

IMA COMMISSION ON ORE MINERALOGY (COM)

Annual Report of COM for the year 2006

Oslo, Norway, 6th November 2006

<http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/ima-com.htm>

This report covers aspects of IMA-COM activities since the date of the last annual report (November 2005).

COM Officials 2006-2010

The following nominations of officials to serve COM in the period 2006-2010 were accepted at the IMA-COM Business meeting held during the IMA meeting in Kobe, Japan, July 2006:

Chairman: Nigel J. Cook nigelc@nhm.uio.no

Vice-Chairman: Kari K. Kojonen kari.kojonen@gsf.fi

Secretary: position currently vacant

The person nominated for the position of Secretary withdrew his candidacy and we remain without a Secretary at the present time. New nominations are now being sought, with a postal vote to be undertaken once candidates come forward.

Objectives and activities of COM

The Commission on Ore Mineralogy of the International Mineralogical Association was set up in 1962 to serve the interests of ore mineralogists in universities, research institutions and the minerals industry across the world. Our 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 by providing advice and expert opinion on issues related to our fields of research. Through its regular short courses, regional meetings, scientific sessions, other symposia and field excursions, as well as its website, COM offers a platform to ore mineralogists to share their knowledge with others, exchange information, and to speak with a collective voice on issues that affect our branch of science. As one of the commissions of IMA, the COM supports the goals of international cooperation and collaborative research in pure and applied mineralogy.

Financial support

COM has no direct financial support for its activities. Limited financing for meeting participation has been possible via association with other groups, e.g., Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.).

Interface with IMA activities and other international projects

COM participates in all major IMA events and interacts with other commissions, particularly CNMMN and CAM. COM is also enthusiastically involved in International Geoscience Project (IGCP) 486, with which it co-sponsored a session at the 32nd International Geological Congress (IGC). IMA-COM will also work with the organizing committee of the 33rd IGC (2008).

COM activities in 2006

A business meeting of IMA-COM was held during the IMA meeting in Kobe, Japan, July 2006. The COM website remains the main vehicle for communication with members.

Scientific session during the IMA meeting in Kobe, Japan, July 2006

Session 16: 'Mineralogy of Ore Deposits'. Conveners were: Nigel J. Cook (Norway), Kari Kojonen (Finland), Hiroharu Matsueda (Japan), Roland K. W. Merkle (South Africa) and Masaaki Shimizu (Japan). A total of 34 abstracts were accepted and published in the Program and Abstracts volume; 17 oral presentations were given (Wednesday 26th July) and 17 poster presentations were given (Thursday 27th July).

COM website

COM's website is hosted at the Geological Survey of Finland; <http://www.gsf.fi/domestic/com/ima-com.htm>. The website provides a central source of information on COM activities, with a mission statement, a brief history of the commission, list of national representatives, details of past and future activities and publication reports. During 2006, the website has been updated.

Report of COM sub-commission on sulphosalts

The sulphosalt sub-commission of COM (leaders Yves Moëlo and Emil Makovicky) presented the final draft manuscript of their full-length report during the Business Meeting in Kobe. The final version will be submitted for publication in leading mineralogical journals and an abridged version will be made available for download from the COM website in the near future.

Summary of main activities in the period 2002-2006

Business meetings

COM holds a Business Meeting every two years, coinciding with the International Geological congress and the General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association.

COM website

COM created a new, independent website hosted at the Geological Survey of Finland.

Scientific sessions at international meetings and short courses

(A) *VGP 30, EGS-AGU-EUG Joint Assembly, in Nice, France, 7th-11th April 2003.*

Scientific session 'Gold and Platinum Group Minerals: from experimental mineralogy and microanalysis to deposit Modelling'.

(B) *Scientific sessions at the 32nd International Geological Congress, Florence, August 2004*

COM organised three scientific sessions for the 32nd IGC, Florence, Italy, 20-28 August 2004.

'*Gold deposits in diverse geological environments*' (co-proposed by COM and IAGOD). This symposium session received 108 contributions and was held as an all-day session on Saturday 21st August.

'*Telluride and selenide minerals related to gold and platinum group element deposits*', co-sponsored by IGCP project 486. The session received 52 contributions and was held as an all-day session on Sunday 22nd August.

'Mineral Deposits' session on '*Conventional and unconventional platinum group mineral deposits*'.
The session was held on Friday 27th August.

(C) *Joint meeting of IMA-COM and the Applied Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society (U.K.), 7th January 2005*

A session "Platinum metals in the urban environment - should we worry?" formed part of the larger meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (6-7th January 2005, Bath, U.K.) with the title "Environmental Mineralogy, Geochemistry and Human Health". COM Chairman Roland K.W. Merkle gave a keynote lecture 'Large scale PGE anomalies in South Africa and possible mechanisms for the release of PGE to the environment'.

(D) *Short Course during the 10th International Platinum Symposium, Oulu, Finland, August 2005*

A Short course 'Current methods in applied mineralogy of platinum-group element ores and products' was co-sponsored by COM and held during the International Platinum Symposium, Oulu, Finland (August 6th 2005), organized by Prof. Louis J. Cabri. Five invited speakers delivered the lectures.

(E) *Scientific session at 19th General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association, Kobe, Japan, July 23-28th 2006*

Session 16: 'Mineralogy of Ore Deposits'.

Reports of COM sub-commissions

The sulphosalt sub-commission of COM presented their full-length report.

Involvement in new IGCP project

A number of COM 'members' joined the vice-chairman and secretary in proposing the IGCP project "*Au-Ag-telluride-selenide deposits in Europe and in developing countries*". The project (IGCP 486; 2003-2008) has been approved. In the assessment document, the evaluation committee noted, positively, that the project had the backing of an IMA commission.

Other activities/initiatives

IMA-COM has attempted to take a more active role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data. The IMA-COM President Roland Merkle (2002-2006) made a call for COM 'members' to become involved in international initiatives of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) aimed at establishing guidelines for standardisation of microbeam data acquisition routines.

IMA-COM has called for valuable – and often irreplaceable collections of polished ore mineral specimens to be deposited in museums and mineralogical institutions to be preserved, and catalogued for future researchers. Discussion among various institutions has been initiated on the optimal way to ensure a systematic and common approach.

A discussion document containing a list of standardized abbreviations of ore minerals was prepared and circulated.

COM has also continued to promote 'Virtual Ore Mineralogy', in which a series of descriptions of ore minerals with optical images will be available free of charge on the IMA-COM website.

Workplan for 2007, with perspectives for 2008-2010

In the next term (2007-2010), COM plans to organize Short Courses and Workshops - preferably in connection of large international scientific meetings, but also as stand-alone regional meetings, especially in such countries, where they have not been held previously (particularly in developing countries).

COM Scientific sessions

IMA-COM will co-organize three sessions at the 33rd International Geological Congress (Oslo, August 2008)

1. Metals in the Earth: from vital resource to environmental hazards (jointly organized by CAM, COM and WGEM). Conveners: David Vaughan, Dogan Pactunc, Kari Kojonen.
2. Au-Ag telluride-selenide deposits (jointly organized by COM and IGCP-486). Conveners: Nigel Cook, Kari Kojonen and others.
3. Platinum Group Mineralogy. Conveners: Kari Kojonen, Andy McDonald and others.

COM Short courses

Three COM short courses are currently in the early planning stage.

- 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.
- Short Course in Advanced Ore Mineralogy, Nanjing, Peoples Republic of China (2008)
- Short Course in Advanced Ore Mineralogy in Kharagpur, India (2009?)

Other projected activities

- (1) Reporting by the COM sub-commission on 'selenide and telluride mineralogy' within the period 2006-2010, with final reporting at the 20th IMA General meeting in Budapest, 2010.
- (2) Further development of the 'Virtual Ore Mineralogy' website;
- (3) A more proactive role in ensuring quality control of reported ore mineralogical data in the future.
- (4) Greater emphasis on the preservation of valuable - and often irreplaceable - collections of polished ore mineral specimens, depositing them, ideally in museums and mineralogical institutions.



Nigel Cook
Chairman IMA-COM

IMA-COM Officers 2006-2010

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Appendix: List of National Representatives (November 2006)



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