

COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY

International Mineralogical Association

<http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/ima-com.htm>

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING, FLORENCE, ITALY, AUGUST 24TH 2004

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nigel Cook, COM Secretary, who also took the minutes. The meeting was held August 24th 2004 in Room 7 of the Congress Centre "Forezza da Basso", Florence, 17.30-18.20, during the 32nd International Geological Congress.

Those attending:

National Representatives

Dr. Nigel Cook, Norway
 Prof. Emil Makovicky, Danmark
 Dr. Werner Paar (Austria)

Observers/alternates

Dr. Ken McQueen, Australia (alternate)
 Dr. Tamas Weisburg, Hungary (alternate)
 Alternate for Prof. N. Mozgova (Russia)
 Alternate for Dr. Thomas Kerestedjian (Bulgaria)
 Dr. Rustam Koneev (Uzbekistan)
 Dr. Inna Mudrovska (Ukraine)

1. The chairman Nigel Cook opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting agenda was accepted. He explained that following a resolution made in Edinburgh, IMA has instructed its commissions and working groups to hold biennial business meetings (International geological Congress / IMA General Meeting). Due to the small number of IMA-COM national representatives attending the 32nd IGC, he stated that this meeting would be brief and aimed at familiarising participants with recent developments and new initiatives, rather than with decision making. A full business meeting will be held during the next IMA General Meeting in Kobe, Japan (2006). Apologies for absence from COM Chairman Roland Merkle and Vice-Chairman Kari Kojonen were recorded.
2. The minutes of the business meeting in Edinburgh (2002) were approved and attendees received a copy of the report on COM activities since the Edinburgh business meeting ('Report on COM activities for the period from the IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh until August 2004'; this document was submitted to IMA council prior to the IGC).
3. The following current and future COM activities were reviewed and briefly discussed:
 - Three sessions convened by IMA-COM were held during the 32nd International Geological Congress. These were: '*Gold deposits in diverse geological environments*', '*Conventional and unconventional platinum group mineral deposits*' and '*Telluride and selenide minerals related to gold and platinum group element deposits*' (the latter jointly with IGCP project 486). All were most successful and have contributed significantly to raising awareness of IMA-COM worldwide. (*note: short reports on each session - as prepared for the IGC organizing committee - are attached as appendices to this report*).
 - A session on "Platinum metals in the urban environment - should we worry?" will be jointly organized by the Applied Mineralogy Group and the Geochemistry Group of the Mineralogical Society and IMA-COM. This forms part of the larger meeting of the

Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (6-7th January 2005, Bath, U.K.) with the title "Environmental Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Human Health". COM Chairman Roland Merkle will give the keynote lecture 'Large scale PGE anomalies in South Africa and possible mechanisms for the release of PGE to the environment'.

- COM Short Course Workshop in Granada, Spain (2005) to be organized by the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía. The meeting heard that the local organizing committee would make an announcement concerning the workshop during Autumn 2004. (*note: a tentative date for this workshop is yet to be announced*).
 - Ore microscopy course, Pretoria, South Africa (2005) to be organized by COM Chairman, Roland Merkle (venue and date to be arranged).
 - The Short course 'Current methods in applied mineralogy of platinum-group element ores and products' will be co-sponsored by COM and held during the International Platinum Symposium, Oulu, Finland (August 6th 2005), organized by Prof. Louis J. Cabri.
 - COM has proposed the following sessions for the 19th General Meeting of IMA to be held in Kobe, Japan, July 23-28th 2006:
 1. Applied ore mineralogy (COM jointly with CAM).
 2. Ore Mineralogy of Au-Te-Se deposits (COM jointly with IGCP-486).
 3. Mineralogy of the PGE in surface conditions, including oxides and placers (COM).
 4. Ore mineralogy of sulphosalt minerals (Sulphosalt sub-commission of COM).
 5. Ore mineralogy of Kuroko type and deep sea sulfide deposits (COM).

(*note: these sessions have not yet been confirmed by the Kobe organising committee*).
4. Virtual ore mineralogy on the COM website. All those present were encouraged to contribute to the success the planned digital library of reflected light micrographs.
5. Reports of COM sub-commissions
- A fully revised report from the sulphosalt sub-commission has been received. The secretary congratulated the sub-commission on their comprehensive work and expressed the wish that parts of the report could be available on the COM website in the near future, and also that the full report could be published as an authoritative source for professionals and students. Dr. Makovicky noted that the report still required a little more work and that the final version will be prepared during the coming autumn/winter.
6. Other business
- Tamas Weisburg emphasized the role COM should play in ensuring that polished ore sections are preserved for the benefit of future generations. Sections could be deposited and catalogued within a number of designated museums around the world.
 - The observer from Uzbekistan expressed his wish to join COM, explaining that a formal submission from the Uzbekistan Mineralogical Society to join IMA would be submitted at the IMA business meeting the following day. Dr. Koneev was welcomed as the national representative on COM.
 - The observer from Ukraine was welcomed. It was suggested that she be formally recognized by the Ukrainian Mineralogical Society as the national representative in COM.
 - The Secretary reminded participants of the recent call by COM Chairman Roland Merkle upon COM members (by e-mail 18.08.2004) to take a more active role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data, by joining national committees of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) looking into certain aspects of microbeam analysis, and secondly, by communicating factual or anecdotal evidence they may have about problems encountered in electron microprobe analysis of (ore) minerals, so that guidelines for publishing of electron microprobe data etc. can be prepared in the future.