

# INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

An Association of National Mineralogical Societies

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To National delegates

It is my opinion that IMA needs some revision of its constitution and its manner of doing business, in order to become more active and attuned to the pace of progress in this century.

As I see it, the principal problems that we suffer from are:

1. The fact that progress is slow because we can only conduct business every 4th year.
2. Many commissions and working groups have become stagnant (there are some notable exceptions). I believe that this has come about because on the whole these bodies procreate themselves, suggesting names for the replacement of officers, which are usually accepted at the business meeting. This has the effect that once a body gets into the hands of officers who have lost interest in its work, they tend to recommend replacements (or not recommend them) with little thought. This has had the result that when we ask for reports of progress, at least half of the bodies never bother to reply, and the replies that we do receive are often imperfect.
3. National representatives are often very slow to reply, and, I suspect, often do not circulate information to their respective societies. Often, the officers of a national society do not know the name of the IMA national representative.

Accordingly I am going to propose some revisions to our constitution for discussion in Edinburgh. These are only suggestions, but I believe that if adopted, they could change the pace at which we operate, and thus our image in the modern world of mineralogy. If we don't act quickly, I believe that IMA will become marginalised in the modern world.

My suggestions are:

1. That IMA have a business meeting every 2 years, one in conjunction with our General meeting, the second in conjunction with another meeting, not necessarily the IGC, which we will agree on.
2. That council have the power to discontinue Commissions and Working Groups if these are thought inactive, and to change the leadership between business meetings if this is thought appropriate.
3. That we change the system of national representatives so that we have a more direct link to the national societies. In many cases, where a permanent executive director exists, this person may be the right choice. Where the President of a society has a long term, this person may be the best choice. In other case it could be the secretary.

Sincerely,

Tony Naldrett