



Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles

www.aipea.org



President of AIPEA –
Reiner Dohrmann



Secretary of AIPEA –
Peter Ryan

NEWS ON CONFERENCES AND FIELD TRIPS ON CLAY MINERALS AROUND THE WORLD

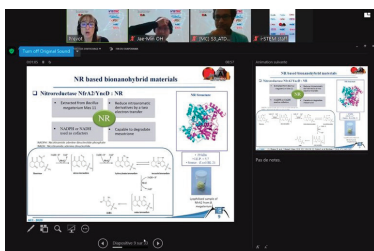
4th Asian Clay Conference in Thailand

The international clay community, with the Association Internationale pour l'Étude des Argiles (AIPEA) as its umbrella organization, has had to search for ways to operate during the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19). National and regional clay meetings organized by clay societies across the globe in 2020 (<https://aipea.org/conferences/>) have had to adapt to the global risk assessment made by the World Health Organization of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are pleased to report a positive outcome: the first virtual/online/remote international clay science meeting, the 4th Asian Clay Conference (Thailand) organized by the Asian Clay Groups and chaired by Prof. Dr Makoto Ogawa. The so-termed 4ACC was held 7–10 June 2020 and was attended by over 200 scientists from across the globe. The plenary lecture on nanomedicine and the role of clays was given by Jin-Ho Choy; session themes ranged from clays in the Earth sciences to their role in the environment, but also covered aspects of health, engineering, and materials science. Keynote lectures were given by Jocelyne Brendlé, Josef Breu, Takeo Ebina, Hendrik Heinz, Kazuyuki Kuroda, Akira Ono, Vanessa Prevot, Atsushi Takahara, and Chun Hui Zhou. Conference papers are currently being prepared for publication in the journals *Clays and Clay Minerals*, *Clay Science*, *Clay Minerals*, *Minerals*, and *Nanomaterials*.



Screenshots of opening ceremony of 4ACC by Makoto Ogawa and a lecture by Vanessa Prevot



Field Excursions in Kurdistan (Iraq)

In the Kurdistan region of Iraq, clays are being researched at the Chemistry Department of the University of Sulaimani, as well as at Salahaddin University, Koya University, Raparin University and the University of Duhok. Clays in this geologically complex area at the boundary between the Arabian and Eurasian plates have been used for millennia as architectural, medicinal and industrial materials. Today, the saponite deposits in the Tagaran and Topkhana regions and the widely found smectite-rich bentonites have the potential for wastewater treatment. Some clay deposits in Miocene sediments have strong potential for ceramic use. Recent work headed up by professors Dler Shwan, Bakhtyar K. Aziz, Irfan Omar Mousa Yara and Karukh Ali



Dissected plateau and bentonite landscape, Garmian Region, Kurdistan.

Babakr have revealed the distribution and composition of a wide array of clay mineral types in the Kurdistan region. There is much potential for international collaboration. The photographs from field excursions reveal some of the beauty in researching clays in Kurdistan.

Clay'18 Symposium and ICC 2021 Conference in Turkey

The Clay Science Society of Turkey elected a new Executive Committee at the 18th National Clay Symposium (Clay'18), which was held 25–28 September 2019 in Kocaeli (Turkey). The Clay Science Society of Turkey – along with the Clay Minerals Society (CMS) – are the co-organizers of the **17th International Clay Conference (ICC 2021)**, which is due to be held 12–16 July 2021 in İstanbul.



A view of participants at the 18th Turkish National Clay Symposium.

İstanbul is the most populous city in Turkey and is its economic, cultural and historic centre. Located in the centre of the old world, this exotic city is famous for its historical monuments and scenic views. It is the only city in the world spread over two continents, Asia and Europe, separated by the narrow Bosphorus Strait. The conference venue will be the İstanbul Hilton Maslak Hotel, located within walking distance of the İstanbul Technical University Campus and only a metro ride from downtown. The thematic title for ICC 2021 is “New Interfaces: Bridging Continents and Cultures with Clays”. The organizing committee is headed by Asuman Günel Türkmenoğlu, Selahattin Kadir and Paul Schroeder. More information is available at: www.icc.aipea.org. On behalf of their national clay groups, the organizing committee enthusiastically invites all clay scientists to participate in the 17th ICC İstanbul 2021. We look forward seeing you in Istanbul.



More news on conferences and field trips on clay minerals around the world is available at www.aipea.org

Peter Ryan and Reiner Dohrmann