

IMA 2004 Report to IUGS

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The IMA - objectives, structure, membership

OBJECTIVES

The International Mineralogical Association, which is affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS - <http://www.iugs.org>) is the only truly organisation promoting mineralogy. Since its creation in 1958, the IMA represents mineralogical societies or mineralogical groups, which are affiliated to a geological society. Mineralogy is one of the oldest branches of science which develops both fundamental and applied researches. Mineralogy interacts with other geoscience disciplines as geophysics, geochemistry and petrology.

Mineralogy is fundamental to develop the knowledge of the chemistry, mode de formation and age of rocks from the earth. Knowledge of the most inaccessible, deepest parts of the earth is developed through experimental mineralogy. Besides this, mineralogy gives us clues on the origin of the solar system.

Today's mineralogy plays a vital role in human welfare, the remediation of pollution, and waste disposal, and the understanding of climate through the knowledge of reacting surfaces between the solid earth, the atmosphere and biosphere. Mineralogy is also of prime importance in the exploitation of industrial minerals, petroleum exploration and exploitation, underpinning metalliferous mining, and the exploitation of soils.

The IMA supports the scientific development of mineralogical sciences, and favours the relationships with international geoscience bodies affiliated to IUGS, mainly through the organization of Meetings and Workshops, and the publication of books and special volumes within scientific journals.

Since 1959, through the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral names, the mineral nomenclature is rationalizing and IMA-CNMMN decides on the approval, discreditation and/or redefinition of minerals .

STRUCTURE

IMA affairs are conducted at the business meetings which occur every four years during the General Meeting of IMA. The organization of the General Meeting is under the responsibility of the inviting mineralogical society; Edinburgh 2002 was the 18th General Meeting, and Kobe 2006 and Budapest 2012, the 19th and 20th, respectively.

In Edinburgh 2002, it was decided that a business meeting would occur two years later, that is in 2004, in connexion with the International Geological Congress in Florence, to favor a closer contact between the different components of the IMA and those from other geoscience organizations. This was reinforced by the decision of the IMA Council in Florence, 2004, to organize a business meeting during the IGC, at regular interval between the General Meeting of the IMA.

Delegates present at IMA Business Meeting are designed by their respective adhering bodies in a number not exceeding the balloting power of the society. Delegates vote on all IMA affairs prepared by the Council, some of the items having been suggested, in due time, to the IMA secretariat by the National Representatives or by the Officers of IMA Commissions and Working Groups. More specifically, delegates vote on the composition of the Council, the creation, maintenance or ending of IMA Commissions and Working Groups, on the designation of Officers of these commissions/working groups, on the location of the General Meeting of IMA and on the change of the constitution.

The IMA Council comprises eleven members, the President, the First and Second Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the retiring President and five ordinary

Councilors. The first five form the Officers, whereas the President, Secretary and Treasurer form the Executive Committee. The habit is that the First Vice-president belongs to the Mineralogical Society which is organizing the next General Meeting. He becomes automatically President of the IMA Council once the General Meeting has occurred. In 2002, at the end of the Edinburgh meeting, Ian Parsons became President replacing Anthony Naldrett. At the same time, three new members entered the Council, among which the Secretary who worked as interim since 2001.

The IMA Secretariat is localized in the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques in Nancy, France. Half a position is funded by the CNRS, a French Government organization, to follow the day-to-day operation of the IMA, which consists in distributing and collecting documents from the adhering bodies and the Officers of commissions and working groups, and in defining with the IMA Council the direction the IMA should take, at least up to the next Business Meeting. Officers of the IMA Commissions and Working Groups have to publish yearly a report on the activity of their respective Commissions and Working Groups, which constitutes the scientific part of the IMA annual report to IUGS. Information on IMA activities are put on the IMA Website which was deeply modified in 2004, thanks to Christine Lecluse, who was funded by the IMA. The IMA archives have to be stored at the Mineralogical Society of America. Since January 2005, the major information on IMA activities are now provided by the new magazine "Elements" . During the last years, information were generally published within the Bulletin of Mineralogy of the Mineralogical Society of Canada, with the help of Pierrette Tremblay, who is warmly thanked.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE IMA

The IMA is composed of 37 adhering national mineralogical societies or groups. The last adhering society is the Mineralogy Society of Uzbekistan which joined the IMA during the IGC in Florence, August 2004. The President of the mineralogical society of Uzbekistan is Rustam I. Koneev (rkoneev@yahoo.com) and the secretary is Aripov K. Umid (aripovumid@yahoo.com). India is also in the process to join again the IMA.

Table 1 (Annexe 1) gives a list of the adhering mineralogical societies or groups, the name of the National Representative, as well as their membership category, including Uzbekistan and India. Only one member society from any country may join. There are three mineralogical societies in category 5 (Germany, Russia and USA) and in category 4 (Canada, France, United Kingdom), four in categories 3, seven in category 2 and nineteen in category 1, which comprises most of the mineralogical societies or groups.

National representatives are designed by their respective adhering bodies. They transmit to the National Society and/or to the delegates within the different IMA Commissions and Working Groups, information provided by the IMA secretariat. On the other hand, they regularly inform the IMA secretariat on the changes of delegates and national representatives which occur within their Mineralogical society.

Each Member Society can vote during the business meetings according to the group under which it joins the Association. It becomes a nonvoting member when it is in default with its dues for two years. The delinquent Member Society shall be reinstated in the membership of the Association and again assume the rights and duties of members after having paid all outstanding dues.

Reports from the executive committee

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

The report is summarized from major information given during the second business meeting of the IMA in Florence.

Several developments will greatly enhance the visibility of IMA in the four-year intervals between General Meetings:

- Business meetings now take place every two years, the present meeting at the IGC in Florence being the first in this new cycle
- IMA now has a much-enhanced website and a domain-name
- IMA has now a logo, following an international competition during the Florence meeting
- IMA will have regular entries in the new magazine, *Elements*, of which the President is one of the Principal Editors

Conventional IMA activities were continuing:

- IMA had sponsored a large number of sessions at EGU in Nice, 2003, eighteen sessions at the present IGC meeting in Florence, and several sessions have been proposed for the Goldschmidt meeting in Moscow, Idaho in 2005
- Five thematic issues of international journals had appeared based on the IMA 2002 meeting in Edinburgh
- The President thanked the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names for its steady and important work, and for its recent revision of amphibole nomenclature. He thanked the Chairman, Ernst Burke, Vice-chair Giovanni Ferraris and Secretary Bill Birch for their work.
- Prof Yamanaka has presented a report on progress with the 2006 General Meeting in Kobe, Japan
- The Business Meeting at IGC had decided on the location for the General Meeting in 2010 following presentations on behalf of meetings in Paris and Budapest. Budapest will be the site of the 20th General Meeting of the IMA.
- Commissions and Working groups have continued their activities and were sponsoring sessions at ICAM 2004 (8th International Congress), September 19-22, 2004, in Brazil at Aguas de Lindoa, Sao Paulo and at the 5th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums, September 5-8, 2004, in Paris.

TREASURY REPORT

This report was prepared from the treasurer report given for the Florence meeting

Taking into account the low budget of IMA, and following the President suggestion, it was decided to consider the financial documents only every four years at the General Meeting of IMA. This proposal was accepted by the delegates present in Florence and a motion was taken to assign an auditing committee only during the General Meeting of IMA. Information on the income and major expenses of IMA would be provided during the Business Meetings organized in the interval between the General Meetings of IMA.

During the last two years the main expenses were due to :

- 1) the payment of a designer for the IMA Website (2522.26 US\$)
- 2) the contribution to a conference organized by G. Ferraris on "Micro and mesoporous mineral phases" (500 US\$)
- 3) Wire transfer charges from the bank (230 US\$)
- 4) New letterhead costs (71.95\$).

According to C. Klein, there was a better income as a whole as several countries have paid their fees in arrears. However, some delinquents still exist: Croatia is now 4 years behind in dues, Egypt 3 years and Israel 6 years.

It was proposed to work on a motion to exclude societies which do not pay their dues. It is especially required that National Representatives of delinquent societies should explain why their society does not pay their dues and if possible they were invited to do this at IGC. The Council had been informed that Croatia was in a position to pay immediately. No delegate of Egypt was present in Florence. The Geological Society of Israel will be directly informed of the situation of the mineralogical group.

SECRETARY REPORT

Following Edinburgh 2002, there were two major objectives for the IMA:

The first one aims at encouraging the regular participation of the IMA in International meetings. The list of meetings provided later in the report indicates that this objective, partly realized in 2003, was fully done in 2004, thanks to the involvement of Commissions and Working groups. In 2004, the IMA was implicated in three large meetings, the International Geologic Congress, in Florence, August 2004; the 8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, ICAM 2004, in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil; and the 5th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums, 5-8 September 2004, in Paris. Most of the IMA Commissions and Working Groups were sponsoring a session in Florence, and the other ones were fully participating to the ICAM meeting and to the Meeting on Museums.

The IMA secretariat was occupied to prepare the IMA business meetings which occurred in Florence, 2004. For those interested in the activity of the IMA during these international meetings, they could see the chapter entitled "Scientific activities of the IMA" in which the activity of IMA commissions and Working Groups is reported.

During the first Council Meeting, it was confirmed that the presence of the IMA in IGC is the right place to be, at the right time, between two general meetings of the IMA. The two year interval is constructive for the IMA, and provides to the IMA a more visible activity within its scientific and administrative domains. The new politics of the IMA respective to its implication in the International Geological Congress, has some consequence on the partition of IMA mineralogists between international meetings which occur at nearly the same time. This year the International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, ICAM 2004, and that of the International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums occurred just after the IGC in Florence, and have cut the IMA public between these meetings. The Council and Officers of Commissions concerned by these meetings, are presently working at finding a solution to avoid the occurrence of meetings of interest for mineralogists at the same time.

In 2004, the IMA secretariat was implicated in the preparation of the two next General Meetings of the IMA, in 2006 and 2010, which will occur in Kobe and Budapest, respectively.

The Kobe project was exposed by T. Yamanaka during the IMA first business meeting in Florence, 2004. The first circular was also ready for Florence. Full information is available, on the Kobe website : <http://www.congre.co.jp/ima2006>. In 2003, a list of Japanese Delegates was provided to IMA National Representatives and Officers of Commissions and Working groups to improve contacts between IMA mineralogists for the preparation of the Kobe sessions. The list of scientific sessions was revised at the end of January.

The 2010 General Meeting of the IMA will occur in Budapest following the decision of the IMA delegates during the second business meeting in Florence. Information on the occurrence of two business meetings to be held in Florence were noticed in September 2002. The two proposals relative to the candidacy of Budapest and Paris for the 2010 General

Meeting, were reported several times, in the 2002 and 2003 IMA reports to IUGS, in Newsletters of August 2003, and within a circular sent to National Representatives in January 2004. Information on the two proposals were also available on the IMA Website since October 2003. Complementary information were requested by the IMA secretariat in July 2004, in order to inform the IMA delegates. A procedure for the selection of the location of the 2010 General Meeting was recommended by the IMA executive Committee. It dealt with the production of a pdf document to be sent to delegates, the time allowed for the power point presentation during the Florence First Business Meeting, and voting conditions during the second business meeting.

In 2005, the IMA is sponsoring the Goldschmidt meeting, Moscow, Idaho, in which five IMA Commissions and Working groups have proposed sessions (see information at the website :<http://www.the-conference.com/2005/gold2005/>).

The second major objective was to develop communication. Details relative to different items on the development of communication are reported in the chapter below entitled "IMA communication" which deals with the policy on publication, the development of the IMA website, and the creation of a logo for the IMA which will help in the recognition of the IMA among other international geoscience associations.

IMA communication

IMA PUBLICATIONS

Internal communication is regularly achieved through circulars sent to National Representatives and/or Officers of IMA Commissions and Working Groups, and reports provided by the different IMA components. Up to now, information to the Earth Science community was done through Newsletters, the Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Canada, with the help of P. Tremblay. Since 2005, news on IMA activities will become a regular feature of "Elements", a new semi-popular full-colour magazine devoted to Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Petrology, will considerably improve the internal visibility of the IMA. Elements has been created by several societies which are:

- 1) the Mineralogical Society of America
- 2) the Geochemical Society
- 3) the Mineralogical Association of Canada
- 4) the Clays Minerals Society
- 5) the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

The President of the IMA is one of the principal editors of this new magazine. Members of these societies will receive *Elements* without additional charge as a member benefit. Other mineralogical and geochemical organizations have been invited to join. The cost will initially be 10 US\$ for four issues per year, increasing if the number of issues increases to 6 or 12. The first issue was published in January 2005.

In the first issue, the IMA informed that the Council has chosen a logo for the IMA, that the IMA Website has got a domain name "www.ima-mineralogy.org". The site itself was enlarged in 2004, to be related to the IMA constitutive groups, notably to mineralogical association, members of the IMA, as well as IUGS and most of its affiliates. Other news published in the first issue of Elements included the preparation of the Kobe meeting in 2006, the decision taken in Florence to hold the 20th General Meeting of the IMA in Budapest under the chairmanship of Prof. Ekkehart Tillmans of Austria, and the new membership of Uzbekistan as an affiliated member of the IMA.

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE IMA WEBSITE

It was reported during the second IMA business meeting in Florence. In Edinburgh 2002, a committee on Internet and Computer Development was created. One of its objectives was to help with the development and maintenance of the IMA Website.

In 2003, the address of the IMA Website moved from Pisa, Italy to Clermont-Ferrand, France. Great help was provided by Pierrette Tremblay, coordinator of the Mineralogical Society of Canada. This led to the creation of a new layout; the home page of IMA website was modified to display the logo of most member societies, and to report activities sent by Officers of Commissions and Working Groups, as well as information from the IMA Executive Committee. In addition, the list of National representatives and Officers was checked.

During the Council meeting in Nice, it was decided to give an other help to the IMA Website by funding Christine Lecluse who revisited the Website in February to give a new look to the Website and to incorporate new data, up-to-date information about the IMA, and links with other website of interest for mineralogists.

Later on, in August 2004, the design of the website was modified by Christine Lecluse. At the same time, the IMA received a domain name which was selected by the Council and by the Officers of Commissions and Working Groups. The IMA domain name is as follows : **<http://www.ima-mineralogy.org>**.

It is clear that a large organization as the IMA requires additional development of the Website, relative to its history and activities. The Website should provide additional information through links with other websites of interest for mineralogists relative to research, teaching or mineral collection and institution. These items will be progressively developed.

At the same time the IMA was developing its own website, several Commissions and Working groups have developed or revisited their own website following a recommendation given by the IMA Council in Edinburgh. The Commissions on Applied Mineralogy, on New Mineral and Mineral Names, on Ore Mineralogy, on Museums and on Physics of Mineral have a Website, as well as the Working Group on Organic Minerals. CAM is sharing its site with ICAM. Two other websites are under development, those for the Commission on Mineral Growth and Interface processes and for the Working Group on Mineral inclusions. The Website of the Commissions on Classification of minerals, and on Gem Materials are still hosted by the IMA Website.

THE IMA HAS A LOGO

16 proposals arrived at the IMA Secretariat. Selection of the IMA logo has occurred during a special meeting of the Council. Particular attention was paid to the logo appearance when reduced. The selected logo was shown during the second business meeting. The winner is a young scientist from Italy:

Sabrina Nazzareni, PhD
Dipartimento Scienze della Terra
Piazza Università 1
06100 Perugia

Sabrina Nazzareni will receive 200 US\$. In addition, she will be given free registration for the 19th IMA General Meeting to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 23-28 July, 2006, plus free standard accommodation. Sabrina is involved in the study of crystal chemistry of natural and synthetic minerals, clinopyroxene, micas and amphiboles.

IMA Business Meetings and Council Meetings in 2004

BUSINESS MEETINGS IN FLORENCE 2004

In Edinburgh, it was decided for the IMA to hold its next business meeting two years after rather than four year after at the IMA General Meeting in Kobe. Two business meetings and three council meetings were held during the 32th International Geological Congress in Florence, August 2004. This was the first time that the IMA had to prepare its Business Meetings and those related to Commissions and Working Groups within a Congress not organized by the IMA itself. Despite some late modifications in Florence, it seems that no major problem occurred for the attendance of the different IMA Business Meetings and scientific sessions. Stefano Merlino, the previous past president, was thanked for his help in inserting IMA scientific and administrative activities within the IGC.

The first business meeting occurred on Monday, the 23th of August. Following the reports of the executive committee, the conditions for the selection of the place for the 2010 General Meeting of the IMA were indicated. A proposal to hold the 2010 General Meeting in Budapest, were presented by Ekkehart Tillmanns of Austria and a second one to hold the 2010 General meeting in Paris, by Georges Callas of France.

Presentation of future meetings in which the IMA was involved in 2004 has been shown, as well as those which will occur later:

- 1) the ICAM-CAM conference in Brazil in September 2004,
- 2) the Museums and Mineral Conference in Paris in 2004,
- 3) the Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, USA 2005.

Detailed information were given on the next IMA General Meeting in Kobe, 2006, by the chairman Takamitsu Yamanaka,

There was also some discussion on the present-day funding of the IMA which could be improved (see Funding of IMA).

During the Second IMA Business meeting, *the IMA logo* chosen by the Council was presented.

Delegates approved the following *officers* for some commissions and working groups for the period 2004-2006:

- Commission on Gem Materials: Dr Lin Sutherland as Vice-chairman and Takeshi Miyata as Secretary;
- Working Group on Astromineralogy: Prof. Frans Rietmeijer as Chairman
- Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy: Prof. David Vaughan as Chairman
- Working Group on Inclusions in Minerals: Prof. Mamoru Enjoji as Vice-chairman.

Delegates voted by card on the two proposals for the *IMA General meeting in 2010*. The delegates voted in favor of the proposal of Austria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia for a meeting to be hold in Budapest :

- 44 in favor of the Carpathian-Pannonian proposal
- 4 for Paris
- no abstentions

The meeting chairman will be Professor Ekkehart Tillmanns, University of Vienna. Professor Yotzo Yanev from the University of Bulgaria proposed to organize an excursion in Bulgaria.

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN FLORENCE 2004

During the first IMA council meeting, the executive officers delivered their activity reports, respectively. The main conclusions inherited from the activities of the IMA Commissions and

Working Groups are summarized below within the chapter on the scientific activities of IMA Commissions and Working groups.

During the second IMA council meeting, discussion arose on the participation of the IMA in international meetings. It was said to contact the IGC staff for the IMA to be better integrated within the organization of the next IGC, as the IMA will participate significantly in the preparation of scientific sessions and organization of business meetings.

Information on the existence of a new international organization in mineralogy was given with the occurrence of a first meeting in Monaco. The IMA Executive Committee should contact the President of this new international organization to inform about the existence of the IMA, its activity and role.

It was also decided that the smallest societies could directly pay their dues during the IMA General Meetings, and/or at intermediate intervals when a business meeting occurs during the IGC. This will avoid the lost of money because of bank taxes.

FUNDING OF THE IMA.

The President considered that the formula for funding the IMA, is not good for people from small societies whose members are paying, per head, much more than those of larger societies. Besides this, it is difficult for some societies or groups to pay and the banking costs of the electronic transfer used is high, compared to the dues. Bank taxes are generally paid by the IMA. The President suggested that if a flat rate of US\$ 1.5 or 2 were paid by or on behalf of each member of all supporting societies, the annual income of the IMA would significantly increase, and the distribution between all the members would be equitable.

Scientific activities of the IMA

The Association is scientifically active through its eight Commissions and five Working Groups. During the IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh in 2002, three Commissions/Working Groups were voted to be terminated: the Commission on History and Teaching, the Working Group on Database and Computer Applications and the Working Group on Cosmic Mineralogy. At the same time, a Committee on Technical Computer Applications was created. Since the 2002 IMA General Meeting, most of the activities of the IMA Commissions and Working Groups were rejuvenated as 21 Officers over a total maximum of 33 were replaced, and contacts were taken to create two new Working Groups, one devoted to Environmental Mineralogy and the second to Astromineralogy.

In 2002, it was recommended to the IMA Commissions and Working Groups to increase their participation within international meetings. This was partly done in 2003 with the sponsoring of sessions by four IMA Commissions and Working Groups during the first EGS-AGU-EUG meeting in Nice, while the Commission on Physics of Minerals was organizing sessions in the frame of the Goldschmidt conference in Kurashiki.

Participation of IMA Commissions and Working Groups to large meetings was fully achieved in 2004. During the International Geological Congress in Florence, August 2004, 29 scientific sessions were sponsored or chaired by most of the IMA Commissions and Working Groups. In particular, the symposium on Mineralogy comprised 11 scientific sessions prepared by the IMA groups. The two commissions which do not chair sessions in Florence were organizing international meetings a few time after, in September. The Commission on Applied Mineralogy was involved together with the International Council for Applied Mineralogy (ICAM) in the preparation of the 8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, ICAM 2004, in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil. Similarly, the Commission on

Museums has organized the 5th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums, 5-8 September 2004, in Paris. Business meetings were held during all of these international meetings.

In 2004, five IMA Commissions and Working groups have proposed to sponsor or chair scientific sessions during the 15th Annual Goldschmidt Conference, Moscow, Idaho USA, 20-25 May 2005 [<http://www.the-conference.com/2005/gold2005>]. The IMA Commissions and Working groups are also preparing their General Meeting which will be held in Kobe, Japan, in 2006 [<http://www.congre.co.jp/ima2006/>].

A few IMA Commissions and Working Groups are also active in organizing regular workshops and/or short courses as the Commission on Applied Mineralogy and the Commission on Ore Mineralogy. The policy of some IMA Commissions and Working Groups is to published special volumes in International Journals following the organization of thematic session.

Besides this, scientific information on the activity of most of the IMA Commissions and Working Groups are now accessible through their respective websites. Most of them have been created or deeply modified during the last years. Those Commissions and Working Groups with no Website have planned to developed their own site.

IMA COMMISSIONS

Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN)

The CNMMN (<http://www.geo.vu.nl/users/ima-cnmmn>) was established at nearly the same time as the IMA, in 1959 for the purpose of controlling the introduction of new minerals and mineral names, and of rationalising mineral nomenclature. Since that time, the work of the CNMMN has gained overwhelming support from the international mineralogical community.

Since 1959, the CNMMN has provided a list of 4000 or so minerals and mineral names on which CNMMN has officially taken a decision on their approval, discreditation and/or redefinition. To do this, CNMMN has provided a protocol with procedures and guidelines for proposing new minerals and mineral names published for the first time in 1998. An updated IMA-CNMMN list of minerals approved, discredited or redefined was published in February 2004 and put on the website, together with other nomenclature publications approved by CNMMN. The history of naming mineral following recommendation of the CNMMN was published in 2002 by Jeffrey de Fourestier, in *Canadian Mineralogist* and is now reported on the Website.

CNMMN has six subcommissions working on mineral species. CNMMN has published mostly in *Canadian Mineralogist*, in *American Mineralogist* and in *European Journal of Mineralogy*.

The commission is led by Ernst Burke (ernst.burke@falw.vu.nl), with Giovanni Ferraris as Vice-Chairman (giovanni.ferraris@unito.it) and William D. Birch as Secretary (BBirch@museum.vic.gov.au). Besides the three Officers, the commission has 30 members, and has created a position of Chairmen Emeritus for the past chairmen, Akira Kato (Chairman 1975-1982), J.A. Mandarino (Chairman 1983-1994) and Joel D. Grice (Chairman 1995-2002). The Website of CNMMN is now assembled by the CNMMN chairman Ernst A.J. Burke. It was deeply modified since 2003.

In July 2004 the CNMMN decided that after approval of a new mineral, the following data will be published on the CNMMN website, one month after the approval date: IMA Number, type locality, corresponding author, chemical formula, relationship to other minerals, crystal system, space group, unit-cell parameters, structure determined yes or no, strongest lines of X-ray powder-diffraction pattern.

68 new mineral proposals were received in 2004, and 59 have been sent to members for voting. The list of minerals approved was updated and a revised report on the Nomenclature of Amphiboles was inserted on the Website.

CNMMN has also been engaged in an informal discussion together with the commission on Classification of Minerals on standardisation of the nomenclature of mineral groups. They are also discussing on the proposed process of merging the two commissions, following the Business Meeting of CNMMN, held in Paris, in October 2004. CNMMN participated to the IGC in Florence, and to the Museums Conference in Paris (see the annexes).

Commission on Classification of Mineral (CCM)

The aim of the CCM is to collect document and to help improve existing or proposed classifications of minerals. The CCM intends to maintain informed all the members of the IMA about the new developments on the classification of minerals, and to promote meetings for their discussion. CCM is particularly concerned with the systematics of minerals and with the best criteria to be applied to define groups of minerals. Discussions have been engaged within CCM as well as with members of the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) on these topics.

The commission is led by Yu Pushcharovsky (dmitp@geol.msu.ru), with Ernest H. Nickel as Vice-Chairman (ernest.nickel@csiro.au) and Andy McDonald as Secretary (amcdonal@nickel.laurentian.ca). In addition to the three Officers, the commission has 24 members. The site of CCM is hosted by the IMA Website, but CCM is planning to develop its own Website. In particular, the CCM web pages present books of interest for mineral classification.

In 2004, the CCM held two meeting in Paris, one jointly with the CNMMN. The focus was to agree on matters of mineral classification. A new proposal to standardise mineral groups was elaborated by Yu. Pushcharovsky, M. Pasero, and two officers of CNMMN, E. H. Nickel and G. Ferraris. The CCM participated to the IGC in Florence, being among the main organizers of a General Symposium on the Crystal Structures of Mineral, and to the Museums Conference in Paris.

Discussion on the merging of the CCM and CNMMN is engaged, following the joined Business Meeting held in Paris, in October 2004. A protocol has been established for voting on these matters which was supported by the majority of the CCM members.

Commission on Mineral Growth and Interface Processes (CMGIP)

The CMGIP, created in 2002, derived from the commission on Crystal Growth of Minerals but after significant modification. Memory of the commission is still preserved by the vice-chairman, Katsuo Tsukamoto (ktsuka@mail.cc.tohoku.ac.jp), who was in the past commission. CMGIP is now led by Cornelis Woensdregt (woens@geo.uu.nl), with John Rokovan as Secretary (rakovajf@muohio.edu).

The commission is still in the process of reorganization and 20 members have now been designed by their respective National Societies.

In 2004, the commission organized a scientific session in Florence, but could not hold a business meeting there. In 2005, CMGIP will be one of the five IMA commission and working groups which will sponsor a session at the Goldschmidt conference in Moscow, Idaho. A website is planned to be created.

Commission on Physics of Minerals (CPM)

The CPM (<http://www.sbg.ac.at/min/welcome.htm>) was asked to be reorganized during the IMA General meeting in Edinburgh, 2002. New officers were elected with Georg Amthauer (georg.amthauer@sbg.ac.at) as a Chair, Eiji Ohtani as Vice-Chairman (ohtani@mail.cc.tohoku.ac.jp) and Daniel Neuville as Secretary (neuville@ipgp.jussieu.fr). Besides the three Officers, the commission has 9 members. Following the overall recommendations of the IMA Council, CPM spent most of its efforts to organize scientific sessions in 2003, for the EGS-AGU-EUG meeting in Nice, and for Goldschmidt conference in Kurashiki, and in 2004, for the IGC in Florence. CPM will also participate to the Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow, Idaho, in 2005, as well as to the EGU in Vienna (two sessions will be convened by CPM), and later on to the Kobe General Meeting, 2006. On the other hand, communication has to be developed as a whole, and the website complemented. The outline of the commission has to be defined.

Commission on Museums (CM)

The CM (<http://www.smp.net/IMA-CM>) was established to link the mineralogical sections of museums around the world. The best specimens of minerals, and those described for the first time, are often collected in museums, and the history of mineralogy is intimately bound to the history of museum mineral collections. Day-to-day activity of the commission on museums is mainly related to the Euromin project, the aim of which is to offer large audiences, a first approach to mineralogy and to the history of science through visiting of some of Europe's principal mineral collections.

The CM has a sub-commission chaired by H.A. Stalder, who is in charge of the preparation of a Catalogue of Type Mineral Specimens (CTMS). This catalogue is nearly complete and a downloadable version of mineral specimen is in the MDAT-Lite database compiled by A. Hölzel. CTMS is arranged alphabetically by mineral name.

The major quadrennial event for the commission on Museums is the International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums which occurred this year in Paris. Besides this, the commission holds an annual meeting, usually in Munich.

The commission is led by Lydie Touret (touret@ensmp.fr), with Kay U. Schuermann as Secretary ([schuerra@mail.uni-marburg.de](mailto:schuerma@mail.uni-marburg.de)).

In 2004, the commission was particularly busy and held its 5th International Conference on Mineralogy and Museums in Paris, (September 5-8; <http://www.ensmp.fr/Fr/Actualites/Agenda/PDF/MM5.html>), after the International Geological Congress. It was co-sponsored by CM and CNMMN. The conference was extremely good. It was headed by Lydie Touret and her team. There were about 150 participants from 27 countries presenting 46 oral and 41 poster contributions. A post-conference field trip to the Savoyan Alps from 9th to 14th September, lead by Dr. Giancarlo Parodi (Paris), was attended by 23 persons from 8 countries. A business meeting was held during the conference.

Nicholas Meisser (Switzerland) was appointed chair of the CTMS sub-commission replacing H.A. Stalder. There will be a free access to the catalog which complement its data from three additional countries, Australia, Canada and the Congo. In addition, a new secretary, Dermot Henry, Australia, will be proposed during the IMA Business meeting in Kobe, 2006. The location of the next M&M Conference will be also selected in Kobe. Four cities have been nominated to hold the conference.

During the Munich meeting, the role of exhibitions was discussed whether it is best to display a collection with a wide range of mineral specimens, which may satisfied scientists, or to show only a few attractive specimen, which has great appeal to the general public.

The Commission on Museums maintains strong links with the CNMMN concerning mineral specimen and the organization of scientific sessions in international meetings. Closed links are kept with the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals, which is now recognized as the organization to unite mineral museum curators world-wide. The Commission is also launching to other initiatives within the framework of the "Years of Physics" and will organize a special exhibition in the Paris School of Mines entitled 'From graphite to carbon'.

Commission on Applied Mineralogy (CAM)

IMA-CAM (<http://www.appliedmin.org>) was initiated about 1979, after the creation of the International Council for Applied Mineralogy (ICAM). This occurred after a first initiative of applied mineralogists to create an IMA working group turned down. The aims of IMA-CAM are to co-ordinate or arrange conferences, seminars, short courses or meetings devoted to applied mineralogy, to serve as a liaison body to other organizations active in the field, and to encourage interaction between applied mineralogists, particularly focusing on the areas of process mineralogy, applied mineralogy of ceramics, cements and glasses, development and application of advanced materials, environmental mineralogy and health, analytical techniques, mineral surfaces and nanoparticles.

The first session sponsored by CAM was organized by Anthony Naldrett and held in 1986 at the quadrennial IMA meeting at Stanford, California. Since that time, there was substantial interaction between IMA-CAM and ICAM, and these relationships work well, in the best interests of all applied mineralogists. Since the ICAM meeting in Perth 1993, it was decided to hold ICAM meetings on a quadrennial schedule (instead of every two or three years) and to hold those meetings exactly half-way between the IMA meetings. In addition, both organizations decided of jointly sponsoring sessions organized by one or the other at ICAM and IMA Meetings, and IMA-CAM business meetings take place at all ICAM meetings, besides those held at IMA meetings. CAM sponsors short courses in Brazil on an annual basis where the Secretary Henrique Kahn is teaching applied mineralogy.

The commission is led by Richard D. Hagni (rhagni@umr.edu), with Eric Pirard (eric.pirard@ulg.ac.be) as Vice-Chairman and Henrique Kahn (henrkahn@usp.br) as Secretary. Besides the three Officers, the commission has 20 national delegates and 37 individual members.

In 2004, The 8th International Congress on Applied Mineralogy, ICAM 2004, was organised by the International Council for Applied Mineralogy (ICAM) and by the IMA-CAM. The ICAM meeting in Brazil was a great success and CAM participated fully in the meeting. There was a large participation, large number of papers, and short courses, field trips, and a two-volume 1062 page publication that includes 250 4-page extended abstracts and 7 plenary lecture papers. CAM sponsored two short courses during the ICAM in Brazil, and one in Florence.

CAM, together with ICAM, sponsored a short course with the Canadian Institute of Mining, at CANMET, at the annual Canadian Mineral processors meeting in Ottawa, Canada on January 19, 2004. The course covered the state-of-the-art development in the use and application of mineralogy in metallurgical processing. An other short course was organized by Henrique Kahn, at the university of Sao-Paulo on "Applied Mineralogy of Mineral Raw Materials", in May 2004.

During the CAM business meeting in Brazil, there was a long discussion regarding what the future relationship should be between CAM and ICAM. The discussion ended by a vote nearly unanimous to continue the present relationship between CAM and ICAM, reinforcing the joint sponsoring of both organizations during their respective meetings.

However, because of IMA meeting with IGC, there is now some thought of possibly changing the time of the next ICAM meeting in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia to a different

time. That discussion is on going at the present time. In 2005, CAM will sponsor a session at the Goldschmidt conference.

The CAM members have also engaged a prospective discussion on the definition of applied mineralogy, from a text proposed by E. Pirard. The aim is to foster scientific cooperation between CAM members but later on, there will be the possibility to define a strategic action plan for the commission, In addition, there is the possible confusion between some of the CAM activities and those undertaken by some IMA Commissions and Working Groups, notably with the new Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy. During the first Council Meeting, the four major items retained by CAM were reminded : mineral beneficiation, mineral materials, health minerals, and mineral surface analytical techniques, and it appears for the Council, that CAM was not typically concerned with environmental mineralogy.

Besides this, Richard Hagni who was elected in 1990 chair of the CAM committee, has expressed to leave his position as chair of CAM and accordingly will be replaced in 2006 during the IMA Business Meeting in Kobe.

Communication greatly improved based on electronic messages during the year 2004. A new mailing list of IMA National delegates and that of individual members and organizations interested in applied mineralogy is actually prepared. The "Applied Mineralogy On Line" website is shared with ICAM.

Commission on Ore Mineralogy (COM)

IMA-COM (<http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/ima-com.htm>) was set up in 1962 to serve the interests of ore mineralogists in universities, research institutions and the minerals industry around the world. As a whole, the COM supports the goals of international cooperation and collaborative research in pure and applied mineralogy. COM goals are to promote ore mineralogy within the scientific community, to train fellow members in investigative skills through a series of short courses, and to support the activities of other IMA commissions. The COM is very active in organizing short courses, scientific sessions and meetings, field excursions which favor exchange of information between scientists, and gives clues on the evolution of mineralogy of ores. The long history of the COM is well summed up on its website. Among their major achievements is the publication of volumes on quantitative data for ore minerals in 1977, 1986 and 1993, on short courses in 1990, and on notes on modern mineralogy in 1998. These last volumes brought together and critically reviewed the long-established qualitative methods of ore microscopy and the modern approach to quantitative ore microscopy, together with advanced micro-beam and spectroscopic methods of analysis.

Officers of the COM are concerned with the quality control of reported ore mineralogical data in the future, and with the preservation of collection, of published ore mineral specimens.

Since Edinburgh, the COM has created a new website hosted by the Geological Survey of Finland. In particular, the site presents a virtual atlas of opaque and ore minerals in their associations, and COM is planning to develop its service towards a collection of digital images of ore minerals, and links with other mineralogy/microscopy resources available online.

The commission is led by Roland K.W. Merkle (rmerkle@postino.up.ac.za), with Kari K. Kojonen (kojonen@popper.gsf.fi) as Vice-Chairman and Nigel J. Cook (Nigel.Cook@ngu.no) as Secretary. 30 national delegates participate to the work of the commission which hosts three sub-commissions.

In 2004, COM has organised three scientific sessions for the 32nd IGC, Florence, Italy, 20th-28th August 2004, with one of them on Gold deposits proposed with IAGOD, and a

second one on tellurides and selenides co-sponsored by IGCP project 486. A session on platinum metals in the urban environment was organized with the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.) during a meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, in January. A preliminary full-length report on sulphosalt was presented by the sub-commission on sulfosalts.

The COM is developing relationships with other international bodies, notably through a project in the frame of IGCP named "*Au-Ag-telluride-selenide deposits in Europe and in developing countries*" (IGCP 486). The COM is currently looking at the possibility of collaboration with the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.). COM is also contacting museums and institutions to create an international collection of polished ore specimens. Short courses are still planned in 2005, one during the International Platinum Symposium, Oulu, Finland, devoted to PGM ores, and another one on ore microscopy, in conjunction with MINSA and the University of Pretoria.

Commission on Gem Materials (CGM)

Gems have always fascinated mankind. For the general public and even for most scientists, gems are the more attractive way to enter into the world of mineralogy. They can be studied as other minerals to determine their fundamental characteristics. Their properties can also be used for applied sciences as in gemmology. Despite its dual interest, the deletion of CGM was suggested during the General meeting of IMA in 2002. Finally, CGM was maintained with the recommendation to develop its scientific activities in organizing sessions in international meetings, workshops, and/or short courses and publishing books.

The CGM has developed contacts with the Working Group on Inclusions in Minerals (WGIM) due to the importance of inclusions in minerals to detect the synthetic or natural origin of Gems, and the gem deposit from which natural gems were extracted,

The CGM has also some links with the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, as well as with the Commission on Classification of Minerals. The CGM is in charge of the gem nomenclature which differs from that of other minerals, incorporating cultural and commercial constraints. The CGM should provide scientific basis to simplify Gemstone nomenclature. The problem is so acute that the CGM is planning to create a special group to look at these aspects.

The commission is led by Margherita Superchi (superchi@mi.camcom.it), with Lin Sutherland (lins@austmus.gov.au) as Vice-Chairman and Takeshi Miyata (Miyata@jewelry-it.ac.jp) as Secretary. CGM has 23 national delegates.

In 2004, CGM sponsored a session during the IGC in Florence. CGM has also developed communication with the IMA national delegates. A draft of a glossary is actually circulating to receive opinions of mineralogists on this project. Several years have been spent in its preparation. The glossary would list mostly the name of the mineral together with its picture, as well with its formulae and main properties.

It is recommended to CGM to publish the glossary and to create a website with links towards both fundamental and applied sciences for Gems. CGM should develop scientific activities participating to the organization of meetings including those devoted to gemmology, workshops or short courses.

IMA WORKING GROUPS

Since Edinburgh, new groups which have been formed, are organized around a chair designed by the IMA Council. The chair proposed objectives to realize by the new groups which is composed of a few dynamic officers triggering the scientific development of the group before

enlarging the structure. It is thought that small groups should be more efficient and visible at the international level than more formal larger organizations. Two new working groups are working in such a way, the Working Group on Astromineralogy and the Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy. Activities relative to these two new groups and their development will be particularly considered during the Kobe General Meeting, after having been operative during nearly four years.

Working Group on Inclusions in Minerals (WGIM)

The study of inclusions within minerals gives significant information in many earth science domains as mineral growth study, magmatic and metamorphic petrology, astrochemistry, gem and ore mineral studies and petroleum geology. This approach required the development of specific techniques which has promoted the creation of groups of researchers implied in the study of inclusions.

The WGIM was created in July 1986 during the 14th General Meeting of the IMA at Stanford, USA, as reported in the history of the WGIM prepared in 2003. The chairman of the WGIM changed at every IMA meeting. In 2002, Li Zaolin (eeslzl@zsu.edu.cn) who has been involved in the creation of the WGIM, and later on as a vice-chairman, was appointed as Chairman, and Serguey Smirnov (ssmr@uiggm.nsc.ru) as Secretary. During a meeting in Novossibirsk in September, a project for the WGIM has been proposed for the four forthcoming years, and Mamoru Enjoji (enjoji@mn.waseda.ac.jp) was later on contacted to become the vice-chairman. He was elected in Firenze, in 2004.

Since 2002, the WGIM has prepared the establishment of the Asian Current Research on Fluid Inclusions (ACROFI) which is the pendant of the European and Pan American Current Research on Fluid Inclusions, respectively named ECROFI and PACROFI. This new group is expected to encourage fluid, melt and mineral inclusion researches within Central Asian and Asian Pacific region. Organization registration request has been submitted to the Chinese authority for approval.

Chairmen of the WGIM are also planning the publication of an IMA short course, as the last publication occurred in 1994, which would present inclusions in minerals or more specifically melt inclusions in minerals.

The WGIM has no proper website but information on inclusions in minerals is currently given at the Phil Brown website (<http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~pbrown/fi.html>) and on the WGIM page within the IMA website. However, it is recommended to WGIM to develop their own website to disseminate information on its activities and the worldwide development of mineral inclusion studies.

In 2004, the WGIM sponsored one session in the IGC, Florence which was successful. The WGIM participated also to the 14th National Symposium on Inclusions and Geo Fluids, in association with the Committee of Inclusions in Minerals of the Chinese Mineral, Petrology and Geochemistry Association. In addition, the WGIM participated to the organisation of the Fluid Inclusion subsection in the Interim Conference of IAGOD, held in Vladivostok.

Through the organization of meetings, the WGIM has developed important exchanges with international groups as ECROFI, PACROFI, and IAGOD. The WGIM is encouraged to expand these relationships, as well as its participation to large conference (IGC, Goldschmidt), in order to favour the diffusion of mineralogical and geological applications derived from mineral inclusion studies, through which the attractiveness of the WGIM will get better.

Working Group on Mineral Equilibria (WGME)

Mineral Equilibria are an important tool for understanding the major rock-forming processes. The use of mineral equilibria through their phase diagram allows reading the record in

changes of thermodynamic parameters at the formation of magmatic and metamorphic rocks as well as ore deposits of different ages.

The WGME is leading by Professor Leonid L. Perchuk (llp@geol.msu.ru), with Masaki Akaogi (masaki.akaogi@gakuhhuin.ac.jp) as Vice-Chairman and Oleg Safonov (oleg@iem.ac.ru) as Secretary. Oleg Safonov was elected as Secretary during the IGC in Edinburgh. The WGME has about 10 delegates.

The objectives of the WGME is to organize regular symposia as part of major Meetings (IMA, IGC, EGI etc) and with subsequent publications of special issues in the best International Journals. A special volume (v.45) of "Journal of Petrology" was published in 2004, gathering the best papers presented during the IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh (S.L.Harley and L.L.Perchuk, Eds.).

Actually, results of the session on mineral thermodynamics, mineral equilibria, end PT paths as a record of thermal and dynamic evolution of crystalline rocks reported to the IGC meeting in Florence (2004) are planned to be published in a book through the GSA. The WGME has organized a Special Symposium at the the EGU05 (European Geosciences Union), Session VGP27: „Exhumation of rocks metamorphosed under extreme conditions (UHP and UHT complexes: mechanisms, rates, models), April 24-28, 2005.

Working Group on Organic Minerals (WGOM)

The WGOM was established in 1985. The aims of the WGOM are promoting international cooperation in research on organic minerals and a revision of their nomenclature.

The WGOM is led by Norbert Vavra (norbert.vavra@univie.ac.at) and Waltraud Winkler (waltraud.winkler@sbg.ac.at) as Secretary. WGOM has looked for new members and now is reaching 21 members. The WGOM is now considering its possible development in the future.

The WGOM has developed a website (<http://www.uni-salzburg.at/min/wgom/>), and published regularly information to members within a newsletter.

The WGOM holds regular scientific and business meetings in Gdansk. Papers presented at the meeting are published in a local journal (Prace Muzeum Ziemi). The WGOM also participated to the Florence Congress, and has proposed session for the Kobe meeting, 2006.

Working Group on Astromineralogy (WGA)

The WGA is a new group formed under new rules, which means that a group of few dynamic people are brought together to develop activity in astromineralogy. The group is self-organizing under the guidance of the chair Rietmeijer (fransjmr@unm.edu), who was named by the Council in Nice after having considered his proposal for a new Working Group. According to F. Rietmeijer, the WGA "is intended to bring together interdisciplinary research of extraterrestrial materials that would complement traditional research of collected meteorites and that is responsive to new developments in laboratory simulations and astronomical and meteor observations. ... Specific to this WG I would like to be responsive to space missions and educational efforts from the various Space Agencies around the world. At this time these agencies have a strong interest in comets, asteroids, and the origins of solar systems. I believe Mineralogists have a role to play in these areas but we may have to be challenged in our ways we conduct our research."

The first session organized by the WGA should have been in Florence. Unfortunately, the chair decided to cancel this session because of the too low amount of abstracts proposed. This helped the chair to participate to the meeting on Meteoroids, nearly at the same time as Florence Congress, 16-20 August 2004. The WGA has proposed a session at the Goldschmidt conference in Moscow, 2005.

Working Group on Environmental Mineralogy (WGEM)

This new working group which merged after the IMA General Meeting in Edinburgh is built on the same rules as the WGA. The chair of the WGEM is David Vaughan (david.vaughan@man.ac.uk).

The background for the creation of a working group was expressed in the proposal submitted last year by David Vaughan : "although much of what is now becoming identified with the field of environmental mineralogy has been taken by mineralogists for many years, its emergence as a distinct sub-discipline has been relatively recent. However, it is an area that is growing rapidly in its perceived importance, and most particularly, it is an interdisciplinary area that has the potential attract interest and support from a wider community than is normal for our science. Many more articles are now being published in the journals of our member societies that fall within this field; some journals (eg Mineralogical magazine) are planning regular issues on this theme. Various societies have held short courses and published review volumes in the area, notably MSA and EMU (the "Environmental Mineralogy" volume published by EMU and co-edited by myself has been well received). It is very clear that the IMA should be involved in promoting environmental mineralogy, and the obvious way to do so is to set up a working group."

A group is under constitution. It should contain selected officers from the more active countries working in this field, including "all aspects of the natural and anthropogenic systems where the mineral world of the geosphere comes into contact with the hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. It should also include the area sometimes referred to as "mineralogy and health" where mineralogists interact with medical researchers and practitioners."

Fuller definition will be given later on together with the announcement of the group. The WGEM was involved in Florence, 2004 and will sponsor a session at the Goldschmidt conference on nanogeosciences in 2005.

IMA COMMITTEE

Committee on Internet and Computer Applications

In Edinburgh, September 2002, the former Working Group on Databases and Computer Applications was disbanded, and there was the project to create a committee devoted to Internet communication and development of databases. The year after, in Nice, the Committee for Internet and Computer Applications (CICA) within the IMA was proposed to, and accepted by the IMA council. The chair of the group is Bertrand Devouard (B.Devouard@opgc.univ-bpclermont.fr)

The main responsibility of this new group was to develop and maintain the website of the IMA, and to give useful resources to mineralogists as databases. This site aims (as a minimum) to offering active links to the individual web sites of IMA commissions and working groups, as well as links to the web sites of National Societies. Regular updates of the web site, as well as news or links to resources useful to mineralogists (databases...), should be available as well.

A new website was created for the IMA in 2003, with the help of the CICA group and that of the Mineralogical Association of Canada, and transferred from Pisa to Clermont-Ferrand. An independent domain name was searched for by the CICA group. Selection of the final domain name involved several IMA groups (<http://www.IMA-mineralogy.org>). In 2004, for practical reasons, the IMA website moved to a server in Nancy. However, the CICA group keeps on providing technical help and suggestions for developments of the website, when needed.

An additional task of the IMA-CICA committee was to start developing an interchange file format for the various mineralogical databases. Such an ambitious project of setting a worldwide standard could only be conducted within the scope of the IMA. This project was presented at the MM5 meeting in Paris, 2004 during a communication entitled "A universal interchange file format for mineralogical data: What could be in there?" The fact is that most of the databases do not allow the export (or import) of data from (or to) other databases by lack of a standard exchange format. The current status of the project is to probe the community about the necessity of defining such a file format. The basic requirement of a universal interchange file format for mineralogical data should be the following : 1, files should not be able to contain any type of data relevant to minerals; 2) the file format should be public and non proprietary; 3) the file format should be evolutionary, in order to face future needs of the community.

Maryse Ohnenstetter
IMA Secretary
7 February 2005