



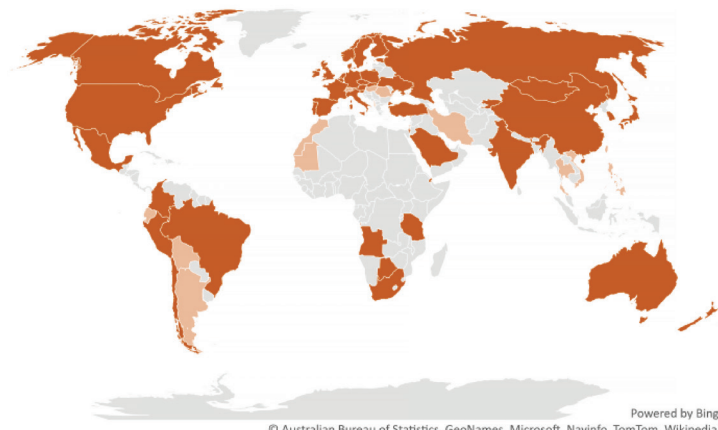
International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

GEOPT WORKSHOP

In September 2021, we hosted a workshop to celebrate 25+ years of GeoPT, our flagship proficiency testing scheme. It was a pleasure to welcome over 60 participants from locations ranging from Canada to Mongolia, despite some significant differences in local time. In the past, we have held GeoPT workshops in conjunction with our Geoanalysis conferences but video conferencing made it possible for a wider range of participants to join in and to put faces to the people who currently organise GeoPT.

The success of the GeoPT programme has surpassed our wildest dreams when we first set up the scheme over 25 years ago. We now have well over 100 labs participating from many different types of organisations located all over the world! So, it was very appropriate for Phil Potts, one of the masterminds behind the launch of the scheme, to start proceedings by describing a little of its early history. The GeoPT programme started in the early days of the World Wide Web and an important step forward was the introduction of a web-based management scheme. Peter Webb, who manages the website, provided background to these developments. Originally, all the sample preparation and distribution were organised through The Open University (Milton Keynes, UK). The British Geological Survey now provides this vital support role and Charles Gowing gave us a glimpse into what this involves.



GeoPT participants 2021: 123 participants from 44 countries (58 countries since 1996)

There followed presentations of some strategic issues that affect the performance of the GeoPT scheme, including an introduction by Thomas Meisel to the capabilities of the Shiny App for the interpretation of GeoPT data distributions. Participants were asked to complete a poll to indicate what test materials they would like to see in the scheme and there was an opportunity to pose questions to members of the GeoPT Steering Group. We were very pleased with the feedback from this workshop, and we plan to run similar workshops for our other proficiency testing schemes.

GOLDSCHMIDT QUALITY ASSURANCE WORKSHOP

The International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) organised an online workshop on quality assurance as part of the Goldschmidt 2021 virtual conference in June. To maximise attendance, the workshop was presented twice, with the morning session targeting Australasian participants and the afternoon session (CEST) for some European and many scientists from the Americas.

Under its title of *Reliability of Geochemical Data: How Do We Know?* there was a lot to cover in just under four hours! The first part of the workshop provided an overview of the current understanding of metrological traceability and the proper use of reference materials. The role of measurement uncertainty and how it is affected by such issues as sample preparation, sample heterogeneity, and data acquisition was highlighted. A breakout session was held to identify problems surrounding various definitions. After a short break, the main emphasis turned to proficiency testing (PT) with examples from the IAG's three PT schemes, GeoPT, G-Probe, and G-Chron. Feedback from participants was very positive and we aim to run an additional workshop during Goldschmidt 2022.

IAG HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

On 29 September 2021, we held an official ceremony at which we presented Dr Klaus Peter Jochum with an Honorary IAG Fellowship. Professional colleagues joined him at the Max Planck Institute (Mainz, Germany) and by video link to celebrate his scientific achievements and support for the IAG over many years. In the words of the IAG President, Prof Jacinta Enzweiler, "Dr Jochum's many years of research in the field of geoanalytical method development and reference materials, as well as his commitment to the promotion of junior scientists, aligns perfectly with the tasks and goals of the IAG".



You can read more about this splendid occasion in a Max Planck Institute press release at <https://www.mpic.de/5042527/honorary-fellowship-jochum>.

Honorary IAG Fellowship awardee Klaus Peter Jochum (RIGHT) pictured with IAG Vice President Regina Mertz (LEFT).

If everything goes according to plan, Dr Jochum will present some of his work in a plenary lecture during Geoanalysis 2022, to be held 6–12 August 2022 in Freiberg, Germany.

GEOANALYSIS 2022

The 11th International Conference on the Analysis of Geological and Environmental Materials (Geoanalysis 2022) will be held 6–12 August 2022 in Freiberg, Germany. Registration and abstract submission begin 3 January 2022. Full details can be found at the website geoanalysis2022.de.



GEO ANALYSIS 2022

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The 11th international conference on the analysis of geological and environmental materials

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Registration and abstract submission starts 3 January 2022

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