

International Mineralogical Association

Activities' Report - Year 2021

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1. Introduction

Founded in 1958, the IMA is the world most important organization aimed at coordinating and 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 and make it safer, 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 a major issue for the IMA. IMA organizes scientific and managing meetings, promotes international cooperation among the present 39 member societies and represents them in the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

2. Main activities carried on by the IMA during 2021 relevant for Italy and for CNR

New Council officers and members were elected by the national representatives during two online meetings held in January 2021. President: Anhuai Lu (Beijing), 1° vice-president (and president 2023-2024): Hans-Peter Schert (Bochum), 2° vice-president: Razvan Caracas (Lyon); secretariat: Sylvie Demouchy (CNRS Montpellier); treasurer: Travis Olds (Pittsburgh); councillors: Ross Angel (CNR-IGG, Padova), Hiroaki Ohfuji (Sendai) and Catherine McCammon (Bayreuth). They join the two councillors Marco Pasero (UniPi) and Sergey Smirnov (Novosibirsk), who will end their terms at the end of 2022. Minutes and more details in https://www.ima-mineralogy.org/Business_Meetings.htm.

IMA has proposed and is coordinating Mineralogy 2022, a series of scientific events aimed at improving social awareness of the potential impact of mineralogical sciences on health and environment. Mineralogy 2022 is part of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), www.iybssd.org, launched by UNESCO and approved by UN in 2021. The Italian representative in the Steering Committee of Mineralogy 2022, which is chaired by Michele Zema (UniBa), is Giuseppe Cruciani (UniFe).

Many efforts have been devoted in 2021 to organize the 23th IMA General Assembly, which is chaired by Razvan Caracas, will be held in 2022 in Lyon (July 18-22) and will include many international events in the frame of Mineralogy 2022 and IYBSSD, among which the celebration of 200th anniversary of the birth of René Haüy. Many scientific sessions and field trips were proposed and will be chaired by Italian scientists. A number of sessions will focus on Planetary mineralogy and on new results obtained on minerals in the Earth interior. Robert M. Hazen, will give a plenary talk on his innovative concepts called “Mineral evolution” and “Mineral ecology”, which deserved him the 2021 Medal of Excellence in Mineralogical Sciences. More details on the meeting at <https://www.ima2022.fr/>

3. Activities carried on by Roberta Oberti within the Union during 2021 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Roberta Oberti participated to a number of online meetings and voted for the new officers and councillors. She stayed in contact with the IMA and the SIMP Councils and informed the Italian mineralogical community using the e-mail lists of the SIMP and of the GNM (Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia).

In Autumn 2021 she started organizing a two-days meeting on “Mineral sciences and materials for a sustainable development” to be held on May 24-25 at the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino. The meeting has already been recognized as a Mineralogy 2022 and IYBSSD event, and will gather scientists from Italian Universities, CNR Institutes and ENEA. The meeting will be also available on the YouTube channel of the Accademia delle Scienze.

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

The IMA is the most important international organization for mineral sciences. It is crucial that the Italian community (there represented by the CNR) plays a proper role at the international level, and is proactive to solicit IMA decisions. Moreover, the annual fees for IMA membership (360 \$) are low if compared to the benefits that can be obtained for Italian researchers.

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

The Italian contribution to scientific initiatives of IMA in 2021 (as in previous years) was important and appreciated.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs

IMA officers do not represent their countries but their expertise and roles. Italian participation to IMA activities has always been characterized by a strong involvement and a high profile, even in the presidential role (Stefano Merlino (UniPi) 1994-1998). At present, Marco Pasero (UniPi) is serving both as Councillor (up to 2022) and as vice-chair of the IMA Commission on new minerals, nomenclature and classification, the most active in the IMA. Ross Angel (CNR-IGG, Padua) is serving as councilor for the term 2021-2024. A number of further Italian researchers is serving in the IMA Commissions: Alessandro Gualtieri (UniMoRe) is vice-chair of the newly approved working group on "Asbestos, asbestiform minerals, and other respirable minerals that pose potential negative health risks", in which Giovanni Andreozzi (UniSapienza and CNR-IGAG associate) and Giancarlo Della Ventura (UniRomaTre) are serving as members. Ferdinando Bosi (Sapienza RM) is the Italian member of the Commission on new minerals, nomenclature and classification, Paola Comodi (UniPg) is serving as secretary of the Commission on physics of minerals, in which Francesco Di Benedetto (UniFi) and Mauro Prencipe (UniTo) are serving as members. Michele Zema (UniBa) is chairing the Steering Committee of Mineralogy 2022, in which Giuseppe Cruciani (UniFe) acts as the Italian representative.

7. Conclusions

The involvement of Italian researchers in IMA activities which could be held in 2021 has been important and proactive, and was greatly appreciated. The Italian mineralogical community has been timely informed on each activity, and its efforts have been properly highlighted on the IMA stage.



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