

COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY (COM)
International Mineralogical Association (IMA)

Minutes of Business Meeting held during the 33rd International Geological Congress, Oslo,
Norway

Sunday, 10th August 2008, 16:00-18:00, Vestfold room, Norway Convention Centre, Lillestrøm

Those attending:

Prof. Nigel Cook, Norway, Chairman
Dr. Kari Kojonen, Finland, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Federica Zaccarini, Austria, Secretary

National Representatives:

Prof. Nelson Angeli, Brazil
Prof. Giorgio Garuti, Italy
Prof. Hassan Helmy, Egypt
Prof. Rustam Koneev, Uzbekistan
Prof. Shimizu Masaaki, Japan

Alternates and guests

Dr. Louis Cabri, Canada (Guest)
Dr. Aleksander Jukov, Uzbekistan (Guest)
Mr. Rustam Khamatov, Uzbekistan (Guest)
Prof. Andy McDonald, Canada (Guest)
Prof. Aberra Mogessie, Austria (Guest)
Prof. Ibrahim Uysal, Turkey (Guest)
Prof. Khin Zaw, Australia (Alternate)

1. The chairman Prof. Nigel Cook opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting agenda was accepted. Apologies for absence from the following National Representatives were recorded: Prof. S. Kissin (Canada), Dr. J.L. Mauk (New Zealand), Prof. F. Molnar (Hungary), Prof. E. Pirard (Belgium), Prof. J. Vaughan, (Australia), Prof. K. Bogdanov (Bulgaria), Prof. E. Makovicky (Denmark), Dr. H.J. Bernhardt (Germany), Prof. Biswajit Mishra (India).

2. The minute of the previous business meeting held 2006 in Kobe, Japan, were distributed to the delegates and briefly read by the Secretary Federica Zaccarini and approved. The file of the minute is available in COM website: http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/COM_Kobe_minutes.pdf

3. The secretary reported on the present day status of the National Representatives. It was noted that some of them had changed in the last years and that others appeared rather inactive, as also previously reported during the last COM business meeting of Kobe. In particular, Dr. Kari Kojonen informed the COM that Prof. Puri Fenoll of Spain has been substituted by Prof. Fernando Gervilla. Prof. Giorgio Garuti (Italy) announced that he will retire from the 1st January 2009. Therefore, he will contact the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology with the aim of finding a substitute. Furthermore, it was also noted that several countries in which ore deposits still play an important role, such as Greece, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, etc. do not have not a COM national representative. Therefore, in the near future, the Mineralogical or Geological

societies of these countries will be contacted to try to fill this gap. Prof. Ibrahim Uysal, of Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon, Turkey, was proposed by the Secretary as the new national representative of his country, where an official Mineralogical Society does not exist. All those present agreed. The Chairman offered to contact a number of mineralogical societies in order to seek new, active representatives to the commission. It was also proposed to nominate Dr. Louis Cabri as an Honorary Member of the COM. All those present agreed.

4. The following current and future activities of the COM were discussed.

Three sessions convened by COM were held during the 33rd IGC 2008 in Oslo:

1. Metals in the Earth: from vital resource to environmental hazard (jointly with CAM), Conveners: David Vaughan, Dogan Pactunc, Kari Kojonen
2. Au-Ag telluride-selenide deposits (jointly with IAGOD and IGCP-486), Conveners: Kari Kojonen, Nigel Cook
3. Platinum group mineralogy, Conveners: Andy McDonald, Kari Kojonen.

COM has proposed the following session for the next IMA general Meeting to be held in Budapest (Hungary) in 2010:

Automated Techniques in Ore Mineralogy (Conveners: Roland Merkle, Alan Butcher and Hanna Horsch)

Offers of additional sessions are still sought and should be communicated to the local organizing committee by the end of 2008. Alternatives discussed by COM as potential additions included a PGM session (tied in to the Leoben workshop described below), a gold session (possibly focusing on recent advances in the understanding of 'invisible' gold?), a session on 'Ore mineralogy of magmatic-hydrothermal deposits in the Alpine-Carpathian-Balkan area' and one on 'Modular structures in ore minerals'.

Kari Kojonen informed that a field workshop titled Au–Ag telluride–selenide deposits was organized in Espoo, Finland, from 26 to 31 of August 2007. A volume of extended abstracts (Geological Survey of Finland Guide number 53) Au–Ag telluride–selenide deposits was published by the Geological Survey of Finland and edited by K.K. Kojonen, N.J. Cook and Juhani Ojala.

A proposal to organize a COM short course in Leoben (Austria) dealing with mineralogy, geochemistry and ore deposits of Platinum group elements (possible date: from 28th August to 1st September 2010 - after the IMA General Meeting of Budapest) was presented. A power point presentation was shown by Federica Zaccarini. All those present agreed enthusiastically with this proposal. Federica Zaccarini and Aberra Mogessie (two of the Austrian coordinators of this course) will keep IMA-COM informed about further progress in the organization. It was also suggested to organize a session on Platinum group minerals during the IMA meeting of Budapest.

IMA-COM representatives were encouraged to consider proposals for scientific sessions at other future international congresses which could be sponsored by the commission.

The Chairman reported on plans to hold a COM short course in India in November 2009. A tentative schedule has been agreed and list of proposed guest lecturers and budget is now in preparation.

There has been no further activity concerning a proposed short course in China in 2009/2010.

5. Regarding COM website development, the person responsible, Kari Kojonen, explained that the COM virtual ore microscopy is still under construction. In this respect, Andy McDonald, Hassan Helmy and other national representatives offered their help for the development of this important aspect of the COM web site. All those present were encouraged to prepare an initial set of ten photographs for uploading to the site in the months after the business meeting. Kari Kojonen will be sending instructions regarding format and accompanying descriptions.

6. The following activities of COM sub-commissions were reported.

The final report of the 'Sulphosalt' sub-commission (led by Yves Moëlo and Emil Makovicky) was published in European Journal of Mineralogy in February 2008.

A draft report of the Selenide-Telluride' sub-commission will be prepared for the next Business Meeting of IMA-COM (Budapest, 2010).

7. During the recent IMA Council meeting held in Vancouver 14th July 2008, the IMA council recognized the scientific interest of the COM and the good work achieved by its chairs and members.

Nigel Cook and Kari Kojonen reported the following interactions between COM and other IMA commissions and working groups and noted that we should continue to open dialogue and work more closely with certain commissions, in particular the Commission on Applied Mineralogy (CAM), the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) and the Commission on Museums (CM).

The Chairman remarked that the 2014 General Meeting of IMA will be held in South Africa and that the IMA constitution had been slightly amended, notably allowing IMA commissions to make ad hoc additions to its representatives.

8. Other business and open discussion.

- Dr. Kari Kojonen mentioned the problem concerning certain aspects of microbeam analysis and suggested to follow the procedures provided by Committees of International Organization for Standardization (see the COM website).
- Regarding microprobe analyses, Prof. Nigel Cook reported that several countries, such as India, are requiring the help of scientists and technicians expert in this topic to properly organize the new microprobe laboratories recently installed in their countries. This is an area where COM should consider to step-up outreach activities in the future.
- Prof. Andy McDonald stressed out that in many countries, including those with a long tradition in the investigation of ore deposits such as Canada, ore mineralogy is not anymore considered an important topic and only few people are still involved in this branch of mineralogy. Therefore, it is very necessary to promote ore mineralogy and, in this respect, the COM national representatives can play an important role. Dr. Louis Cabri suggested that IMA-COM promote itself by writing a short article in the journal 'Elements' showcasing our activities. This was enthusiastically agreed by those present.
- The initiative of the COM to organize a standard set of ore minerals abbreviation was briefly discussed. The chairman explained that this is a difficult target and suggested to use the abbreviations recommended by the Canadian Mineralogist.
- Prof. Shimizu Masaaki emphasized the role COM should play in ensuring that polished sections and ore samples are preserved for the benefit of future researchers. IMA-COM needs to prepare a set of guidelines for wide distribution. Closer contact with the IMA Commission on Museums would appear to be essential

9. The chairman closed the meeting shortly after 18:00.

Federica Zaccarini