



# International Association of GeoChemistry

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## IAGC IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC) co-sponsored the 24<sup>th</sup> International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS 2009) at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, from June 1 to 4, 2009 (see also Meeting Report on page 402). Two of the IAGC awards for 2009 were presented at the conference: Yousif Kharaka received the first IAGC Distinguished Service Award and Kirk Nordstrom was honoured as the IAGC Ingerson International Lecturer (see *Elements* 5: 250). IAGC participated in the conference by organizing or co-organizing three thematic sessions:

“North American Soil Geochemical Landscapes Project,” co-chaired by David Smith (USGS, Denver) and Andy Rencz (GSC, Ottawa). This collaborative project aims at establishing a soil geochemical database for North America and an archive of samples for future investigators.

“Sources, Transport, and Fate of Trace and Toxic Elements in the Environment,” organized and co-chaired by LeeAnn Munk (University of Alaska Anchorage) and Sarah Fortner (Ohio State University). The environmental chemistry of trace and toxic elements is an important and growing field of research in applied geochemistry. The 2009 IAGC Ingerson International Lecturer, Kirk Nordstrom, presented the keynote lecture, “Hydrogeochemical Processes Governing the Origin, Transport, and Fate of Major and Trace Elements from Mine Wastes and Mineralized Rock.”



Yousif Kharaka (left) receiving the IAGC 2009 Distinguished Service Award from Russ Harmon

“Current Capabilities and Future Prospects of Real-Time, In-Field Geochemical Analysis,” co-chaired by Russell S. Harmon (North

Carolina State University) and Nancy McMillan (New Mexico State University). Sponsored and organized by the IAGC, this session reviewed technological developments in instrumentation over the past decade and highlighted current and emerging analytical technologies for real-time field-portable geochemical analysis.

## MIKE EDMUNDS RECEIVES GSA'S O. E. MEINZER AWARD FOR 2009

IAGC member Mike Edmunds, currently Visiting Professor at Oxford University's Centre for the Environment, is the recipient of the 2009 O. E. Meinzer Award of the Geological Society of America Hydrogeology Division.



Mike Edmunds

Mike earned BSc (Hons) and PhD degrees at the University of Liverpool (UK) and subsequently established the hydrogeochemical research program at the British Geological Survey, where he held an Individual Merit research position until his retirement.

Mike made several seminal contributions to hydrogeochemistry through the development of multi-tracer approaches using trace elements and isotopes to understand the hydrogeochemical processes occurring within important UK aquifers, the effects in the UK of acid rain, and the origin of mineral and thermal waters. The international phase of Mike's career included studies of recharge assessment, groundwater salinity, and palaeohydrology in semi-arid and arid regions of Africa, as well as work with UNESCO and NGOs in the promotion of geochemical studies for groundwater improvement in developing countries.

Mike was present at the establishment of IAGC in 1967 and was one of the Association's two Ingerson International Lecturers for 2007. He was a founding member of IAGC's Working Group on Water-Rock Interaction and its Chairman from 1986 to 1997. In 1999 he received the Whitaker Medal of the Geological Society. Mike has contributed to more than 230 scientific publications, four of which were cited as the basis for his selection as the 2009 recipient of the O. E. Meinzer Award:

Edmunds WW, Bath AH, Miles DL (1982) Hydrochemical evolution of the East Midlands Triassic sandstone aquifer, England. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 46: 2069-2081

Edmunds WM, Walton NRG (1983) The Lincolnshire Limestone — Hydrochemical evolution over a ten-year period. *Journal of Hydrology* 61: 201-211

Cook PG, Edmunds WM, Gaye CB (1992) Estimating paleorecharge and paleoclimate from unsaturated zone profiles. *Water Resources Research* 28: 2721-2731

Edmunds WM, Milne CJ (eds) (2001) *Palaeowaters in Coastal Europe: Evolution of Groundwater since the Late Pleistocene*. Geological Society of London Special Publication 189, 332 pp



**The 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction (WRI-13)** will be held on 16–20 August 2010 in Guanajuato, Mexico, under the sponsorship of the IAGC. This is the first time that a WRI meeting will be held in Latin America. The technical sessions of this highly interdisciplinary symposium will address all aspects of water-rock interaction, including applied studies.

Guanajuato is located in one of the richest silver-mining areas of Mexico and is well known for its wealth of fine colonial-era Spanish architecture. Pre-meeting field

trips will take participants to the Yucatan Peninsula, Michoacan, and Baja California. Mid-conference excursions will be offered to Valenciana, San Ignacio-Santa Rosa, the Santiago Volcano Valley, Bufa Calerones, and Agua Buena. Post-conference field trips are planned to Chihuahua and Bajío.

The deadline for the submission of extended abstracts (4 pages maximum length) is 15 January 2010. The First Circular and full details on the conference, including registration and the accompanying-members programme, are given on the WRI-13 website: <http://wri13.cicese.mx/>.