



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MINERALOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

At the junction of several disciplinary fields, the “International Symposium on Mineralogy, Environment and Health” was held at the Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée University, France, on 17–18 September 2009. The symposium provided a forum for discussing recent advances in research and development at the interfaces between environmental mineralogy, toxicology and medical geology. The organizers had strongly encouraged young researchers to participate in the event. This goal was achieved since more than half of the 70 delegates from 21 countries were PhD students or young researchers.

The topical sessions were (1) Nanoparticles, environment and health; (2) Environmental health: Sources of exposure and health effects of trace elements, toxic metal ions, metalloids; (3) Mineral dusts and human health; (4) Soil–plant transfer; and (5) Environmental toxicology. Five invited speakers, Pr Jacques Yvon (Nancy University, France), Pr Bernd Nowack (EMPA, Switzerland), Pr Montserrat Filella (University of Geneva, Switzerland) and Dr Enzo Lombi (University of Adelaide, Australia), gave highly appreciated keynote lectures.

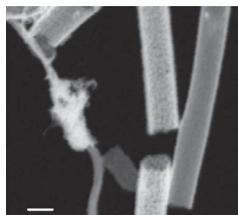
Last but not least, the conference dinner was a great success. The delegates were entertained by Mélanie Dahan and her jazz quartet, who provided a friendly atmosphere to the party. For more meeting information and reports, visit www.univ-mlv.fr/master_geoenv/symposium2009.html.



Karim Benzerara

CNRS BRONZE MEDAL FOR 2009 TO KARIM BENZERARA

The Médaille de Bronze of the CNRS recognizes the first scientific work of a researcher that makes him or her an acknowledged specialist in a given field. It is an encouragement to pursue promising and already fruitful research. Karim Benzerara is 33 years old. After his PhD at Paris 7 University and IPGP, he held a postdoctoral position at Stanford University in Gordon E. Brown Jr's surface and aqueous geochemistry group. He has been a researcher at the CNRS since 2005, working in geomicrobiology, a rising discipline among Earth sciences. Karim studies the interactions between microorganisms and minerals (either biomineralization or bioweathering) and their implications, e.g. environmental processes and medical issues; he also searches for traces of



STXM of Fe-oxidizing bacteria inducing Fe-mineral precipitation on extracellular organic polymers. Scale bar: 1 μ m

Participants in the International Symposium on Mineralogy, Environment and Health.
PHOTO S. ROSSANO

early life in rocks. He uses diverse microscopy techniques, such as focused ion beam (FIB) milling, (cryo)-transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and synchrotron-based scanning transmission X-ray microscopy (STXM). Karim is currently a scientific counselor of the SFMC. Find out more about Karim at www.ipgp.fr/pages/1611.php.

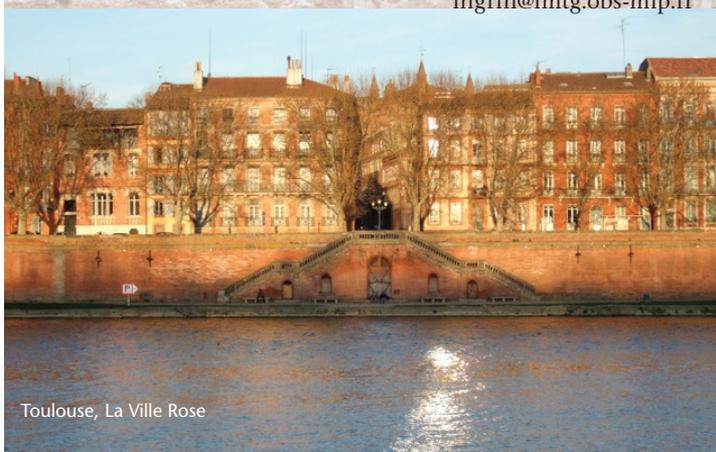
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

XIII Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry – International Conference in Toulouse, April 2010

The 13th EMPG International Conference will be held in Toulouse, the *Ville Rose* (France), from April 12 to 14, 2010. This EMPG meeting is organized by Jannick Ingrin, Frédéric Béjina and Micha Bystricky and, in the tradition of the biennial EMPG conferences, is supported by the European Mineralogical Union and particularly the SFMC. The aim is to bring together scientists from all fields of experimental mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry in one of the foremost forums for these disciplines. Visit www.empg2010.com/ for details.

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Contact: **Jannick Ingrin**
ingrin@lmtg.obs-mip.fr



Toulouse, La Ville Rose