



Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

www.ehu.es/sem

A CORPORATE IMAGE GUIDE FOR SEM

The General Assembly of the Mineralogical Society of Spain (SEM), held in Salamanca on 10 September 2009, approved its new Corporate Image Guide. "Corporate image" refers to how an institution or corporation wants to be perceived by both its own members and society. It is a powerful collection of messages linked to history, identity, know-how and expectations. These messages are useful for planning and developing new projects and activities. Also, the guide provides a frame work for activities and exchanges, while reaffirming the idea of soundness, homogeneity and stability. This document, which can be browsed on the web page of the SEM (www.ehu.es/sem), contributes to progressive modernization of our Society.

ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING

It had been 17 years since Salamanca was the site of a congress of the Mineralogical Society of Spain. In this historic city, on 9–12 September, the Department of Geology of the University of Salamanca hosted the 29th SEM annual meeting. The event was coordinated by Dr. Mercedes Suárez, with assistance from A. Murciego, R. Reguilón, E. Álvarez, F. Tornos, S. Barrios, E. Manchado and T. Llorens, and was supported by the University of Salamanca, the Spanish Research Council (CSIC), the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME) and the regional government (Junta de Castilla-León).



Participants on the Zamora field trip in front of the southern portal of the 12th-century Santa María Magdalena romanic church. Dr. Mercedes Suárez, coordinator of the meeting, is second from the right.

The meeting was arranged around three main activities (a one-day seminar, two days of scientific contributions and a one-day field trip) and a number of satellite events (a plenary assembly, young scientist awards and a social dinner). The seminar dealt with the applications of synchrotron radiation in mineralogy and was delivered by European specialists (Dr. S. Ferrer, ALBA-CELLS; Dr. M.A. García Aranda, University of Málaga; Dr.

J. Roque, DIAMOND; Dr. G. Castro, ESRF; Dr. M. Sánchez del Río, ESRF). The contributions were in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, ore deposits, crystal growth, clay science, cultural heritage, education and outreach. A total of 120 researchers and students (from Spain, Belgium, Greece, France, Germany and Great Britain) attended the meeting. The 93 extended abstracts are in the eleventh issue of *MACLA*, the journal of the SEM (www.ehu.es/sem/revista/macla.htm). Plenary lectures were delivered by Drs. George Christidis (Technical University of Crete), Carlos Dorransoro (University of Granada), Sven Petersen (Leibniz-Institute for Marine Sciences) and Manuel Regueiro (Geological Survey of Spain), who talked about electron microscopy applied to clay minerals and zeolites, soil contamination related to the Aznalcollar spill, black smoker geochemistry, and industrial minerals, respectively.

The 2009 SEM Young Scientist Awards went to Ana Cedillo (University of Zaragoza) and Juan Morales (Complutense University of Madrid) for their works entitled "Mineralogy and Hydrothermal Alteration of the Mina Martha Ore Deposit (El Deseado Massif, Argentina)" and "Micromorphological Study of Sepiolite from Grant County (New Mexico, USA)," respectively. The field trip included a visit to the kaolin/bentonite deposit of Tamame de Sayago and a tour of historic buildings in Zamora.

Madrid was selected to host the 30th society meeting, which will take place near the end of summer, 2010. Further information will be posted on the SEM website (www.ehu.es/sem).



The European Association for Geochemistry

www.eag.eu.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sustainable human development of our planet requires us to better identify, exploit, and manage resources, and to find safe, long-term storage sites for potentially harmful products of our industrial society. Potential solutions are currently being debated by scientists and politicians. Geochemistry holds the key to solving many of these challenges. For example, carbon sequestration in the subsurface is a fluid–mineral interaction process. Fluid–mineral interaction is also a critical process for the immobilization of toxic and radioactive waste products. The study of mineral–fluid interaction and the development of innovative techniques to monitor these processes have been major pursuits of our community over the past decades. Similarly, the understanding of how and why mineral deposits and oil fields form leads to the discovery of numerous resources worldwide. In recognition of the need to further new research in these areas, much of European Community research and associated funding is aimed at finding solutions to global sustainability issues. The skills and know-how of our community are essential.

The European Association for Geochemistry has been reorganized and reinvigorated over the past two years to help us address these challenges. An administrative office has been created in Toulouse, where Marika Seletti serves as our business office manager. Among other things, she liaises with EAG officers, Council, and the larger community, regularly updates and produces material for the EAG web page, and sends out quarterly e-newsletters.

Through the efforts of Alex Halliday, our past president, we have created new EAG committees to better communicate the message of geochemistry to the community and to more effectively highlight geochemistry at international meetings. We have taken over direct control of the Goldschmidt meetings so that we can both better insure the quality and consistency of the scientific program and introduce innovations. One such new development was starting an Earth's Future event at the European Goldschmidt meeting in Davos, when prominent politicians and scientists attempted to close the gap between research in geochemistry and societal needs. Much of the success of the Earth's Future event (and of the Davos meeting as a whole) was due to the Herculean efforts of Chris Ballentine, the co-convenor of the meeting. For those who might have missed some of this event, a webcast and audio-only MP3s of the presentations are available at www.goldschmidt2009.org/plenaryRecordings.

Much is still left to be done. The EAG Council is developing a number of new and exciting projects, including a new short course series aimed at graduate students. The aim of this series will be to provide training in fields and subjects not readily available in Europe. A second new project underway is the creation of a geochemistry internship in Brussels, aimed at serving as a liaison between our community and policy makers in the European Commission.

These and other initiatives require the time and effort of motivated members of our community. I would like to invite each of you to participate by contacting the EAG at eag.seletti@gmail.com.

Eric Oelkers, EAG President
Toulouse, France