

**COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY**  
**International Mineralogical Association**

Business meeting of COM to be held during the 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the International  
Mineralogical Association, Kobe, Japan

Tuesday 25th July 2006 at 16.45; Room 407, Kobe Conference Centre

**Minutes**

**Those present:**

Roland K.W. Merkle (South Africa, COM President)  
Nigel J. Cook (Norway, COM Secretary)  
Masaaki Shimizu (Japan)  
Jeff Mauk (New Zealand)  
Werner Paar (Austria)  
Emil Makovicky (Denmark)  
Radostina Atanassova (alternate, Bulgaria)  
Teresa Maria Valente (alternate, Portugal)  
Rustam Koneev (Uzbekistan)

1. The meeting was opened by COM Secretary Nigel Cook, the agenda was approved and the names of those attending were registered.
2. The minutes of the previous business meeting (held during the IGC in Florence, 2004) were approved.
3. The meeting agreed that the minutes should reflect decisions taken by the commission, even if no formal votes would be taken due to the limited number of countries represented.
4. The secretary reported on current national representation, noting that the representatives of several countries had changed since the date of the last business meeting. He further noted that the representatives of some countries appeared rather inactive at present, in that they do not join business meetings or enter any debate. Those present agreed that the secretary should approach the national representatives concerned and gently encourage the involvement of new persons. There followed a discussion about how representatives to COM are nominated. The secretary informed that practices appeared to differ widely, with some countries making the choice of representatives from the top down (via the national mineralogical society), whereas the practise in other countries seemed to be done by informal agreement among individuals. The representatives present agreed it was important for all representatives to be actively involved in commission activities.
5. The secretary gave a report on COM activities since the 18<sup>th</sup> IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh in 2002 (this report is appended with these minutes). Although the Commission had not been able to hold a Short Course during the last four-year period, the greater number of scientific sessions at 'existing' meetings, including the present IMA General Meeting, was viewed as a positive development.
6. The nominations of COM officials to serve for the period 2006-2010 were presented, but a formal vote did not take place. This is because of the outstanding need to find a suitable candidate to stand as COM Secretary. Those present agreed that that person needs to be skilled in

communications and be an enthusiastic ore mineralogist. The nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2006-2010 (Nigel J. Cook, Kari Kojonen) were, however, approved by those present.

7. There followed a series of discussions about current and future COM activities, primarily addressing future short courses.

- COM will hold one or two sessions at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway (2008). COM Vice Chairman Kari Kojonen is a liaison person for mineralogy sessions at the congress.

- There are several potential COM Short Course Workshops in preparation. The secretary informed on his recent communications with persons in China (Nanjing) and India (Kharagpur) to hold Short Courses in the period 2007-2009. The meeting agreed that it would be of considerable benefit for COM to be involved in activities in both these countries.

- There is also a possibility of organizing a COM short course within the framework of the CIM (Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum) Conference and Exhibition, April 29 – May 2, 2007, Montreal, Canada.

- Teresa Maria Valente stressed that COM is always welcome to hold a future short course in Portugal, taking advantage of an attractive, easy-to-get-to venue.

- The meeting agreed that future COM short courses need to be focussed – possibly targeting specific issues – the mineralogy of gold deposits, environmental mineralogy of ores etc. There was also some discussion on to what extent ‘non-metallic’ ores should be covered in future COM activities.

- the meeting also agreed that it could be advantageous for future short courses to be organised in conjunction with other IMA Commissions (notably the Commission on Applied Mineralogy). Opportunities to organise short course workshops at existing meetings should also be considered, as this largely eliminates the need for major organisation and financing of ‘stand-alone’ short courses.

8. A number of other COM initiatives were discussed.

- The issue of standardisation of microbeam analysis and reporting of electron probe microanalytical data was of concern to several persons present. It was suggested to establish a new sub-commission to draw up a series of guidelines which should be published. It was suggested (Emil Makovicky) that the duties of the sub-commission also include X-Ray data. A number of names with appropriate specialist knowledge were put forward as candidates to stand on this sub-commission. The meeting was of the opinion that this could be a most useful contribution of the commission in the next period.

- COM’s initiative to prepare a standard set of mineral abbreviations was discussed. The secretary explained it was difficult to enforce such standards given polarised views within the community. Abbreviations recommended by ‘The Canadian Mineralogist’ should be used.

- The need to update the COM directory was briefly discussed. The meeting decided the task of doing this should be left until a new Secretary is installed.

- In many countries, mines have closed down and become inaccessible, and ore mineralogy is sadly no longer taught in the universities. As a result, securing valuable collections of polished sections for the future is an important issue and one where COM is well positioned to play a role. The idea that COM should encourage the deposition of collections in qualified museums had been aired at the previous Business Meeting (Florence), but little concrete action has since been taken. There was substantial discussion on ‘how’ this could be encouraged, if there could be possibilities to raise some funding (to properly catalogue the collections, provide appropriate store facilities) and on how we could work effectively with the museums, as well as with the

IMA Commission on Museums. The meeting discussed established practices (or absence thereof) in various countries

- Linked to the previous item, several persons present felt that a further area where IMA-COM could play a useful future role in preparing practical guidelines on how to preserve valuable polished sections for the benefit of future generations.

9. The item 'Development of COM website and 'virtual ore mineralogy' was not discussed due to Kari Kojonen being unable to attend the meeting.
10. The final report of the COM sulphosalt sub-commission was presented by Emil Makovicky. The document was approved and the main authors (Emil Makovicky and Yves Moëlo) were thanked for their hard work and dedication in completing this valuable piece of work. Makovicky stated that he hoped the full report could be published in leading mineralogical journals, with an abridged version available on the IMA-COM website. Those present agreed that the report should be available to as many persons as possible. Moëlo was sending the document to all national representatives.
11. The COM sub-commission on telluride/selenides set up at the Business Meeting in Edinburgh (2002) has not completed its work. They are, nevertheless, confident of completion in time for the Business Meeting at the IMA General meeting in 2010.
12. Under 'Any other business', it was noted that a new volume in the 'Reviews and Mineralogy and Geochemistry' series on Sulfides' (volume 61) was scheduled to appear in the second half of 2006.

The next Business Meeting of COM will be held at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway (2008).

Nigel Cook

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