

International Mineralogical Association Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy and Geochemistry (WGEMG)

Annual Report to IUGS

David J. Vaughan, UK (Chairman)
Anne J. B. Thompson, Canada (Acting Secretary)
(25/11/07)

Following on from the first full meetings of the WGEMG at IMA2006 (Kobe) the Group has continued to consolidate its activities. Matters of note to report are as follows:

- A general statement of the mission and objectives of the WGEMG were published in the international magazine 'Elements' along with a call for expressions of interest and ideas to be pursued by the Group from members of IMA societies and the readership at large.
- WGEMG participated in the 2007 Goldschmidt Conference (Köln), specifically in a session on geomicrobiology convened by D.J. Vaughan, J.R. Lloyd and T. Beveridge (The sad news of the death of Terry Beveridge shortly before the start of the conference led to dedication of the session in his honour). D.J. Vaughan also served as a member of the International Advisory Committee for Goldschmidt 2007.
- The WGEMG is convening a session at the IGC (Oslo) in summer 2008, in collaboration with COM and CAM. It is hoped that the Group will also sponsor a session at the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference (Vancouver).
- From January 2008, D.J. Vaughan will be one of the three Principal Editors of 'Elements'. It is hoped that this will lead to further thematic issues of this widely read journal on topics of interest to the Group, and to heightening of the profile of this rapidly developing branch of mineralogy.

To our great regret, WGEMG Secretary John Jambor had to resign in July 2007 due to serious health problems. In the relatively short period of its existence, John had already made important contributions to the Group and will be sorely missed. On his recommendation and (given the unusual circumstances) through Chairman's action, Dr Anne J.B. Thompson has been appointed Acting Secretary of the Group until further notice. Anne, like John, is based in the Vancouver area and is a consultant mineralogist/geochemist working on environmental mineralogy problems of the mining industry.