 10€ fee to each participant;
7. ECCS travel grants will be awarded at 1500€ every two years, and ECCS research grants at 2500€ every two years (minimum of 1 awardee every two years);
8. Bradley and Martin-Vivaldi awards will be awarded alternately every two years, and fellows and medals will be split, with a maximum of two every four years; the LOC / NCG / host organization will be responsible for hosting the awards and scheduling related talks;
9. The possibility of having an AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS) every two years should remain open as a possibility, with AIPEA helping to work on themes if necessary (the ASYS is not necessarily included in the bid to host a CLAY conference);
10. Publication of a volume of talks from ASYS workshops as part of the AES series is encouraged.

The discussion that followed was vibrant, with many good questions, suggestions and critiques of the points outlined above. The following section tries to summarize the main points raised:

- Regarding points 1-3, attendees expressed the importance of global representation for hosts, attendees, and committee members who recommend host sites; it is important to consider economic disparities that often make it difficult for colleagues from less wealthy nations and institutes to attend international clay

conferences; the conference in Dublin 2025 will have a hybrid format with free videoconference attendance option, which should provide opportunities to attend virtually to colleagues who are unable to travel in-person to the conference;

- A decision needs to be made soon about the Dublin 2025 meeting – will it be the first “CLAY” conference (i.e. CLAY2025), or will Madrid be the first CLAY conference (i.e. CLAY2027); SEA was assuming that 2027 would be the first CLAY conference, and Dublin LOC has already printed some flyers with “18th ICC” ... I am not sure if this has been resolved yet;
- Some clarifications were asked of the embargo period, which is designed to encourage a greater diversity of host sites and NCG/organizing societies;
- There was a lot of discussion about point #5, especially the idea that AIPEA bears no responsibility for shortfalls, but benefits 50-50 if there is a profit. While this is a potential source of income for AIPEA (and the host society), it may be a disincentive to prepare a proposal for a CLAY conference if the local NCG is not able to reap all profits for their society; at the same time, this is a source of income for AIPEA, who turn the funds back to early career scientists and students (e.g. research and travel grants);
- Regarding point #10, there are some complicating factors that should be considered and discussed further pertaining to the AES series, including that AES in a way competes with journals like Clay Minerals and Clays and Clay Minerals;

## ATTENDEES

Bruno Lanson (AIPEA President)  
 Reiner Dohrmann (AIPEA Past President)  
 Alberto López Galindo (AIPEA Treasurer)  
 Peter Ryan (AIPEA Secretary)  
 Saverio Fiore (Webmaster of AIPEA, Chair of Euroclay 2023)  
 Belaroui Lala Setti (Algerian Clay Group)  
 Yuji Arai (CMS North America)  
 Darko Tibljas (ECGA, Croatian Clay Group)  
 Barbore Dousova (Czech National Clay Group)  
 Anke Neuman (CMG GB and Ireland)  
 Stephen Hillier (Chair, 2025 Dublin ICC)  
 Kevin Murphy (CMG Great Britain & Ireland, LOC for 2025 Dublin ICC)  
 Matthais Schellhorn (DTTG)  
 Michael Plötze (DTTG)  
 Vanessa Prevot (GFA - France)  
 Maguy Jaber (GFA - France)  
 Erzsébet Harman-Tóth (Hungarian Clay Group), by vid-

eo connection

Adi Radian (Israel Society of Clay Research)  
 Tsutomu Sato (AIPEA Councillor, CSSJ -- Clay Science Society of Japan)  
 Jun Kawamata (CSSJ -- Clay Science Society of Japan)  
 Arkadiusz Derkowski (Polish Clay Group)  
 Fernando Rocha (Portuguese Association of Clays)  
 Ana I Ruiz (SEA – Spain)  
 Jaime Cuevas (SEA – Spain, Chair of CLAY 2027)  
 Juraj Bujdak (Slovak Clay Group)  
 Fakhre Jamoussi (Tunisian Clay Group)

# Guideline for the organization of an AIPEA CLAY conference

**Context:** This document provides guidelines for organizing an AIPEA CLAY conference. This conference series results from the unification of International Clay Conference and Euroclay conference series as a unique series of AIPEA CLAY conferences to be held on odd-numbered years.

## PLANNING AN AIPEA CLAY CONFERENCE

### 1. How to apply to host an AIPEA CLAY conference

According to statutes (paragraph VII section 32), proposals to host an AIPEA CLAY conference must be made to the AIPEA Secretary General by organizers in writing four years before the proposed conference, and at least four weeks prior to commencement of the AIPEA CLAY conference being held in the year of the proposal submission. For example, a proposal to host the 2033 CLAY conference [CLAY2033] would need to be submitted four weeks prior to the opening of the CLAY2029 conference. The proposal should include evidence of the resources available to the prospective hosts as well as a budget and tentative program, and while exact details of the program or featured events (e.g. excursions, banquet, workshop, social activities) need not be presented in detail, it is important to provide at least an outline of proposed activities. The proposals will be evaluated by the AIPEA CLAY conference Committee (ACCC) based on quality criteria (ACCC evaluation sheet) including the written proposal, and a slide presentation and discussion between the organizers and the ACCC by videoconference. Changes to the proposal can be made based on feedback from the ACCC. After this, the ACCC committee will discuss the proposals with AIPEA Council. AIPEA Council shall then select the most suitable proposal and present their recommendation at the closing ceremony of the AIPEA CLAY conference four years prior (CLAY20xx-4 conference) to the proposed conference; also at this closing ceremony, the AIPEA flag is to be passed to the subsequent CLAY conference host, i.e. from the 20xx host to the 20xx+2 host.

The CLAY conference series has its origins in the unification of the International Clay Conference (ICC) and

Euroclay conference series, and the goal is to host a CLAY conference once every two years, preferably with hosts and locations alternating between ECGA-affiliated societies (European Clay Groups Association) and clay societies worldwide. AIPEA CLAY conferences should be in a country different from those in which the preceding two were held. The organizing National Clay Group(s) (NCG) should be different from those which organized the preceding two CLAY meetings.

### 2. When should CLAY conferences be organized

AIPEA seeks to facilitate CLAY conferences at approximately two-year intervals. CLAY conferences are usually held between mid-June and end of July in odd-numbered years.

### 3. Where should CLAY conferences be organized

CLAY conferences should be organized in an easy to access country and city with the possibility of delegates to attend the conference using public transport or by walking from local hotels. Based on the numbers of attendees in the previous CLAY conferences, the organizers should choose a venue capable of accommodating the expected number of participants, including a large amphitheater to welcome all the delegates for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well for the plenary lectures. The organizers should arrange for rooms of appropriate size for parallel sessions. In addition, appropriate-sized space is required for exhibits, posters, speaker-ready rooms, and administrative, AIPEA Council and National Clay Group meetings. Wifi access is required.

It is mandatory to host the conference in a single location given that moving between parallel sessions should be both easy and quick. Special attention is required to ensure access to suitable audio-visual equipment in each room. Poster boards, technical support and security costs must be considered. Hybrid attendance (remote and in person) should be allowed if technically possible at the considered venue.

Consistent with the prior alternating pattern of ICC

(... 2009, 2013, 2017, 2021\*) and Euroclay (... 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023), AIPEA encourages proposals from ECGA-affiliated societies in years 2023+4n, and from societies worldwide for CLAY conferences on a sequence of 2025+4n. This is not meant to be a restrictive measure but rather a recommendation put in place to attract a diversity of host locations and NCGs.

#### 4. Conference days, deadlines website and logo

The conference duration is usually 4 full days with one day social program/field trips but can also be 4.5 days with only one afternoon social program/field trips. AIPEA encourages (but does not require) proposers to include an AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS), covering 1.5-2 days, in the proposal (see §7). The promotion of the CLAY conference should be started as early as possible. A possible date schedule is the following:

- 15 months before: call for thematic sessions
- 12.5 months before: reminder by email
- 12 months before: close call for thematic sessions
- 10 months before: announcement for thematic sessions
- 9 months before: call for abstract submission and early bird registration
- 7.5 months before: reminder by email
- 6 months before: deadline for abstract submission (with 2 weeks extension to be announced the last day)
- 5.5 months before: session arrangement by session chairs, then 2 weeks for open questions
- 4.5 months before: abstract acceptance (for those who paid registration fee)
- 4 months before: early bird registration end, late registration starts
- 2.5 months before: announcement of the final program
- 2 days before: pre-conference workshop (ASYS)
- Days/weeks after (or before): post(pre)-conference one- and/or two-day field trips

#### WEBSITE

The CLAY conference website is managed from AIPEA and the CLAY local organizing committee (LOC) will return the expenses for the website maintenance. Directly after a LOC is selected by AIPEA to host, AIPEA will install the key information for the new host at the website

<http://icc.aipea.org/CLAY20xx>. The content of this website should be updated continuously covering a detailed time schedule at least 24 months before the event with the information already available. The main information that should be included are the following:

- The scope of the conference as well as the topics
- Important dates ( opening and closing of the call for thematic sessions, announcement of the thematic sessions, call and deadline for abstracts submission, beginning and ending of early bird registrations, abstract acceptance, announcement of the final program, late registration)
- Venue and accommodation
- Travel and visa information
- Organizing committee details
- Workshops (e.g. ASYS) or field trips (if any)
- Instructions for oral and poster sessions

#### LOGO

The AIPEA CLAY conference logo (PDF, JPEG, TIFF versions) will be provided by AIPEA. The logo design cannot be altered. On the right side, information on the upcoming conference (location, date) must be inserted using the following graphical codes: Font: Avenir Next Condensed; Line 1: Medium 50pt; Line 2: Medium 39pt; Line 3: Regular 27pt; Font & logo Colour: C:100; M:83; Y:24; K:0. On all printed materials it should be acknowledged the logo designer using the following: Credits: Digilabs | Italy

#### 5. Chair of the organizing committee/ local organizing committee

The selected host for the next CLAY conference shall appoint a Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to be responsible for all arrangements in connection with the conference, including publication of the proceedings. The selected host may contact other National Clay Groups in the prospect of organizing a common event. The Officers of AIPEA shall be advisory members of the Organizing Committee but may not be full members of this Committee (paragraph VII section 33 of the statutes).

The first role of the Chair is to find suitable volunteers for the LOC, that are ready to dedicate the time required to organize a successful meeting. The LOC should be prepared to devote one day per week to conference preparations beginning about two years before the conference, then increasing as the event approaches. A clear role has to be assigned to each member of the LOC. There is need for:

- Scientific program committee (plenary, ASYS, oral, poster, field trips)
- A finance committee

- An accompanying person's program committee including Social events

## 6. Scientific program, plenary lecturers, invited and keynotes speakers

The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee should have enough members to assist in organizing all the technical events including plenary lectures, oral sessions, poster sessions, and likely field-trips (pre-, mid- or post-conference), AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS), and other workshops.

The Chair of the Scientific Program Committee should send a call for thematic sessions about 15 months before the conference begins (see schedule above). The local organizing committee (LOC) decides on the composition of the Scientific Program Committee. The Scientific Program Committee is responsible for i) for soliciting additional sessions covering important topics not covered by proposed sessions, and ii) for merging redundant sessions. Once the thematic sessions are selected by the members of the Scientific Program Committee, the proponents/convenors of the different sessions will be notified and are responsible to select and review the abstracts submitted to their sessions and provide a tentative schedule. They should provide feedback regarding abstracts that do not fit in their sessions as to where they may be more appropriately placed. The LOC needs extra time for this period as typically some session convenors react slowly and numerous additional questions are raised by authors. The LOC has to take care that all requests are answered usually within 24 hours.

Plenary speakers should be proposed by the Scientific Program Committee taking into account that it is mandatory that the speakers deliver a presentation which has not been previously given, and is suitable for a large audience of scientists from any professional category dealing with all aspects of clays and clay minerals. For invited and keynote speakers, the same selection criteria apply regarding the novelty of the presentation. The LOC should include in the program a slot for a plenary lecture to be presented by the Bradley awardee (CLAY2025+4n conferences) or by the Martín-Vivaldi awardee (CLAY2023+4n conferences). The LOC is also responsible for hosting the awards (and possibly the associated lectures) from NCGs willing to give their awards at CLAY conferences. The LOC is not expected to provide any further support (fee waiving, accommodation, etc) for these awards. Up to 3 plenary lectures may be suggested and sponsored by a single NCG.

The budget dedicated to the plenary lecturers, invited and keynotes speakers should be decided early: will the organizers be responsible for meeting the total cost (travels, hotels, fees) for all the plenary lecturers, invited and keynote speakers? Or will they be responsible for the total cost of the plenary lecturers and will waive the fees for the invited and keynotes speakers? The LOC needs to decide who is responsible for booking hotels, flights, etc.

## 7. AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS) - Teaching Clay Science session

Organization of an ASYS does not have to be part of the initial bid to host a CLAY conference. The Chair of the AIPEA Teaching Committee coordinates with the Chair of the selected CLAY bid by proposing possible themes and/or organizers for pre-conference ASYS. Publication of ASYS content as part of the AIPEA Educational Series (AES) will be encouraged. Any problems about low participation of an ASYS have to be discussed at least 8 weeks in advance of the event with AIPEA Officers, Chair of Teaching Committee and ASYS organizers to find an appropriate solution to improve attendance. Additional workshops with a special topic may also be planned. A local committee should take charge of organizing of this event(s).

The Chair of the Teaching Committee also coordinates with the Chair of the upcoming AIPEA CLAY conference to ensure that teaching clay science is included in the list of planned sessions, and serves as Chair of the Teaching Clay Science session during the CLAY conference.

## 8. Field trips/ pre-or post conference

Information about the organization of field trips, pre- or post-conference, must be prepared along with the application to host a CLAY conference, in order to make the announcement during the AIPEA CLAY conference that takes place 2 years prior to the proposed CLAY conference. One- or two-day field trips are appropriate. A member of the Scientific Program Committee should be in charge of the organization of these events, with volunteer field trip leaders.

## 9. Finance Committee

A Finance Committee should consist of a Chair and several members to oversee the various parts of the conference.

### *Budget/sponsors*

To build the budget, it is necessary to take into account the cost of the venue, catering (coffee breaks, lunch if on site), social events, invited speakers, book of abstracts, security and technical support. It is also important to obtain financial support from companies, equipment manufacturers, publishers, and to offer a list of sponsorship options, for example, the cost of one coffee break, poster session refreshments, part of the banquet, etc. Take care that costs for invited speakers are covered by sponsorship funds, avoid using registrations fees for these types of costs.

### *Registration Fees*

The Organizing Committee will ensure that their income will cover all conference expenses and will set the registration and field trip fees accordingly. Fees have to be as low as possible for students and should include the conference banquet. As mentioned in the AIPEA statutes (paragraph

VII, section 37), the registration fee for each registrant will include \$10(USD) which will be paid to AIPEA. This \$10 fee per registrant (which is not an AIPEA membership fee) will go directly to the Student Travel Fund of AIPEA and can only be used to support bonafide students attending the CLAY conference. Fees for academic, industrial and student delegates should be proposed with special offers for early bird registration as well as reduced fees for AIPEA members.

According to the statutes (paragraph VII section 36), for activities in the host country or region, the LOC shall have a bank account separate from any AIPEA account, into which shall be paid all funds received for the CLAY conference and from which shall be paid all debts incurred. The account shall be in the custody of the LOC, or of a Treasurer of the conference appointed by the LOC, and after each conference a properly audited statement shall be submitted to AIPEA Council.

AIPEA will not be responsible for any shortfall from CLAY conference. Any surplus funds, after payment of all just and lawful expenses and repayment of any loans, will be divided equally between the host society and AIPEA. The AIPEA share will be used primarily to support initiatives of the Early Career Clay Scientists (ECCS) committee on top of the regular ECCS support. A host society may cooperate with a professional conference organizer (PCO). In the rare case that a CLAY conference is not organized at all by a host society, then the surplus will be paid in full to the Treasurer of AIPEA to be again used to support ECCS activities.

#### *Accommodation*

Delegates are responsible for making their accommodation arrangements, however, a list of possible accommodation including student accommodation and price ranges should be provided. If possible, reduced rate room booking can be secured by the LOC well in advance, but without cost and/or financial commitment to the conference.

### **10. Social events program Committee**

A separate committee is responsible for the social events and the accompanying person's program.

Social events should include an Icebreaker reception, which can be organized the day before the Opening Ceremony or the first day of the conference, with drinks and food ready when delegates arrive. Other activities can be planned in accordance with local natural and cultural attractions.

Banquet: as the banquet is one of the most enjoyable parts of the conference, it has to be organized in a nice venue, easy to arrive and depart by public transport with suitable entertainment (music, dancing or whatever).

Accompanying person's program: accompanying per-

son's program should include the Ice-Breaker, Banquet, lunches, and suitable walking tours, museum visits, and cultural activities.

### **11. Registration**

Registration has to be distinguished from Registration Fees. Registration may be a 2-step procedure: Step 1. Registrations should start through the AIPEA website in order to verify if registrants are paying members of AIPEA, thus allowing them to have a discounted fee. Due to data protection policy, this information cannot be given to a local organizing committee. This will enable the profile of the participant and their ID number to be stored in the system for future conferences and initiatives. AIPEA will take charge of this as an additional help for the conference organizers. Step 2: The payment of registration fees will be directly deposited in the CLAY20xx account of the LOC.

### **12. During the CLAY conference**

#### *Registration*

The Registration Desk should be open before and during the Ice-Breaker if this is organized the evening before the start of the conference, otherwise, before the Opening Ceremony. In this case, it has to be open at a minimum one hour before the starting of the Opening Ceremony.

Registration must be carried out quickly, thus it is necessary to have staff supported by enough volunteers (such as PhD students, post-doc, assistant professors, full professors, etc.) to mark the name off the list, and provide the badge and conference bag.

At least one person must be dedicated to on-site registration for payments by credit card.

#### *Lecture rooms*

A person (student, staff, or volunteer) should be present in each lecture room to handle the technical aspects (lights, projection facilities, loading of the speakers' presentations, handling the microphone for questions, etc.). Immediate technical support must be offered in case of computer problems during presentations. Delegates who prefer to use an Apple computer rather than a PC, should be notified in the "Instruction for Authors" that they have to bring their own adaptor cable.

#### *Oral sessions*

The Plenary Lectures as well as the oral presentations should be loaded in advance (ideally the day before for the morning sessions and at the end of the morning for afternoon sessions). As there are parallel sessions, the chairs have to ask the speakers to keep strictly on time, and if it is not finished once they are told that there are 2 minutes left, have to cut-off the speakers at the end of their allocated time without allowing time for questions.

### *Poster sessions*

Poster boards should be labelled in advance. Items needed to affix the posters (Velcro, pins, adhesives) must be ready. The posters associated with specific sessions should be grouped together, and space accommodations should be considered. Posters sessions should be organized in a way that posters are viewable for at least 2 full days. Enough technical staff is expected to be in the poster area to help poster presenters affix their posters.

### *Student Awards*

Prizes for the best student oral and poster presentations encourage young scientists to attend conferences. The conference website should be capable of storing student submissions and creating a list of student poster and orals presenters. Judging of student presentations requires volunteers willing to review the talks and the posters; session chairs are expected to serve as judges for students in their session, and any delegate is eligible to join the assessment group. AIPEA will provide a form for judging and the LOC will work with the AIPEA Secretary to ensure that judges are assigned to each student presentation. Judging can take place by evaluation of “lightning” talks or posters loaded to the conference website prior to the beginning of the conference, or in-person, but not both for reasons of fairness. An award committee gathers all the evaluations and determines the results for announcement during the Closing Ceremony.

### *Photography and social media*

A photographer can be hired to take pictures of key moments of the conference, particularly of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, plenary lectures and keynote lectures but it is mandatory to seek the permission of the delegates to be photographed and that they agree with the publication of the photos on any medium including online and social medium. A document indicating if people agree or not should be signed by each delegate during the registration.

## **13. Publications**

### *Special Issues in Journals*

Journal Special Issues for publications arising out of the AIPEA CLAY conference series may be proposed to peer reviewed journals. These Special Issues should be promoted before the conference and a submission deadline should be given during the conference.

### *Abstracts*

Abstracts should be collected in a book of abstracts that should have an ISBN and DOI. Abstracts should be prepared using a template provided by the ACCC. The abstract book of CLAY conferences - as well as the conference program - will be posted on the AIPEA website for free download.

The AIPEA website can host an Abstract Submission Platform. Information about its characteristics and features can be provided by the AIPEA webmaster.

# Network of Early Career Clay Scientists

In 2021 AIPEA established an Early Career Clay Scientists (ECCS) Committee for scientists within 5 years of completion of their PhD. The creation of the committee triggered an establishment of a network of ECCS, which has been very active since then. The core event to allow early career scientists meet regularly is the **online bi-monthly webinar series**, an idea of ECCS Committee member Guanzheng Zhuang. Each webinar is organized by the national clay group representative. It comprises one to four talks and lasts about 1 hour. There are 30-50 connections per event. Since the launch of the event in February 2023, we have had an amazing opportunity to discover the research on clay minerals from different parts of the world: from Korean Clay Science Society, Indian Clay Group, Spanish Clay Society, The Clay Science Society of Japan, Italian Association for the Study of Clays, Croatian Clay Group and German-Austrian-Swiss Clay Group (DTTG). The next event is planned for May 24 and will be organized by a representative of the Clay Minerals Society. Indeed, such an online event is very relevant for an international network to meet regularly.

ECCS Committee also organizes **workshops** for early career researchers **during clay conferences**. Previously, activities were carried out during the International Clay Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in 2022 and Euroclay 2023 conference in Bari, Italy. The topics of the workshops were suggested by network members such as “Becoming a supervisor”, “Writing a research grant proposal: where to start”, “Clay Scientific Societies: interest in becoming a member” and “Meet the editors of the clay science journals”. The committee serves also as a **contact point to collect and share the information** from national clay groups **about** available **grants** and **other support** to early career researchers to attend conferences, to disseminate information

about conferences and other announcements. Last but not least, the Committee is managing AIPEA **Research** and **Travel grants for early career scientists** awarded every four years during International Clay Conferences.

Prepared by Liva Dzene

# International Union of Geological Sciences Annual Report

## REPORTING FORM FOR IUGS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

### Name of Affiliated Organization:

Association Internationale pour l'Etude des Argiles – AIPEA

### Overall objectives:

AIPEA is an umbrella organization for the world's national clay societies. The aim of AIPEA is to promote international co-operation in clay research and technology. To fulfill this purpose its activities shall include the organization of:

- Meetings, notably International Clay Conferences;
- Field excursions;
- Visits to centers of clay research and technology;
- Workshops for young clay scientists;
- Publication of issues on clay research and technology;
- Publication of a periodical Newsletter to inform members of activities concerning clay research.

### Relate goals to overall IUGS scientific objectives:

- Organize and/or collaborate in the organization of conferences of clay worldwide interest;
- Stimulation of excellence in young clay scientists;
- Rewarding active clay scientists with a brilliant career in clay research;
- Stimulation of communication among clay researchers and technologists.

### Structure and organization:

AIPEA is administrated by a council that includes officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer, the immediate Past-President) as well as six Ordinary Councillors, representatives of the Organizing Committee

of next International Clay Conference, and the Chairs of the Nomenclature Committee, Teaching Committee and Hazardous Minerals Committee.

Current members of AIPEA Council for 2022-2025 include:

Dr. Bruno LANSON, President - [president@aipea.org](mailto:president@aipea.org) (or [Reiner\\_Dohrmann@web.de](mailto:Reiner_Dohrmann@web.de))

Dr. Chun-Hui ZHOU, Vice-President - [jocelyne.brendle@uha.fr](mailto:jocelyne.brendle@uha.fr)

Dr. Peter RYAN, Secretary-General - [secretary@aipea.org](mailto:secretary@aipea.org) (or [pryan@middlebury.edu](mailto:pryan@middlebury.edu))

Dr. Alberto LOPEZ GALINDO, Treasurer - [treasurer@aipea.org](mailto:treasurer@aipea.org) (or [alberto@ugr.es](mailto:alberto@ugr.es))

Dr. Reiner DOHRMANN, Past President  
[reiner.dohrmann@bgr.de](mailto:reiner.dohrmann@bgr.de)

Dr. Samar Chandra DATTA, Councillor (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Dr. Erzsébet HARMAN-TÓTH, Councillor (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Prof. Cliff T. JOHNSTON, Councillor (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Dr. Tanya PERETYAZHKO, Councillor (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Dr. Adi RADIAN, Councillor (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Prof. Tsutomu SATO, Councillor (1<sup>st</sup> term)

Dr. Liva DZENE, Chair Early Career Clay Scientists Committee

Dr. Jeanne PERCIVAL, Chair Teaching committee

Dr. Bruno LANSON, Chair Nomenclature committee

Dr. Saverio FIORE, Chair Hazardous Minerals committee

Dr. Stephen HILLIER (Representative of the 17th ICC)

### Interaction with other International organizations and projects:

AIPEA has 23 affiliated societies / groups from around the world, including: Algerian Clay Group; Clay Minerals Group of The Mineralogical Society of Great Britain

and Ireland; Chinese Association for the Study of Clays; Clay Minerals Society of India; Clay Science Society of Japan; Croatian Clay Group; Czech National Clay Group; European Clay Groups Association; French Clay Group; German- Austrian-Swiss Clay Group; Korean Clay Science Society; Kurdistan Clay Group; Hungarian Clay Group; Israel Society of Clay Research; Italian Association for the Study of Clays; North American Group (Clay Minerals Society); Polish Clay Group; Portuguese Clay Group; Romanian Group for the Study of Clays and Clay Minerals; Russian Clay Group; Slovak Clay Group; Spanish Clay Society; Tunisian Clay Group; Clay Science Society – Turkey; Ukrainian Clay Group.

AIPEA has four committees working on key themes of international interest: Nomenclature, Teaching, Early Career Clay Scientists, 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, has been the main AIPEA activity. The 17<sup>th</sup> ICC took place in Istanbul from 25-29 July 2022 and the next is slated for Dublin Ireland (13-18 July 2025). Starting in 2027, the ICC will be combined with the Euroclay conference in a biennial series known as CLAY2027, CLAY 2029 etc. The first in this series will be CLAY2027 in Madrid in June 2027.

AIPEA continues to improve its website as a source of information and support for the worldwide clay community ([www.aipea.org](http://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 three monographs of the book series AIPEA Educational Series (AES; ISSN: 2283-687):

- Interstratified clay minerals. Origin, characterization & geochemical significance. Editor: C. Ignacio Sainz-Diaz. ISBN: 978-88-7522-046-4. doi: 10.14644/AES.001
- Magnesian clays: Characterization, origin and applications. Editors: Manuel Pozo & Emilio Galán. ISBN: 978-88-7522-093-6 – ISSN: 2283-687X. doi: 10.14644/AES.002
- Computational modeling in Clay Mineralogy. Editors: Saverio Fiore, Javier Cuadros & F. Javier Huertas. ISBN: 978-88-7522-048-8 – ISSN: 2283-687X. doi: 10.14644/AES.003

Electronic copies of the volumes are available for free download. Information can be found at <https://aipea.org/publications/>

#### **Chief accomplishments for 2023 and plans for 2024:**

AIPEA produces an Annual Newsletter in digital format, which is available at the Association website. AIPEA administered student awards at Euroclay this past July in Bari Italy, and now planning is underway for the 18<sup>th</sup> ICC in Dublin in 2025 <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 still 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.

#### **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:**

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January 12, 2024

# AIPEA Nomenclature Committee

Bruno Lanson is now 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)  
Katja Emmerich (Karlsruhe Inst. Technol., Germany)  
Hongping He (Guangzhou Inst. Geoch., China)  
Steve Hillier (James Hutton Institute, UK)  
Toshihiro Kogure (Univ. Tokyo, Japan)  
Balwant Singh (Univ. Sydney, Australia)  
Elizabeth Rampe (NASA Johnson Space Center, USA)  
Marek Szczerba (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)

# National and Regional Clay Groups

This session of the AIPEA Newsletter brings together the reports about the many activities developed by its Affiliated Societies/Groups up to December 2023. 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, bringing together their national flavor. Some original reports included many photos and we had to leave some on the cutting room floor in order to keep the size of this edition easy to be accessed by digital means.

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

Peter Ryan  
Secretary-General, AIPEA  
December 2023

## CROATIA CROATIAN CLAY GROUP

The Croatian Clay Group is part of the Croatian Geological Society, with a stable membership of 15 active members. In addition, 14 people are involved as passive members. In 2023, a total of two meetings, several lectures and one workshop were held. The main topic of the meetings was the discussion of the proposed topics regarding the future joint AIPEA conferences (ICC and Euroclay). The proposed names of the future conferences were unanimously supported by the Croatian Clay Group. Prof. Darko Tibljaš attended the EUROCLAY conference in Bari in July 2023 and represented the Croatian Clay Group at the ECGA Council meeting. The scientists participated on 36<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Sedimentology (IAS) conference in Dubrovnik in June, with poster and oral presentations, as well as organizers and volunteers. They also took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> Croatian Geological Congress in Poreč in October. The colleagues organized the excursion “Red Istria” to bauxite deposits and terra rossa soils, which was led by Prof. Goran Durn and his team ([https://www.geologija.hr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/7.-HGK-Vodic-ekskurzija\\_Porec\\_2023.pdf](https://www.geologija.hr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/7.-HGK-Vodic-ekskurzija_Porec_2023.pdf)). A lecture was organized and held by colleague Luka Badurina, who is currently employed at Covia company, near Chicago (USA). He presented a paper from his doctoral research at Texas Tech University, under the mentorship of Dr. Branimir Šegvić, “Modelling trace-element mobility during tephra alteration in a lacustrine setting using glass phase and clay separate LA-ICP-MS geochemistry”. The lecture and the meeting that followed were held in electronic form.

Our young scientists organized a webinar as part of the AIPEA Early Career Clay Scientist Network on Friday, November 10, 2023, through the Zoom platform. Lectures were held by the following representatives of the Croatian Clay Group, with the following titles:



1. Zvonka Gverić, PhD student at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science: “Clay minerals transformations in young soils in a temperate climate: the effect of pH”;
2. Ivor Perković, PhD student at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering: “Glauconite formation in a palaeosol as an indicator of the incipient sea-level rise: a case study of the Zlatni rt, Istria, Croatia”
3. Dr. Jasmina Martinčević Lazar, Expert Advisor at Croatian Geological Survey in Zagreb, Department for Geology: “Clay minerals in Chernozem and Chernozem-like soils developed on loess sediments in Eastern part of Croatia: degradation to brown soil – yes or no?”

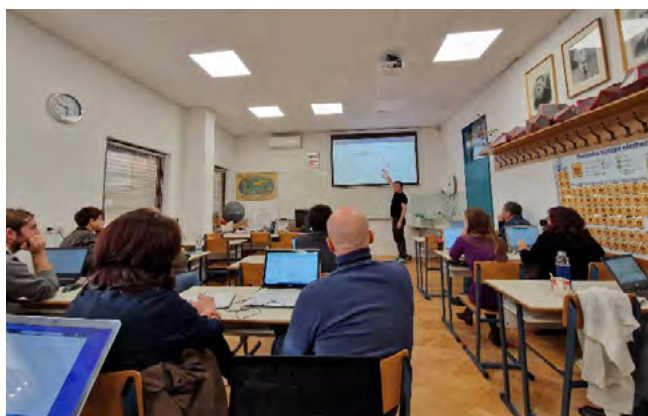
A free two-day workshop was organized by our group representative Dr. Zvonka Gverić, for all members of the Croatian Geological Society, entitled “Quantitative analysis of minerals using the PROFEX program”, which took place from 23 to 24 November 2023 at the Department of Geology Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. The workshop was led by a guest lecturer, Dr. Stanislav Jelavić, a mineralogist at the CNRS Institute of Earth Sciences (ISTerre) in Grenoble, France. A total of 22 participants attended the workshop, ranging from students and young researchers to experienced scientists and industrial workers.



Participants of the “Red Istria” excursion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Croatian Geological Congress in Poreč, Istria, in front of the bauxite deposit (left) and vineyard on a terra rossa soils typical for western Istria (right).



Lectures by our colleagues, Ivor Perković (left) and Jasmina Martinčević Lazar (right) on the 7<sup>th</sup> Croatian Geological Congress in Poreč, October 2023.



*Details from the workshop “Quantitative analysis of minerals using the PROFEX program” organized by Croatian Clay Group in Department of Geology Faculty of Science, in Zagreb.*

Submitted by President Dr. Nikolina Ilijanić and Secretary Dr. Jasmina Martinčević Lazar

(Croatian Geological Survey)

## CZECH REPUBLIC CZECH NATIONAL CLAY GROUP

The Czech National Clay Group published two numbers (72–73) of the “Informátor” bulletin in Czech language with one contribution in English



and with various information about clay science like conferences, textbooks and papers. The ISSN of the printed version is 1802-2480; ISSN of internet pdf version is 1802-2499.

We organized spring seminar in Prague on June 22, 2023.

Program of the seminar:

- **Geological-geochemical characteristics of the Říčanka basin**

**Martin Štátný** (Institute of Geology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v.v.i.)

- **Advances in atomistic simulation approach to halloysite structure**

**Milan Pšenička** (Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University)

During MECC 2022 at Klickow castle in Poland we decided to organize the upcoming MECC2024, which will be organized by our group in Pilsen in September 15.-20, 2024. Conference www pages will be available from [www.czechclaygroup.cz](http://www.czechclaygroup.cz) during February 2024.

**Contemporary board of CNCG:** Martin Štátný (chairman), Miroslav Pospíšil (vice-chairman), Barbora Doušová (board member).

### Correspondence address:

**RNDr. Martin Štátný, CSc. (chairman)**

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or

**RNDr. Miroslav Pospíšil, Ph.D. (vice-chairman)**

**Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics**

**Department of Chemical Physics and Optics**

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**E-mail: [pospisl@karlov.mff.cuni.cz](mailto:pospisl@karlov.mff.cuni.cz)**

All information about CNCG are presented at our www pages: [www.czechclaygroup.cz](http://www.czechclaygroup.cz)

Submitted by Miroslav Pospíšil, January 26, 2024

## Invitation to the 11<sup>th</sup> Mid-European Clay Conference

**Organizers:** Czech National Clay Group on behalf of the Clay Groups of Croatia, Germany-Austria-Switzerland, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia

**Time:** September 15 (Sun) – September 20 (Fri), 2024

**Place:** Pilsen (Plzeň), Czech Republic, <https://www.visitplzen.eu>

**Hotels:** Parkhotel Congress Center, <https://parkhotel-czech.eu>

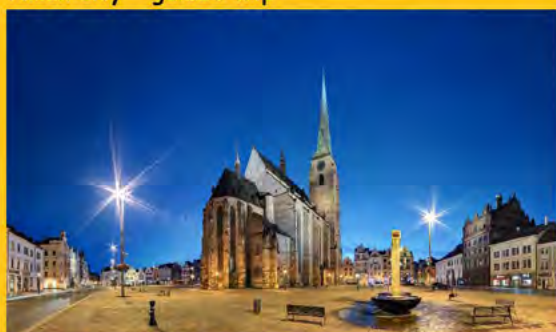
**Transportation:** Public transport by bus or train 1 hour from Prague. Trams in Pilsen.



Pilsen city - guided trip



Pilsner Urquell Brewery- conference dinner



Bartholomew's Cathedral - evening concert



Great Synagogue - guided trip



Parkhotel Congress Centre, U Borského parku 31, 30100 Plzeň



Main Congress hall Conferenza



Welcomel

Contact: Miroslav Pospíšil  
[www.czechclaygroup.cz](http://www.czechclaygroup.cz)  
[pospisil@karlov.mff.cuni.cz](mailto:pospisil@karlov.mff.cuni.cz)  
+420-951551245



Small lecture halls - Basso

## FRANCE

### FRENCH CLAY GROUP (GFA)



#### 1. Committee

Elections were held in 2023 to renew the board council of the French Clay Group for the next 4 years. A new Executive committee was approved in June 2023, in the sidelines of the annual meeting:

President: Vanessa Prévot (ICCF, University of Clermont-Ferrand)

Vice-President: Eric Ferrage (IC2MP, University of Poitiers)

Secretary: Erwan Paineau (LPS, University Paris Saclay)

Treasurer: Jérôme Labille (CEREGE, University of Aix-Marseille)

Deputy secretary: Bruno Lanson (ISTerre, University of Grenoble-Alpes)

In addition to the Executive Committee, several other commissions will be set up and led by one or more members of the board council:

- Training commission: Emmanuel Tertre
- Relations with the scientific community: Maguy Jaber & Bruno Lanson
- Relations with the socio-economic world: Christelle Latrille
- Communication: Damien Cornu and Dimitri Deneele
- Clay library: Martine Lanson
- Early career network: Liva Dzene



*Renew of the board council of the French Clay Group*

#### 2. Accomplishments

##### 2.1. Annual meeting of French Clay Group

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference took place from June 21 to June 22, 2023 at the Faculté des Sciences Techniques of

the Université de Haute-Alsace in Mulhouse. The event was organized by Jocelyne Brendlé and Liva Dzene, from the Transferts et Réactivité des Matériaux pour les Procédés Propres (TRM2P) department of the Institut de Science des Matériaux de Mulhouse (IS2M). The conference brought together some forty scientists with a keen interest in clay minerals from research institutes and universities in Mulhouse, Marseille, Lorraine, Poitiers, Paris, Clermont-Ferrand, Nantes, Grenoble and Limoges, as well as colleagues from ANDRA and Ipsen Industries.



*Group photo of annual meeting participants*

The program included two plenary lectures by Maguy Jaber of Sorbonne University and Sabine Petit of the University of Poitiers (recipient of the GFA award for advanced scientists 2022), as well as two guest lectures by young researchers: Denys Grekov of IMT Atlantique in Nantes and Brian Grégoire of the University of Poitiers. Participants appreciated the warm, friendly atmosphere in which they were able to present their research work, as well as the rich exchanges on the subject of clays. The conference was followed by a thematic school on "Techniques for characterizing clay minerals". Valérie Briois, head of the ROCK beamline at SOLEIL synchrotron, presented X-ray absorption spectroscopy: a local technique for clay materials. Anne-Claire Gaillot, lecturer in chemistry at the University of Nantes, presented the principles and recent advances in electron diffraction. Prizes for the best oral presentations were awarded to Delphine Masson, a doctoral student at the E2Lim laboratory at the University of Limoges, and Claire Hotton, a postdoctoral researcher at the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, University of Paris-Saclay. The next annual meeting will be held in Grenoble in May 2024.

##### 2.2. GFA award

The GFA Young investigator award was attributed to Erwan Paineau (LPS, CNRS/University of Paris-Saclay) for the excellence and originality of his work on imogolite clay nanotubes.

### 2.3. EUROCLAY conference

The last edition of the EUROCLAY conference took place in Istanbul from July 24 to 27. On this occasion, the French community represented one of the largest national delegations with more than 35 participants. Several GFA members were also involved in the organization of thematic sessions.



*Group photo of some of the GFA participants present at the conference*

### 2.4. GFA PhD students & Postdoc Day

The GFA renewed its annual meeting for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. Around 35 people joined this event, which was held online. This event was an opportunity for 8 young people coming from France, Morocco and Cameroun to present their work and to discuss with members of the group.

Submitted by Vanessa Prévot with the assistance of  
Erwan Paineau  
Paris, January 2024

### GERMAN-AUSTRIAN-SWISS CLAY GROUP DTTG

[www.dttg.ethz.ch](http://www.dttg.ethz.ch)



There has been a lot going on in the clay mineral scene in 2023. Some of us already attended the CMS (Clay Minerals Society) conference in Austin, Texas in May, where a very good Sybilla workshop was organised. Sybilla is now freeware, distributed by CMS. Many were at EUROCLAY in Bari, Italy in July, the last time it will be called Euroclay. A total of 28 sessions covered a wide range of topics, from soil science, clay geology and crystallographic issues to geotechnics and a broad field of materials science. Once again it was clear that the science of clay minerals is extremely diverse. Some of the sessions were again organised with the DTTG as convenor.

After these two conferences, there were two other conferences that unfortunately took place at the same time in September, the conference of the German Soil Science Society (DBG) in Halle and GEOBerlin in Berlin. In the DBG there seems to be a growing interest in clay minerals. The research landscape for clay mineralogy seems to be improving. This is largely due to the search for a final repository for nuclear waste, but also to the interest in clay mineral formations in relation to climate change. This requires, among other things, a better understanding of bentonites as barrier materials and of claystones as potential CO<sub>2</sub> reservoirs. There are also graduate school applications where clay minerals play a key role. To promote this interest and to improve the basic understanding of the qualitative and quantitative analysis of clay minerals, we consider it very important to continue to offer our DTTG workshop.

International DTTG-Workshop “Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Clays and Clay Minerals”



*Participants of the workshop.*

The 10th DTTG Workshop, held from 11 to 15 September in Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany, and organised by the Westerwald Campus of Koblenz University of Applied Sciences and the Research Institute for Glass and Ceramics (FGK), once again offered an international group of participants from universities and research institutes the opportunity to interact with renowned scientific experts in the field of clay science.

The intensive programme with a wide range of exciting lectures on the fundamentals, analytical possibilities and industrial applications of clay mineralogy, combined with practical analytical exercises and the unique opportunity for networking, was very well received by all participants. A visit to the Westerwald Museum, where participants had the opportunity to present their work in a poster session and receive feedback from the experts, and a workshop dinner rounded off the event.

The next workshop will take place in spring 2025 in Krakow/PL, organised by the group of Prof. Arek Derkowski at the Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences. The number of participants is limited and the workshop usually fills up quickly. So stay tuned and check the DTTG website for news.

The DTTG is a member of the Mid European Clay Conference. The next, the 11<sup>th</sup> MECC, to be held this year in Pilsen/CZ, will also be the occasion for the General Assembly and the election of the new board.

For more details on the DTTG, upcoming meetings, workshops, etc., please visit the DTTG website at <https://www.dttg.ethz.ch/>.

Submitted by Michael Plötze (ETH Zurich), Secretary and incoming President

## ITALY

### ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLAYS (AISA APS)

During 2023 the Italian Association for Clays (AISA-APS) actively promoted events for disseminating knowledge about clays in schools, universities and conferences in which its members are involved. In particular, the AISA-APS has been engaged into the organization of two international meetings of great scientific relevance and interesting for a broad audience:



**DUST 2023** - 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Atmospheric Dust, <https://www.dust2023.atmodust.net/>.

DUST 2023 Conference was held from 22 to 25 May, 2023 in Bari (Italy) (Fig. 1). It focused on inorganic atmospheric particulate with a wide range of scientific contributions mainly regarding techniques and methods for the PM characterization, the impact on human health and the environment, and the importance of dust in geological times. The meeting represents a unique opportunity for researchers in mineralogy, physics, geochemistry, engineering, volcanology, chemistry and for many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the boundless world of atmospheric particles. Thirteen scientific sessions covered a wide range of topics that has included Chemistry & Mineralogy, Geological Records, Health & Environment, Instrumentation & Measurements, Analytical Techniques and Methods, Transport & Deposition. During the conference, experts coming from all over the world have presented 85 orals and 20 posters. Selected young researchers and students were awarded with Student Best Speaker and Student Best Poster Awards, and MS and PhD student grants to encourage the active participation of young scientists in the conference.



*Fig. 1 – Opening ceremony of DUST 2023 meeting in Bari (Italy).*

**EUROCLAY 2023** (International Conference of European Clay Groups Association - 2023, <https://euroclay.aipea.org/>).

Under the auspices of European Clay Group Association (ECGA) and the patronage of International Association for the Study of Clays (AIPEA), the AISA-APS, in cooperation with the Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis (IMAA-CNR) and the Dep. of Earth and Geoenvironmental Sciences of University of Bari (Italy), organised the Euroclay 2023 international meeting which took place in the wonderful location of Villa Romanazzi Carducci Conference Centre (Bari, Italy), from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 (Fig. 2).

The 23 scientific sessions approved mainly focused on application and valorization, chemistry and mineralogy, health and the environment, analytical techniques and other interesting themes around the world of clays and clay minerals. A total of 215 talks and 105 posters were proposed to the 337 participants in the conference. A great importance was given to the guest speakers (4 Plenary Lecturers and 8 Keynote Speakers), international leaders in their respective research fields, which displayed their latest results on cutting-edge topics concerning clays. Also attention was paid to students and young researchers whose research activities and/or participation in the conference were supported by:

- Student Best Speaker and Student Best Poster Awards sponsored by AIPEA and ECGA and financially supported by Minerals (ISSN 2075-163X), a scientific journal published by MDPI;
- Students Grants provided to MS and PhD students who presented contributions at this conference and preferentially natives of developing countries and/or with low incomes (founded by ECGA).

As part of conference program, several trips to amazing sites, including the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Alberobello, Matera and Pompei, allowed participants to admire some Italian places full of history and charm.



*Fig. 2 – Opening ceremony of the EuroClay 2023 meeting (Bari, Italy). From the left: Fernanda Andreola (EuroClay 2023 Chair), Bruno Lanson (AIPEA President), Reiner Dohrman (EuroClay 2023 Honorary Chair), Saverio Fiore (ECGA President).*

#### **WORK PLAN FOR 2024:**

The Association will be engaged in activities designed to further involve members in activities, consolidate membership and increase numbers. In addition, the AISA-APS members will be involved into the organization of the next DUST2025 conference that will held in Bari at the Department of Earth and Geoenvironmental Sciences of University of Bari (Italy).

#### **AISA-APS Council Board members 2020-2023**

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:  
Mariano MERCURIO

(Department of Science and Technology (DST),  
University of Sannio, Benevento)

Lara MARITAN  
(Department of Geosciences, University of Padova)

Rocco LAVIANO  
(Department of the Earth and Geo-environmental  
Sciences, University of Bari)

Administrative address:

Associazione Italiana Sulle Argille – APS (AISA-APS)

c/o Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e Geoambientali

Via Orabona, 4, 70125 Bari - Italia

Submitted by Antonio Lettino

Secretary, AISA-APS

E-Mail: [segreteria@aipea.it](mailto:segreteria@aipea.it)

## THE CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY OF JAPAN



### 1. Committee

The following officers were elected for the fiscal year 2024 and 2025.

President:	Prof. J. Kawamata, Yamaguchi University
Vice president:	Dr. T. Hibino, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Dr. M. Suzuki, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
Secretary General:	Dr. T. Ebina, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
Principal Editors:	Dr. S. Yokoyama, Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (Nendo Kagaku) Prof. T. Nakato, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Clay Science)

### 2. The 66th annual meeting

The 66th annual meeting of the Clay Science Society of Japan was held at Sendai City War Reconstruction Memorial Hall from 12 to 14, September 2023. It was principally organized by Dr. T. Ebina of AIST Tohoku, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. A total of 70 papers including 27 posters were presented. The program included a special lecture of Prof. A. Muramatsu, entitled “Synthesis of well-defined crystalline metallosilicate particles and evaluation of their framework structure by synchrotron radiation measurements”. The program also included a symposium entitled “The role of clay science in achieving carbon neutrality” with following invited speakers.

- Okamoto (Tohoku University): Carbon dioxide fixation in mantle rocks ~ mechanisms and geoscientific importance ~
- T. Kameda (Tohoku University): CO<sub>2</sub> capture and conversion to useful compounds using layered double hydroxides

- H. Takasu (Tokyo Institute of Technology): Development of materials for thermal energy conversion and storage using inorganic materials
- M. Okabayashi (Architecture and Planning, Co., Ltd.): Decarbonization initiatives toward a carbon-neutral society at Architecture and Planning, Co., Ltd. ~ geothermal heat utilization and the earthsilica (a low-carbon solidification material) that replaces cement ~
- Y. Hasegawa (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology): Development of CO<sub>2</sub> separation zeolite membranes toward carbon neutrality
- Y. Takizawa (Miyagi Prefecture): Direction of Miyagi Prefecture's Policies for Decarbonization



*Photo of lecture room*



*Photo of banquet*

### 3. Awards

The society presented awards to the following members at the occasion of the annual meeting.

- Clay Science Society of Japan Award was given to M. Shirai, Iwate University.
- Young Researcher Awards were given to T. Fujimura (Shimane University).
- Best Technological Award was given to M. Suzuki *et al.* (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology).
- Best Paper Awards were given to T. Nakato *et al.* (Clay Science, 26, 17-24) and S. Hara & K. Takeuchi (Clay Science, 26, 25-38).
- Young Student Award was given to R. Kinoshita (Tokyo Denki University).

Best Presentation Awards were given to the following young researchers.

C. Chida (Iwate University)

N. Hori (Waseda University)

E. Yoshikawa (Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry)

Y. Takamatsu (Hosei University)



*Prof. Shirai*



*Dr. Fujimura*



*Prof. Nakato*



*Prof. Hara*



*Ms. Kinoshita*



*Dr. Suzuki et al.*

#### 4. Publication

Clay Science Society of Japan publishes three issues of Nendo Kagaku (Journal of the Clay Science Society of Japan in Japanese), and four issues of Clay Science every year.

For further updated information: <http://www.cssj2.org/english/> or contact Yoshikazu Kameshima, Okayama University, e-mail: [ykameshi@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:ykameshi@cc.okayama-u.ac.jp).

Submitted by Yoshikazu Kameshima,  
January 2024

## RUSSIA RUSSIAN CLAY GROUP



**Russian Clay Group**  
Российская группа по глинам и глинистым минералам  
<http://www.ruclay.com> // [info@ruclay.com](mailto:info@ruclay.com)

The **Russian Clay Group** (RCG) is affiliated to European Clay Group Association ECGA. RCG was created at 1994 and includes 43 members.

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.

Members of the RCG specialize in different scientific areas, ranging from the geology of clay deposits, the structural features clay minerals, their properties, and ending with the industrial application of clays.

### *VI Russian Meeting on Clays and Clay Minerals – “CLAYS-2023”*

On June 13–16, 2023, the VI Russian Meeting on Clays and Clay Minerals – “CLAYS-2023” was held at the Institute of Precambrian Geology and Geochronology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IPGG RAS) with the support of the sponsors - LLC “BENTONITE”, LLC “PVP SNK” and LLC “TESCAN”.



*Fig. 1. General photo of the Meeting participants*

As part of the Meeting, plenary, oral and poster reports were presented in 5 sections, covering the problems of the genesis of clay minerals, their transformation during geological processes, behavior during weathering, soil formation, redeposition, metamorphism, crystal chemistry of clay minerals, physico-chemical, sorption, water-physical and other properties of clays, development of methods for

their identification and isotopic dating, as well as issues of the use of clay minerals in oil and gas industry, ecology, medicine, etc.

Diplomas and prizes for the best oral and poster presentations among students and young scientists were awarded to: Artemyev Grigory Denisovich, Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Yulia Alikina, IHS, St. Petersburg; Igor Danilin, Moscow State University. M.V., Lomonosova, Moscow; Anastasia Zakusina, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow; Ivan Morozov, IGM RAS, Moscow; Anna Krot, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow; Sofya Mezentsева, MSTU named after N. E. Bauman, Moscow; Marat Roshchin, MGRI, Moscow.



*Fig. 2. The best speakers among students and young scientists at the VI Russian Conference on Clays and Clay Minerals*

In connection with the active development of the use of clay materials as components of engineering safety barriers in the disposal of radioactive waste, a separate scientific section was allocated - “Clays and clay materials as sorbents and insulating safety barriers in the disposal of toxic waste”. A round table was organized to justify the choice of clay materials for creating a buffer layer at radioactive waste disposal sites

Based on the results of the round table, the following decisions were made:

- Use bentonite as the main raw material to create a buffer layer for the disposal of radioactive waste of the first and the second classes.
- Minimize the admixture of kaolinite in barrier mixtures.
- To evaluate the possibility of adding high-quality ben-



*Fig. 3. General photo of the participants of CLAYS-2023*

tonites from the Dash-Salakhilinskoye and Taganskoye deposits to the main bentonite mass to improve performance properties.

- Assess the uncertainties of predictive models to justify the safety of radioactive waste disposal in the deep gas disposal facility, as well as the characteristics of clay materials responsible for ensuring safety.
- Avoid the occurrence of complex processes that may complicate the assessment of the safety of radioactive waste disposal facilities.
- Ensure transparency and traceability of the arguments for the use of a particular material in an engineered safety barrier system.
- Ensure the reliability, simplicity and technical feasibility of technological solutions in the development and creation of storage facilities.
- Implement the ability to simulate the processes occurring in the engineering safety barriers after the closure of the deep disposal facility for radioactive waste.
- Consider the possibility of an economically acceptable modification of bentonite to increase the sorption of anions (iodine).

The conference was attended by 98 people and 15 people remotely with 32 oral and 34 poster presentations, as well as 2 reports from the conference sponsors, dedicated to equipment for analyzing the composition of clay minerals

and the features of the use of modern equipment in the field of geoscience.

It was decided to hold the next VII Russian Meeting on Clays and Clay Minerals - "CLAYS-2025" in 2025 in Tomsk with the support of Tomsk Polytechnic University and TomskNIPINeft (chairman – Dr. L.G. Sukhikh, acting rector of TPU, scientific secretary – Dr. M.A. Rudmin, associate professor, +79138581922, [rudminma@tpu.ru](mailto:rudminma@tpu.ru)).



*Fig. 4. Tomsk Polytechnic University (main building).*

**[www.ruclay.com](http://www.ruclay.com)** - the official website of the group RCG.  
 President of Russian Clay Group  
 Dr. Victoria Krupskaya ([krupskaya@ruclay.com](mailto:krupskaya@ruclay.com))  
 Secretary: Dr. Petr Belousov ([pitbl@mail.ru](mailto:pitbl@mail.ru))

## SLOVAKIA

### SLOVAK CLAY GROUP (SCG)

The year 2023 was very rich in activities of the members of the Slovak Clay Group (SCG) and events that took place during this year. It brought both happy and sad news.

On June 1, 2023, Ing. Blahoslav Čícel, DrSc. passed away at the age of 90. He was a key figure in the promotion of clay science in Slovakia and in the establishment of the Department of Hydrosilicates (DH) at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (IIC SAS), which was later led by Peter Komadel and Jana Madejová. In addition to Dr. Čícel's professional influence, his personal moral and very human qualities also helped younger colleagues to find the right path in their professional careers. "I dare say" (as J. Bujdák notes), "that without him there would not be such a successful research team". Dr. Čícel was also the author of two Slovak monographs on clay minerals and bentonite, which were published during the period of socialism in Czechoslovakia. As students, we learned about clay science from this literature.

The good news came right at the beginning of the year from the Office of the President of Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová. Our colleague and long-time head of the DH group at the IIC SAS, RNDr. Jana Madejová, DrSc., was awarded 2nd Class Ľudovít Štúr Order for achievements in the development of the Slovak Republic in the field of science. This award is given by the President of Slovakia annually only to a few Slovak personalities from various fields of society, and awards for scientists are rare and exceptional. On this occasion, a seminar was also held at the SCG meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February, where Jana Madejová presented a summary of her scientific work, mainly focusing on the application of vibrational spectroscopy in clay science. During the seminar, we also remembered the beginnings of the SCG and our older colleagues who played an important role in the activities of group in the past.



*Jana Madejová received the award from the President of Slovakia, Zuzana Čaputová.*

A new committee was elected by the members of the SCG and the committee chose a new president (J. Bujdák), vice-president (P. Uhlík), and secretary (H. Pálková).

From June 26 to 28, 2023, the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop of the SCG was held under the title Clay Minerals and Selected Industrial Minerals in Materials Science, Applications, and Environmental Technology.



*Besides discussions on clay science, participants also enjoyed beautiful nature in the countryside near the village of Terchová.*

The venue was the village of Terchová, one of the most beautiful places in Slovakia with beautiful nature and attractive places for tourism. Most of the SCG members took part in the conference. Especially the results of the young PhD students and research fellows were presented. During the event, J. Bujdák's national project supported by SRDA agency (Polymer surfaces modified with layered nanoparticles and photoactive dyes) was concluded in the form of a summary of the results obtained within the project and a discussion.



*Part of our group & friends in the beautiful garden of the conference venue in Bari, Italy.*

In the summer of 2023, we participated in the EURO-

CLAY 2023 conference in Bari, Italy. The city of Bari is the historical center of Apulia and together with its surroundings, it forms a very pleasant place with a typical Mediterranean atmosphere. It was very nice to meet many colleagues from different parts of the world after a long time. Our PhD. students (Viktória Planetová, Samam Bashir) received support from the organizers and the Slovak Academy of Sciences for partial cover of the travel costs. The number of participants from Slovakia was really high considering size of our group. Perhaps Slovakia has never had such a rich participation in an international conference. In total, there were over 20 Slovak participants. The reason could be nostalgia, as this was the last conference to bear the name "EUROCLAY".

The SCG expressed its disapproval of the changes in the organization and names of the conferences previously organized by the ECGA. The EUROCLAY conferences had a good reputation and were at least as successful as the international conferences organized by AIPEA. We saw no reason for the proposed changes. Furthermore, half of the possible financial profits from the conferences organized by the European group, which originally went to the national clay group as a reward for its volunteer work, should in future go to AIPEA. As emerged from the discussion, it is not entirely clear what contribution AIPEA should make to the organization of the conferences. From our experience, we know that 99% of the work lies on the shoulders of the individual volunteers from the group of conference organizers. In the end, however, the majority of the European clay groups agreed to these changes and the SCG accepted this decision.

**SCG Council:** Juraj Bujdák, Peter Uhlík, Helena Pálková, Peter Boháč, Marek Osacký



**Correspondence address:**

Slovak Clay Group

Institute of Inorganic Chemistry

Dúbravská cesta 9, 845 36  
Bratislava

Slovak Republic

**SPAIN**

**SPANISH CLAY SOCIETY**

**SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE ARCILLAS (SEA)**

During 2023 SEA members participated in the EUROCLAY 2023 Conference held July 24-27, 2023 in Bari, Italy. During this meeting, the European Clay Group Association (ECGA) and International Association for the Study of Clays (AIPEA) announced the new format of conferences that will be held bringing together EUROCLAY and ICC under a common banner. In Bari, it was also announced that the SEA's candidacy to hold the first CLAY meeting was accepted and therefore, the CLAY2027 conference will be organized by our Society in Madrid!!



*Spanish scientific group representing SEA in Bari*



*President of the SEA presenting the candidature of CLAY 2027 during the EUROCLAY2023 in Bari*

The annual Scientific Meeting of the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) was held in Madrid on November 17, with 24 contributions and 47 participants. The Organizing Committee was formed by SEA members from the Facultad de Ciencias of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid of the Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (ICMM-CSIC), coordinated by Jaime Cuevas, Pilar Aranda, Ana I. Ruiz and Margarita Darder. The Scientific Meeting included a posters session and a plenary lecture entitled: “TEM y arcillas. La historia continúa” by Prof. Fernando Nieto, Professor of the Universidad de Granada and in which recent advances in techniques related to transmission electron microscopy (TEM) were presented and illustrated with examples of clay mineralogy in which these advances have been key to their study. The Young Researchers’ Award offered by the SEA was given to Laita Florián (Universidad de Zaragoza) for her communication titled “El control de los minerales de la arcilla en la distribución de metales críticos en procesos de meteorización química”.



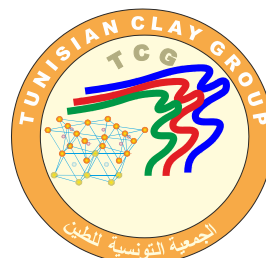
*Prof. Fernando Nieto in the Scientific Meeting of the Spanish Clay Society at the ICMM-CSIC.*

From the SEA we would like to echo some important events that occurred this year regarding some of our members. Fernando Nieto, SEA past president, was awarded by Sociedad Española de Mineralogía as honorary member in June. Also, Blanca Bauluz has been elected as Académico to the Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas, Químicas y Naturales de Zaragoza (Spain), and Isabel González received an honorary medal from the Asociación Española de Científicos (AEC). Let this news serve to celebrate this past year.

Ana Isabel Ruiz García

Secretary of the Spanish Clay Society

## TUNISIA TUNISIAN CLAY GROUP



### 1- Committee:

The members of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) Executive Committee are:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Fakher Jamoussi</i>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<i>Nouri Hatira</i>
<i>Secretary General:</i>	<i>Mondher Hachani</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Béchir Moussi</i>
<i>Members:</i>	<i>Hédi Ridha Chafar</i> <i>Samir Baklouti</i> <i>Ali Tlili</i> <i>Emna Fakhfakh</i> <i>Imen Khiari</i> <i>Khalil Lazaar</i>

### 2- Participation to congress and symposium:

Some members of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) participated in the Atlas Georesources International Congress AGIC March 18-20, 2023 Hammamet, Tunisia.



*TCG participation to AGIC, Hammamet 2023*



*TCG participation to AGIC, Hammamet 2023*

Some members of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) participated in the Eco construction days May 3-4, 2023, Tunis.

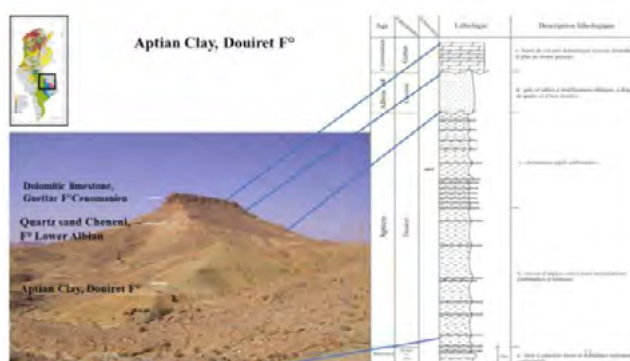
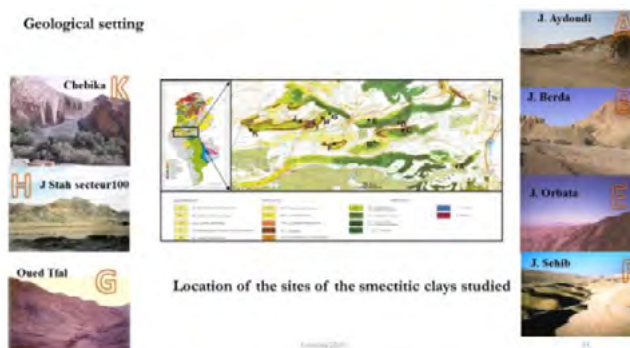


*TCG participation to the Eco construction days May 3-4, 2023, Tunis.*

Some members of the Tunisian Clay Group (TCG) participated in the Euroclay 2023 in Bari Italia, 24-27 July 2023.



#### Geological setting



*TCG participation at Euroclay 2023 in Bari Italia*

### 3- Organization of scientific excursion:

The Tunisian Clay Group organized a scientific excursion for the students of the University of Tunis El Manar in the context of the Valorization of Geomaterials in the region of Jebel Oust, Zriba and Hammam Jedidi, May 6, 2022.



*Excursion for the students of the Tunis El Manar University  
May 6, 2023*

For further information, please contact:

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[fakherjamoussi@gmail.com](mailto:fakherjamoussi@gmail.com)

**By the President of the Tunisian Clay Group**

**Prof. Fakher Jamoussi**

**December 2023**

## TURKEY CLAY SCIENCE SOCIETY



Clay Science Society  
**Kil Bilimleri  
Derneği**

[www.kilbilimleri.org](http://www.kilbilimleri.org)

@clayscisoc\_tr

The activities carried out by our national clay group during 2023 are summarized below:

### 19th NATIONAL CLAY SYMPOSIUM

The 19th National Clay Symposium (Clay'2023) was organized at Eskişehir during 6-9 September 2023 and hosted by Eskişehir Technical University, one of the distinguished universities of Eskişehir, the city of science, culture and youth.

Eskişehir region is important for its valuable industrial mineral sources such as boron, meerschaum, sepiolite and kaolin which brought on the development of powerful ceramic, mining, chemical and cement industries in wide areas.

The Symposium had a special importance since it coincided with the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye. The Symposium created a very special environment

for the participants for an unforgettable celebration in the light of clay science.

A total of 223 participants attended the Symposium. The Scientific Program consisted of 17 sessions, including 4 invited lectures and 80 oral and 11 poster presentations. Two workshops successfully organized were "The Industrial Raw Materials Workshop" and the "Boron Workshop" which attracted many participants from industry as well as universities.

The invited lectures were:

-General assessment of the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes in terms of geoengineering *by* Prof. Dr. Reşat Ulusay

-Removal of pollutants using modified clays *by* Prof. Dr. Asiye Safa Özcan

-Plastic raw material selection criteria in vitrified ceramic production and its effects on the final product *by* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Tunalı

-Current situation of clay use in health and cosmetics in our country and in the world *by* Dr. Ilgaz Nacakoğlu.

The main themes of the Symposium were defined as (1) Clay mineralogy, geology and geochemistry of clays (2) Clay mineral structures, physical and chemical properties. (3) Advanced microscopy in clay research (4) Nano-clay, nanocomposite, simulations and modelling (5) Organoclays and applications (6) Geotechnical properties of clays and their applications (7) Use of clays in ceramics



(8) Clay based structural materials (9) Drilling applications of clays (11) Mining law and clays (12) Clays in hydrothermal and ore forming systems (13) Clay and the environment (14) Clay and archaeology (15) Clay and boron (16) Clay and health (17) Clay in cosmetics (18) Soil clay minerals (19) Clay and art (20) Sepiolite and meerschaum (21) Zeolite (22) Clay and climate (23) Beneficiation of clays (24) Teaching clays and clay termi-

nology (25) Woman clay scientists who contributed to clay science in Türkiye, and (26) General topics.

The Social and Technical Program of the Symposium included a welcome cocktail, a gala dinner, a Porsuk Stream Gondola Tour on September 9, and a technical trip to the traditional meerschaum quarries in Beyazaltın (Sepetçi) Village of Alpu district of Eskişehir.



During the Symposium, Eskişehir Technical University faculty member Prof. Dr. Ensar Taçyıldız's "Solo Ceramics Exhibition from Clay" was on display during September 7 in the Foyer area.

Web site: [kil2023@eskisehir.edu.tr](http://kil2023@eskisehir.edu.tr)

## WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

One of the active working groups of our National Society is the "Young Clay Scientists" group. During 2023, the Group initiated on-line seminars covering various topics related to clays and clay minerals as shown below. The seminars that were organized monthly hosted eminent researchers that have been invited to talk about interesting topics which attracted the attention of experts of the subject as well as young students from various universities and departments. These on-line seminars are projected to continue during 2024, with the aim of not only raising awareness among university students about clay science and its applications, but also to inform them about the interdisciplinary impact and importance of clays and clay science along with developing cooperation and strengthening the friendship among students who are interested in clay science and its applications.



## ATTENDANCE TO THE CAREER DAY 2023, METU

On 30 May 2023, the Middle East Technical University (METU) Department of Geological Engineering or-

ganized the 9th Career Day at the METU Cultural and Congress Center that included the Award Ceremony for graduate students that were placed in the high honor and honor list at the end of the 2022-2023 Fall Semester. Our National Society attended the ceremony with a booth to introduce and familiarize clay studies and research as well as the activities of the Society regarding the graduates and other participants. The activity was useful to register new student members and attract their interest and attention towards the importance of clay science, its applications and research developments in clay science for the future generations.



At the Society booth during the 9th Career Day at METU. From left to right: Zehra Semra Karakaş (KBD treasurer, Tansel Akyüz (Mining Eng. Çanbensan Bentonite Co.), Ali Sayın (KBD Vice president), Prof. Dr. Erdin Bozkurt (Department Chair, Geol. Eng. Dept., METU), Asuman Günel Türkmenoğlu (KBD President)

Soon, The Clay Science Society will organize the 6th General Assembly at Ankara on February 2024, to discuss and approve the 2022-2023 period Activity Report, to select new Committees and propose an Activity Report and a Budget for the period 2024-2025.

Submitted by Asuman Günel Türkmenoğlu, on behalf of the Clay Science Society Executive Committee

## UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND CLAY MINERALS GROUP OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UK AND IRELAND



The Clay Minerals Group (CMG) is a special interest group of the Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland. Founded in 1947 with an inaugural meeting in Burlington House, the CMG was the first of the ‘special interest groups’ that have contributed so much to the life and success of this Society. In 2023, the CMG provided its usual activities, including the annual Research in Progress Meeting, contributions to the development of PhD students and Early Career Researchers by awarding bursaries and offering Research Grants, and sponsoring the annual George Brown Lecture.

### CMG Research in Progress Meeting 2023

This year’s meeting on ‘Clays in Construction’ was held at the University of Leeds on 18 May 2023 and was co-sponsored by the Transforming Foundation Industries Network+. Three sessions were held on the day on ‘*Clays in Construction*’, ‘*Clay Mineralogy*’ and ‘*Clays in the Foundation Industries*’. The keynote talk was given by Prof. Katja Emmerich, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, on “*Structure of clay minerals, thermal activation and solubility in alkaline solutions*”.

It was a well-attended event, with 12 talks and 5 poster presenters, enjoyed by 43 in-person and 28 online attendees, with good representation across both industry and academia. The best student poster award went to Utibe Nkanga (University of Leeds) for “*Understanding the combined effects of chloride and carbonation on reinforcement corrosion in low-carbon concretes*”, and the best student oral presentation award went to Nidhi Murali (Indian Institute of Technology Madras, presenting remotely from Chennai) for “*Interfacial Adhesion Mechanism between Polymer Coating and Clay Surface*”.

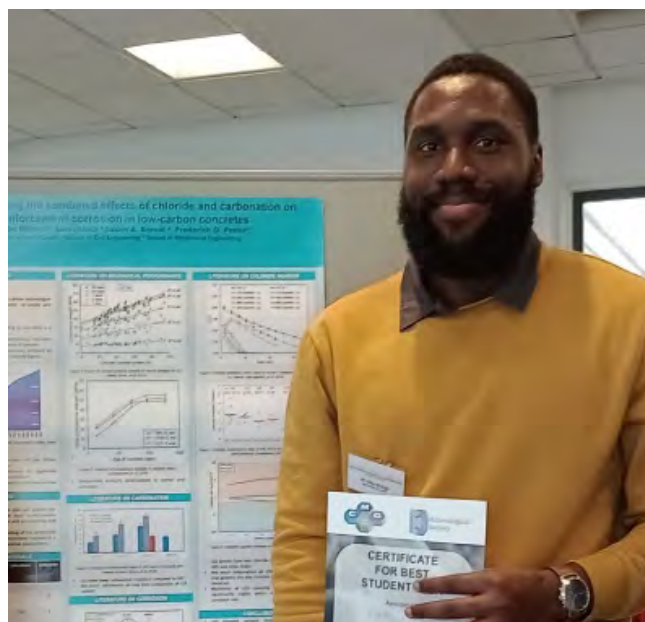
The printed abstract booklets included three prompts to help start conversations, especially for those who were new to conferences: “*One thing I really liked about this talk/poster...*”, “*One useful thing I learnt from this talk/poster...*”, “*One question I have about this talk/poster...*”. During the breaks, this inspired plenty of conversation over the posters. Moreover, presenters and attendees were invited to submit their research to a Special Issue in the

journal *Clay Minerals*, “*Clays in Construction – the role of clay mineralogy in tomorrow’s built environment*”, which is currently undergoing review.

### CMG Newsletter ‘Phyllosophical News’

Launched as part of the CMG’s 75-year Jubilee in 2022, the third issue of the Newsletter was published in August 2023, covering on its 8 pages of sincere and not so sincere clay mineralogy, including a feature on the 24<sup>th</sup> George Brown Lecture Recipient Janice Bishop (SETI Institute, USA), highlights of recent selected papers from *Clay Minerals*, and reports from early career scientists on their novel research findings.

We are very indebted to the editorial team: Megan Baker (University of Durham), Nia Gray-Wannell (The James Hutton Institute) and Maggie White (Newcastle University). Maggie White has recently stepped down, however, Gloria Wie-Addo (Sheffield Hallam), Jagannath Biswakarma (University of Bristol) and Hannah Pollak (University of Edinburgh) are now joining the team, starting with the 2024 issue. If you have any contributions for the newsletter, ideas how to make it even more exciting or would like join editorial team, please get in touch with Megan, Nia, Gloria, Jagannath and Hannah by email ([CMGnewsletter.minsoc@gmail.com](mailto:CMGnewsletter.minsoc@gmail.com)).



The winners of the student award for best oral presentation (left) – given online! – and for best poster (right), Nidhi Murali (Indian Institute of Technology Madras) and Utibe Nkanga (University of Leeds), with their award certificates.



Attendees of the CMG Research in Progress Meeting 2023 on ‘Clays in Construction’. This successful event was organised by Alastair Marsh (bottom row, right) from the University of Leeds (now at EPFL).



*Past and present members of the 'Phyllosophical News', from left to right, Megan Baker (University of Durham), Nia Gray-Wannell (The James Hutton Institute), Maggie White (Newcastle University), Jagannath Biswakarma (University of Bristol) and Hannah Pollak (University of Edinburgh). The photo of Gloria Wie-Addo (Sheffield Hallam) is missing.*

### Funding through Bursaries and the CMG Research Grant

The CMG supports clay researchers across all career stages through Ordinary CMG Bursaries, the prestigious Mackenzie-MacEwan Award, Workshop Bursaries and, since the 75-year Jubilee in 2022, the CMG Research Grant. While the CMG Research Grant is open to submissions from PhD students and early career researchers to develop their own and independent research, both bursaries are available to assist researchers and postgraduate students to attend and present clay research at conferences, workshops and related activities.

In 2023, the CMG awarded an Ordinary CMG Bursary to Urmi Gosh (James Hutton Institute) to attend the CMG RiP Meeting. Urmi reported "I presented the results of my research on Digital Mineralogy 'Application of computational and data-driven approaches in mineralogy using soil data from the National Soil Inventory of Scotland'. The questions, responses and discussions on my presentation not only motivated me but also provided me with directions on further developing my research. The CMG meeting had people from different fields: including both industry and academia/ research with a common interest in the field of clay. Attending the meeting broadened my horizons and gave me an opportunity to interact with people from different backgrounds. It also introduced me to the research going on in diverse fields, very different from mine. The meeting gave me new ideas and directions that will be critical for my future research career." Full bursary reports can be read here: [www.minersoc.org/bursary-report](http://www.minersoc.org/bursary-report).

### Clay Minerals

The CMG is responsible for the journal *Clay Minerals*, an international journal of mineral sciences, published four times a year. In 2023, the four issues published comprised a total of 25 papers, including one review article based on the 21st George Brown lecture delivered

by Sabine Petit (Université de Poitiers) on 'Generalized relationships between the ionic radii of octahedral cations and the b crystallographic parameter of clay and related minerals' and a historic account of 'The Clay Minerals Group (CMG): 1947–2022' authored by Simon Kemp (BGS).

The success of the journal is made possible by the hard work of the Principal Editors, George Christidis (Technical University of Crete) and Chun Hui Zhou (Zhejiang University of Technology), the recently appointed reviews' editor, Javier Cuadros (The Natural History Museum), and the entire Editorial Board.



## George Brown Lecture 2023

In 2023, Janice Bishop of the SETI Institute was selected as the 24th George Brown (GB) Lecturer. Janice presented her Lecture titled 'Characterizing Phyllosilicates on Mars and What They Reveal About Ancient Geochemical Environments' at the EuroClay 2023 Conference in Bari, Italy (24-27 July 2023). The GB Lecture will be transformed into a review article and published in Clay Minerals as soon as possible following the oral delivery of the lecture.

## Meeting announcements - Save the dates

The planning for the CMG Research in Progress Meeting 2024 has commenced. The meeting will be co-organised by Valentina Erastova (University of Edinburgh) and Nia Gray-Wannell (The James Hutton Institute) and take place on 17 May 2024 at the University of Edinburgh, in the Edinburgh King's Buildings Nucleus. This year's meeting will cover the theme 'Molecular Modeling in Clay Science' and invites contributions directly addressing this topic as well as any topic in Clay Science. Note the important deadlines for abstract submission (15 April 2024) and registration (5 May 2024). More details on how to submit abstracts, register for the meeting and the meeting programme will follow soon and will be available on the CMG website.

Also save the date of the XVIII International Clay Conference (ICC) that will take place in Dublin, Ireland 13-18 July 2025. The CMG is also supporting the organisers of this conference, Steve Hillier (The James Hutton Institute) and Kevin Murphy (Mineralogical Society of the UK and Ireland). Please check the conference website for regular updates: <https://icc.aipea.org>.

## Stay in touch!

There are many ways to keep up to date with the CMG's activities. The CMG has an active X (formerly Twitter) account (@CMG\_minsoc) and LinkedIn Group (Clay Minerals Group (MinerSoc)). The CMG webpage ([www.minersoc.org/cmg](http://www.minersoc.org/cmg)) is being updated regularly; we have the Phyllosophical News to keep you informed (so sign up any time!); and a range of Bursaries/Grants that you can benefit from!

On behalf of the CMG committee, Helen Pendlowski (Chair) and Anke Neumann (Secretary)

## UKRAINE

### UKRAINIAN CLAY GROUP

The activity of Ukrainian clay group was initiated approximately 70 years by prof. Fedor D. Ovcharenko in his laboratory of physical chemistry of disperse minerals. During the previous year (2023), the activity of different groups in Ukraine includes studies of the:

1. The peculiarities of transformational contact and sorption processes in clayey iron-aluminosilicate pelitic sediments and generalizations for marine biocolloidal-geomechanical ecology (Kovzun I., Panko A., Prokopenko V. et al)
2. Hybrid magnetic particles based on Laponite RD: Structure, stability and electrosurface properties (Manilo, M. et al.)
3. Physico-Chemical Properties of Laponite/Polyethylene-oxide Based Composites (Lysenkov, E.)
4. Modelling of non-isothermal adsorption of gases in nanoporous adsorbents (Petryk, M. et al.)
5. Modelling of the random sequential adsorption of disk-like particles (Lebovka, N. et al)
6. Drying of sessile droplets of colloidal aqueous mixtures including the platelets of Laponite (Gigiberiya V.).
7. Synthesis of nanocomposites based on acrylic hydrogels physically cross-linked with montmorillonite (Samchenko Yu et al.)

The following institutes and universities were involved into the studies: Taras Shevchenko National University (Kyiv), Institute of BioColloid Chemistry (Kyiv), Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry (Kyiv), Ternopil Ivan Puluj National Technical University, The laboratory of nanocomposite materials at the Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (Mykolaiv), Engineering and Technology Institute "Biotechnica" (Odesa), Institute of Hydrobiology (Kyiv).

The educational courses on clay sciences were presented in different Ukrainian universities, e.g. in National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

## Representative publications:

1. Panko, A.V., Kovzun, I.G., Prokopenko, V.A., Nikipelova, O.M., Tsyganovich, O.A., Oliynyk, V.O. Physical, Nanostructural, and Biocolloid-Chemical Transformations of Marine Iron-Aluminosilicate Sediments and Their Chemical, and Mineral Ore Conversions (2023) In: Nanooptics and Photonics, Nanochemistry and

- Nanobiotechnology, and Their Applications. Springer, Cham. pp 47–71. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-18104-7\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-18104-7_4)
2. Panko, A.V., Kovzun, I.G., Prokopenko, V.A., Nikipelova, O.M., Tsyganovich, O.A. The influence of the processes of microbiogenic deposition of carbonates on the surface of iron-aluminosilicate marine suspensions and the transformation of the resulting bottom sediments (2023). In Nanoelectronics, Nanooptics, Nanochemistry and Nanobiotechnology, and Their Applications. pp 69–85. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-42708-4\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-42708-4_4)
  3. Prokopenko V. A., Netreba S. V., Tsyganovich O. A., Panko A. V., I. O. Ageyenko I. O. (2023). Colloid-Chemical Mechanisms of the Formation of Ultra- and Nanosize Iron Oxide/Hydroxide Phases Obtained in the Fe0(St3)–H2O–O2 System and Their Electrokinetic Properties. *Nanosistemi, Nanomateriali, Nanotehnologii*, 21(4), 739–756. <https://doi.org/10.15407/nnn>
  4. Manilo, M., T. B., Klepko, V., Cherepov, S. and Lebovka, N. (2023), Hybrid magnetic particles based on Laponite RD: Structure, stability and electrostatic properties, *in* Olena Fesenko and Leonid Yatsenko, ed., 'Nanomaterials and Nanocomposites, Nanostructure Surfaces, and Their Applications', Springer Proceedings in Physics, Springer, Cham., pp. 1-15.
  5. Lysenkov, E., Klepko, V., Bulavin, L. and Lebovka, N. (2023), 'Physico-Chemical Properties of Laponite/Polyethylene-oxide Based Composites', *The Chemical Record*, e202300166.
  6. Petryk, M., Boyko, I., Fraissard, J. and Lebovka, N. (2023), 'Modelling of non-isothermal adsorption of gases in nanoporous adsorbent based on Langmuir equilibrium', *Adsorption* **29**, 141-150.
  7. Lebovka, N., Petryk, M., Tatochenko, M. O. and Vygornitskii, N. V. (2023), 'Two-stage random sequential adsorption of discorectangles and disks on a two-dimensional surface', *Phys. Rev. E* **108**, 024109.
  8. Petrone, L., Lebovka, N. and Ciesla, M. (2023), 'Random sequential adsorption of aligned rectangles with two discrete orientations: Finite-size scaling effects', *Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment* **103201**, 1-15.

### Organized meetings:

- The Scientific Readings dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the birth of Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine F.D. Ovcharenko (08.02.1913-25.12.1996) – a world known colloid and clay scientist (geological and geochemical classification and indication of clays, as well as structural, mechanical and rheological properties of dispersed materials) were organized. In February 2024, scientific readings dedicated to his 111th anniversary were held.
- Two online roundtables were also held, which also touched on applied clay issues. Various specialized institutes and organizations were involved. 15th June 2023 – “Scientific basis for the creation of organic fertilizers based on sewage sludge from biological treatment plants and prospects for their implementation in agricultural practice”; 13th December 2023 – “Features of the use of microbial biosensor analysers for rapid assessment of the level of general ecotoxicity of agricultural soils, as well as determining the degree of soil contamination with heavy metals and toxic organic pollutants”

## USA THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY (CMS)

### Meetings and Events:

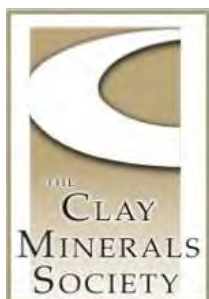
The 60<sup>th</sup> CMS Annual Meeting was held at The University of Texas at Austin, 20–25 May 2023. Conference included three days of presentations, a full day short course about Sybilla software, and two field tours, one about Ca-bentonite in Gonzales, TX and 2<sup>nd</sup> to Inner Space Cavern, Georgetown, TX. The total number of attendees was 118, with 110 papers submitted (81 oral and 20 posters). 2023 CMS awardees, **Randall Cygan**, Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award recipient; **Christophe Tournassat**, Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award recipient, and **Susan Brantley**, Pioneer in Clay Science recipient gave Plenary Lectures. Their biographies were featured in CMS *Elements* News Pages. Further information about the meeting is available here: [https://www.clays.org/past\\_meetings/](https://www.clays.org/past_meetings/).

Among the student presenters, the top three oral communications were from **Benjamin Dean Urick**, **Abdulahit Sahin**, and **Klaudia Dziewiatka**. **Maria Laura Arizaleta**, **Oluwaseun Adeyemi**, and **Itunu Temidayo Apalara**, were best in the poster category.

2023 student award recipients were also recognized. CMS offered travel grants to ten students to attend and present their research. They were **Oluwaseun Adeyemi**, **Maria Arizaleta**, **Anthony Boxleiter**, **Kevin Byerly**, **Emily Doyle**, **Hunter Green**, **Anna Jedras**, **Nadine Kanik**, **Nur Nizam**, and **Jonathan Smolen**.

Eight outstanding students received CMS student research grants! The 2023 Student Research Grant Awardees were **Opeyemi Aransiola**, **Henry Crawford**, **Kevin Byerly**, **Emily Doyle**, **Jonathan Smolen**, **Kirsten Hawley**, **Sen Wang**, and **Md. Zubaer Hosen**. You can learn about their projects in CMS news in *Elements* magazine.

The 61st Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society



held joint with 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Clay Conference of the Asian Clay Groups, the Clay Science Society of Japan, and the Chinese Association for the Study of Clays, will take place at the **University of Hawai'i** from **3–6 June 2024**. <https://clayconferences.org/>. The theme of the meeting is “Expanding Clay Science Over the Pacific and Beyond”. The 2025 CMS annual meetings will be organized in Dublin, Ireland, joint with the XVIII International Clay Conference (13-18 July).

### CMS Officers:

In 2023 **Sabine Petit** became the President of The Clay Minerals Society (CMS). She succeeded **Steve Hillier** who became Past-President, and **Ian Bourg** will succeed her as Vice-President. **Youjun Deng** is a new Vice-President Elect.

### CMS Professional Awards:

2024 CMS award recipients are **Prakash Malla** who received George W. Brindley Lecture Award, **Eric Ferrage**, Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist award recipient, **Jan Środoń**, Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award recipient, and **Toshihiro Kogure**, the CMS Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture awardee.

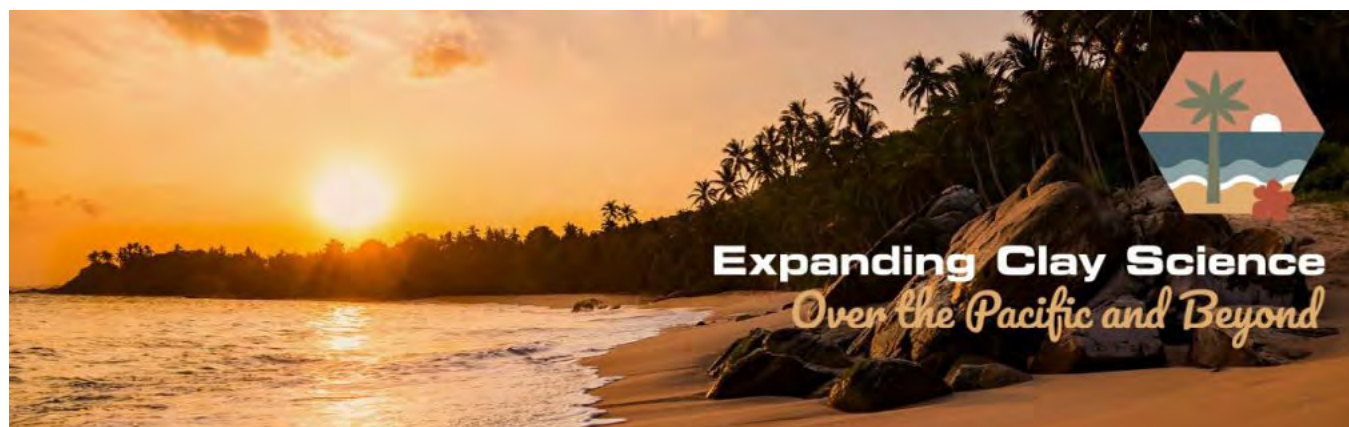
### Webinars:

The Clay Minerals Society launched a new webinar program called the “Clayminars Series” that is open to CMS members and general public. Topics covered in this series range from scientific writing advice to clays-relevant technical guides, and suggestions for future topics are always welcome! For more information on the Clayminars Series and to view recordings of past sessions, please visit

<http://www.clays.org/clayminar-series> and CMS YouTube channel.

### Clays and Clay Minerals Journal

Clays and Clay Minerals completed its five-year agree-

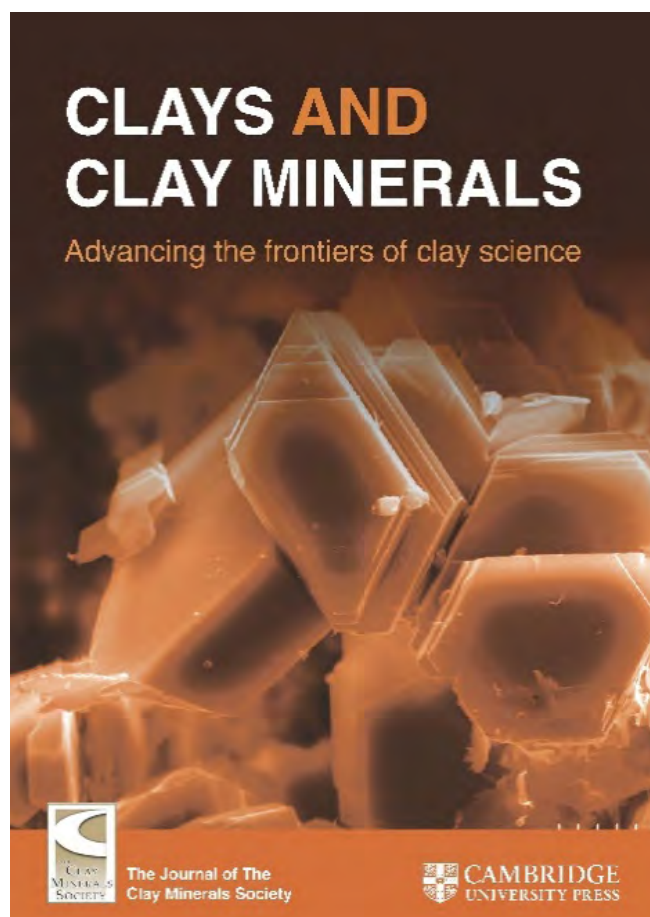


ment with SpringerNature and have decided to partner with Cambridge University Press from 2024 onwards. All the journal content is available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/clays-and-clay-minerals> and members can access it, without additional charge, from [https://www.clays.org/ccm\\_online\\_access/](https://www.clays.org/ccm_online_access/). Members will need to login using their member credentials.



### Get Involved with CMS:

The Clay Minerals Society is on social networks, Twitter (ClayMinSociety), Facebook (TheClayMineralsSociety), LinkedIn (The Clay Minerals Society) and has a YouTube channel (theclaymineralsociety2982). News about CMS can be also found in *Elements* magazine.



### Join CMS:

Join us with new types of membership! Please visit [www.clays.org](http://www.clays.org) or contact the Business Office at [cms@clays.org](mailto:cms@clays.org). There are tangible benefits to the members. Additional benefits are also available for students, such as Student Research Grant (up to \$3000) and Student Travel Awards (up to \$1000) and free access to the full text of *Clays and Clay Minerals*. Check more via [https://www.clays.org/join\\_benefits\\_of\\_membership/](https://www.clays.org/join_benefits_of_membership/)

# Upcoming Meetings

## Upcoming Clay Conferences

<https://aipea.org/conferences/>

2024



<https://www.clays.org/2024-meeting/>

## 11th Mid-European Clay Conference

15 – 20 September 2024

Pilsen – Czechia

[www.czechclaygroup.cz](http://www.czechclaygroup.cz)

## 9<sup>TH</sup> Clay CONFERENCE

HANNOVER, GERMANY  
25–28 NOV 24

## International Conference on Clays in Natural and Engineered Barriers for Radioactive Waste Confinement

24 – 29 November 2024

Hannover – Germany

[clayconference2024.de](http://clayconference2024.de)

2025



XVIII ICC  
Dublin, Ireland  
13-18 JULY 2025

<https://icc.aipea.org/>

# 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](http://www.aipea.org)). There, all information is concentrated and made available to all AIPEA members, such as updated information from many events that are being organized around the world besides other information that might be of general interest.

The rules of acceptance of new members are defined in the AIPEA Statutes and By-Laws ([www.aipea.org/statute.html](http://www.aipea.org/statute.html)), as follows:

## **Statutes:**

### **"II. MEMBERSHIP**

3. a) AIPEA may accept as members individuals (individual members, who may also be life members), institutions and companies (corporate members), and national or regional societies (Affiliated Societies) with an interest in clay research or technology.
- b) Application for individual or corporate membership shall be made in writing to the ... Treasurer and be accompanied by the appropriate membership fee. Applications from Societies wishing to become Affiliated shall be made to the Secretary General in writing giving relevant information on field of interest, number of members, etc.: if approved by Council (which shall not be required to give any reason for non-approval) the Society shall become Affiliated on payment of the appropriate membership fee.
- c) Membership will be for the period for which the membership fee is paid. If it is one year's dues the member will be in good standing for one year. If the membership fee is not paid, the membership may be cancelled unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be determined by the Council..."

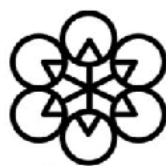
## **By-Laws:**

*"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](http://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**

*Instituto Andaluz 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](mailto:alberto@ugr.es)*



**aipea**

## Association Internationale pour l'Etude 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](http://www.aipea.org/membership.html)

Wire Transfer: emailing treasurer [treasurer@aipea.org](mailto:treasurer@aipea.org)