

International Mineralogical Association Commission on Ore Mineralogy

Report, 11 September 2016

After several years of relative inactivity and lack of a meeting during the previous IMA General meeting, the International Mineralogical Association Commission on Ore Mineralogy (IMA-COM) elected a new slate of officials in late 2014- early 2015 to serve until 2018. The following persons were unanimously elected:

Nigel Cook (Chair)

Biswajit Mishra (Vice-Chair)

Hassan Helmy (Secretary)

Cook had previously served as IMA-COM secretary between 2002-2006 and as chair 2006-2010.

The elected IMA-COM officials are committed to reinvigorating the commission, which has suffered from the worldwide decline in the teaching of ore mineralogy, the marked shift from traditional 'observational' mineralogy to more sophisticated analytical methods, as well as the change in both the demographics and needs of commission members in an increasingly interconnected digital world.

IMA-COM sponsored a successful scientific session at the 21st General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 1st 5th September 2014.

IMA-COM are sponsoring the session 'The future of critical metals: mineralogy, metallogenesis and geometallurgy' at the 2nd European Mineralogical Congress, Rimini, Italy, 11-15 September 2016. The session has attracted 30 papers and is one of the strongest at the congress. IMA-COM has worked closely with the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society to offer financial support for a number of students to attend. This session is aimed at repositioning IMA-COM, introducing the commission to a younger audience who may be unaware of its existence, and as a platform for devising a future strategy. A special issue of Mineralogical Magazine containing presented papers has been proposed.

During the congress, IMA-COM officials will consult with national representatives present and with other interested parties, with the aim of defining a long-term strategy for the commission. Among the agenda items are:

- At least one scientific session and one workshop to be held at the 22nd IMA General Meeting to be held in Melbourne, Australia, 13-17th August 2018. Tentative titles proposed include 'Mineralogy of Radioactive Minerals' and 'Trace element analysis of Ore Minerals'. The IMA-COM chair intends to work with the Melbourne LOC on this.
- Sponsorship/co-sponsorship of scientific sessions of other related organisations, notably Quadrennial meetings of IAGOD (International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits, Salta, Argentina 2018) and the Biennial meetings of SGA (Society for Geology Applied to Ore Deposits).
- Consideration of a possible ore mineralogy workshop in India (to coincide with IGC 2010??)
- Re-establishment of the IMA-COM sub-committee for sulphosalts to review and update the 2008 report of the sub-committee.
- Possible establishment of a second sub-committee to address the mineralogy of telluride and selenide minerals.

- Confirmation or new appointment of national representatives and alternates to IMA-COM, given that some members have been inactive for a number of years.
- Re-evaluation of the need for an online digital library for ore mineralogy (long-term goal of IMA-COM)

These consultations will be followed up by e-mail discussions with commission members, and past officials, until the end of 2016 when an updated report will be submitted to IMA.

Nigel Cook (Chair)

Biswajit Mishra (Vice-Chair)

Hassan Helmy (Secretary)