

International Mineralogical Association

Activities' Report - Year 2016

Roberta Oberti (CNR-IGG)

1. Introduction

Founded in 1958, IMA is the world most important organization aimed at promoting mineral sciences, in particular modern studies of the chemical-physical properties of minerals and their synthetic analogues, their use to develop industrial production and technological applications, to preserve cultural heritage, to improve human health, to make mineral classification and conservation in the museums more rational and effective. Making the public aware of these scientific results and of their impact on human health and wellness as well as on the preservation of the environment is also a major issue for the IMA. IMA organizes scientific and managing meetings, promotes international cooperation among the present 39 member societies (after the recent affiliation of Georgia) and represents them in the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

2. Main activities carried on by IMA during 2016 relevant for Italy and for CNR

IMA held its bi-annual Council and Business meetings during the 2nd European Mineralogical Conference (Rimini, 11-15 September 2016). That conference was a precious opportunity to strengthen both personal and institutional relations between IMA officers and the Italian community.

The IMA database on mineral properties is freely available to the mineralogical community at <http://rruff.info/>. At the moment, 5200 mineral species validated by the IMA Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Classification have been inserted. The Mineral Encyclopedia coordinated by J.A. Mandarino will be also be freely available soon.

The organization of the 2018 IMA General Assembly (Melbourne, 13-17 August; www.ima2018.com) proceeds successfully. Plenary lecture will be given by Paul Agnew (Australia), Jill Banfield (USA), Janice Bishop (USA), Peter Burns (USA), Kathryn Goodenough (UK), Sergey Krivovichev (Russia) e Juraj Majzlan (Germany). The call for scientific session was released in November, and the Italian community has been solicited to be proactive.

During the meetings held in Rimini, the bid for the organization of IMA2022 in Lyon was discussed and approved. The 2022 meeting will focus on “Mineralogy and space”, and communication initiatives will be organized to increase public awareness of the impact of mineralogical studies.

The newly elected IMA president, Peter Burns (Uni Notre Dame, USA), has started a feasibility study for launching a new international journal edited by the IMA and focused on *lato sensu* mineral sciences and their applications to Earth, environmental and materials sciences. A discussion is open among IMA, national delegates and the currently published journals in order to optimized target and distribution. At the moment, the new journals is thought as “online only” and should contain virtual thematic issues. The Italian delegate has involved the council of the Società Italiana di Mineralogia (SIMP) in this discussion, because SIMP is one of the editor societies of the European Journal of Mineralogy.

Peter Burns is also planning to renovate IMA Commissions to better fit the most recent and promising trends in mineralogical researches.

3. Activities carried on by Roberta Oberti within the Union during 2016 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Both the CNR representatives (Roberta Oberti, holder, and Simona Quartieri (UniMe), substitute) attended the two IMA Business meetings (held on September 12 and 14) and provided opinions and votes. Roberta Oberti also attended the three Council meetings (held on September 11, 13 and 14) while representing the European Mineralogical Union (EMU). IMA and EMU agreed to exchange representatives at the their managing meetings to increase mutual information and cooperation. Roberta Oberti also served as auditor for the 2015 and 2016 IMA budgets.

A pro-active participation in IMA activities makes it possible to know in advance, orient and vote strategic decisions. The IMA Council has recently decided to promote further the role of mineralogy in the IUGS, so that this is a further fundamental tool for the Italian mineralogical community.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

The IMA is the most important organization worldwide for mineral sciences. Italy has an important activity and a long lasting tradition in the field; it has to be proactive in the IMA, both to orient its decisions and to carry out the various activities.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italian participation to IMA activities has been always characterized by a strong involvement and an high profile. Stefano Merlini (UniPi) has served as IMA President in the term 1994-1998 and as vice-President in the term 1990-1994; Marcello Mellini (UniSi) served as councillor in the two subsequent terms 2002-2010. Roberta Oberti keeps the SIMP Council informed on IMA activities, and this discussion is very useful to promote Italian initiatives. This coordination has been and still is successful and useful for the Italian mineralogical community, both providing important international links and keeping Italy around the table where new projects are discussed and final decisions are taken

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

IMA officers do not represent their countries but their expertise and roles; however, they are chosen taking into account also geographical distribution. At present, Marco Pasero (UniPi) is serving as Councillor, also on behalf of the IMA Commission on New minerals nomenclature and classification, the most active in the IMA, of which he is presently vice-president. Isabella Memmi (UniSi) is chairing the Sub-commission on Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Materials, Federico Pezzotta (Museo di Storia Naturale, Milano) is chairing the Commission on Museums, and Paola Comodi (UniPg) has served as secretary and now is a member of the Commission on Physics of Minerals (together with Roberto Moretti (UniNa). Roberta Oberti, CNR representative since 2011, actively participated to the IMA Business meetings and to the Council meeting (as president or past-president of the EMU), and is in frequent contact with IMA officers.

7. Conclusions

Italian participation to IMA activities in 2016 was proactive and well appreciated. This allowed the Italian mineralogical community to be updated on IMA projects and to keep the right place on the international stage.

Signature



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