

It's also become increasingly difficult to organize the Working Group meetings on a sound financial footing in a way that also sustains and grows IAGC, and that problem will only grow worse in the future. As a consequence, the continuation of separate Working Group meetings is really not a sustainable business model given the low base level of the IAGC membership. So, the idea of an amalgamated meeting that would attract a sufficiently large participation each time to be not only sustainable but also profitable to IAGC, is one whose time has arrived.

Having considered the numerous advantages that such a consolidation of the Working Group meetings would bring, the IAGC Council has acted positively on a membership proposal to amalgamate the separate Working Group meetings into a single consolidated biennial conference. So, in a way that would retain the positive legacy of the long-established Working Group Meetings, this conference will be described as:

The IAGC International Conference
(encompassing the *xxth Water-Rock Interaction Symposium*, *xxth Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface*, & *xxth Applied Isotope Geochemistry Symposium*).

The IAGC International Conference will have permanent overarching themes dedicated to the individual themes of the Working Groups – i.e. Water-Rock Interaction, Applied Isotope Geochemistry, Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface, Urban Geochemistry, Global Geochemical Baselines, and Environmental Geochemistry. The consolidated conference is planned to be a week-long meeting, with the technical program operating at two levels – sets of technical sessions organized by the Working Group around themes of their choice, and multiple inter-disciplinary symposia developed by the conference organizers. These would be mixed throughout the week to promote maximum

interaction between participants and maximum length of participant attendance in the conference. Formal conference events would include a 'welcome' reception, all-conference invited keynote speaker, mid-conference field trip, and concluding awards ceremony and banquet.

Some of the benefits of establishing The IAGC International Conference include:

- Retaining a relatively small meeting, probably with ± 400 participants, that would not have the large anonymity and impersonal environment that is characteristic of large geosciences meeting like AGU, EUG, and Goldschmidt.
- A conference of broader scope should attract a larger and more stable list of participants and encourage researchers to bring their best material since the meeting will provide a larger audience. The consolidated conference would thus showcase the best that the Working Group members have to offer in a single meeting.
- This biennial conference would include a 2-year IAGC membership in the price of registration for non-members, thus both growing and stabilizing IAGC membership.

To facilitate this consolidated meeting, as well as providing conference-to-conference continuity, the IAGC Business Office will assume administrative and financial support for the biennial conference, serving as the permanent home for the consolidated conference and its registration site. The Business Office will develop the conference website with a new permanent domain name and collect registration fees for the meeting, working closely with meeting organizers to ensure smooth overall operation of the administrative process. The conference web page will be hosted on the IAGC server and later archived permanently in its entirety. Each conference will have a website under the primary domain name, and that conference web site will

In addition to the IAGC, GES-11 was co-organized by the State Key Laboratory of Environmental Geochemistry (SKLEG), Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGCAS), Tianjin University, Guangzhou University, and cosponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), LabTech Ltd, Lica United, PRI-ECO and Thermo Fisher Scientific. All sponsors provided the essential support for guaranteeing the success of the conference.

-Jiubin Chen, On behalf of the Organizing Committee for GES-11, State Key Laboratory of Environmental Geochemistry, IGCAS



Prof. Jiubin Chen and his group celebrating the success of the meeting

12th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-12)

The AIG-12 Symposium was held in Copper Mountain, Colorado from 17-22 September. A total of 56 colleagues from 10 countries participated in 4 days of oral and poster presentations, as well as a mid-week field trip. We enjoyed enthusiastic discussions, including excellent presentations by the dozen or so students in attendance.

Excellent keynote presentations were provided by Romain Millot (BRGM, France) on Li isotope geochemistry, Tom Johnson (University of Illinois, USA) on a review of 20 years of research on non-traditional (non-CHONS) isotopes, and François Chabaux (University of Strasbourg, France) on using isotopes in weathering geochemistry. In addition to the keynote presentations, the wide range of topics covered included isotopes in oil and gas exploitation, wine production, isotope hydrology, compound-specific isotope analysis, use of isotopes in forensic investigations, ocean acidification, the nuclear industry, noble-gas isotopy, and isotope geobiology.

Two Faure awards ([http://www.iagc-society.org/faure award.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/faure_award.html)) were presented by Philippe Négrel, IAGC President, to the best student oral and poster presenters. The winners were Patrick Griffin (Indiana University, USA) for his presentation entitled, “*Amino acid δ^2H as indicator of metabolic, ecological, and biogeochemical processes*” for best oral presentation and Masoomeh Kousehlar (Miami University, USA) for her poster entitled, “*Air quality assessment and determination of Pb sources in the atmosphere of Tehran, Iran, by tree bark biomonitoring.*” The Faure Award consists of a certificate, a 1-year membership in

IAGC, and \$100 cash. Congratulations to Patrick and Masoomeh!

The mid-week field trip was led by Dr. Vince Matthews, former State Geologist for the State of Colorado. Vince led us on an enlightening trip around the mines and town of Leadville, CO, including an excellent overview of the local and regional geology and ore deposits, as well as amusing stories of the history of mining and miners in the area. On a perfect blue-sky day that makes Colorado famous, we enjoyed Vince's talks, spectacular autumn scenery, a picnic lunch at 3500 meters above sea level, and a tour of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville.



Dr. Vince Matthews discusses the geology of the Leadville, Colorado mining region.

The abstracts submitted for the meeting were edited by Ian Cartwright (IAGC Past-President). Beginning with the AIG-12 meeting and continuing into the future, we will publish the Proceedings abstracts online at

www.appliedisotopegeochemistry.org, so the abstracts will be open-access and searchable. In addition, a special issue of *Applied Geochemistry* is planned to highlight selected papers from the AIG-12 meeting. The special issue will be edited by Ian Cartwright (Monash University, Australia), Jennifer Harkness (The Ohio State University, USA), and Richard Wanty (U.S. Geological Survey, USA).

AIG-12 was sponsored by IsotopX, and we thank them for their generous support.

The intimate setting of Copper Mountain Resort, the enthusiastic attendees, and the breadth and quality of the presentations made the meeting a great success, and we look forward to future meetings of our working group.



Attendees of the AIG-12 field trip at the Ibex Mine near Leadville, Colorado. Elevation 3500 meters above sea level.

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Don't forget to renew your IAGC membership for 2018 before January so you don't miss any issues of *Elements* magazine! Our annual membership fee is STILL only \$25 and includes a hard copy subscription to *Elements* as well as online access. Membership also rewards you with lower cost registration rates at IAGC-sponsored working group conferences.

Online access to our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, is available 2018 at \$70 for student members and \$92 for professional members. You must pay your IAGC dues in order to purchase *Applied Geochemistry*.

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