

MINUTES OF COMMISSION I

58th ICCP MEETING, Bandung, 03 and 06/09/2006

Chair: Walter Pickel, Secretary: Deolinda Flores

Opening remarks

The commission I meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning.

The Chairman outlined the programme for the sessions and presented the opening remarks.

The working groups and items presented and discussed in the meeting were:

- SCAP - Single Coal Accreditation Program
- Standardization Working Group
- Editorial Groups: Handbook Editorial Group and Microlithotype and Liptinite publications
- Temporal variations of coals
- Peat Petrography WG
- Degradinite WG
- ICCP website
- Microscope session

The minutes of the Patras meeting were accepted as printed in the ICCP Newsletter #36 under the condition that the following comments of the President, Alan Cook, were added.

Comment no. 1: The President noted that in the Accreditation Report by Aivars Depers he would have preferred the line “1 resigned after completing/passing” to be “1 resigned after completing and passing”.

Comment no. 2: The President noted that the implication given in the Accreditation instructions that counting more than 500 points was in breach with the procedure, was not acceptable. The President noted that in contrast to ISO requirements, which he quoted as requesting from the analyst to count exactly 500 counts, the Accreditation Program must insist on analysts finishing the traverse. The Chair pointed out that there was apparently some misunderstanding about ISO Standard requirements, as ISO 7404-3 requires the analyst to count ‘at least 500 points’ thus the analyses in the Accreditation Program can easily be in compliance with the ISO Standard.

It was agreed that future analysts of the Accreditation Program be advised that 500 points or any number above would be accepted. The same applies to the number of reflectance readings, which must be at least 100 but any higher number be acceptable. The convener of the Accreditation Program was asked to emphasize this point in the instructions for the next exercise.

Comment no. 3: The President pointed out that the short note on the ICCP Reflectance Standards was incomplete. Not only can analysts/laboratories send their standards to Dave Pearson or Walter Pickel, they can also request one of the two ICCP Standards to be sent to them. This is so under the condition that the standard be sent out after a

security of 1000 US \$ be deposited and postage cost be covered by the requesting analyst/laboratory.

The opening remarks covered a short progress in the revision of the ISO 7404 standards and summarized the activities of the groups that were not presenting reports at this year's meeting.

SCAP - Single Coal Accreditation Program - Kimon Christanis

Kimon started his activities as Convenor of this Program at Patras meeting. After this meeting, the transfer from the last Convenor of all data, samples and files had begun. Kimon reported that all the processes were running very smoothly and the 2006 AP exercise was on schedule.

Petrographers in the scheme were contacted to participate in the 2006 AP Exercise and new participant joined the AP.

Concerning 2006 exercise, Kimon informed that:

- 84 participants from 17 countries were registered; Colombia is a new country included;
- 20 new petrographers are involved;
- Convenor expected to receive the data of all participants after the meeting;
- final evaluation will be sent on time.

Kimon expressed his gratitude to all Council members that supported his hard work specially Alan, Petra, Rudi as well as Paddy. A special thank you was also addressed to the AP Subcommittee namely Walter Pickel and Angeles Borrego for all the support given during the moving of all the process. Finally Kimon presented his thanks to Aivars Depers for his kind support during the last year. The assistance of all the members involved permitted to prepare the 2006 exercise as foreseen without any delay or inconvenience for the participants.

After the data analysis the convenor must send all the results to the AP subcommittee for evaluation. In turn these will inform the ICCP President, who will then be able to sign the certificates.

Concerning the automated system accreditation Kimon informed that he has two machines to be accredited and the laboratories have already paid to participate in the 2006 exercise. It was pointed out that this year the process is running and the ICCP should give the accreditation however in the future it shall be necessary to decide on how to deal with automated systems in the accreditation program.

Walter asked about the blank certificates and Kimon informed that he has enough for this exercise however the last packet with samples and blank certificates were posted by the last convenor but did not yet arrive in Greece.

Concerning the certificates it was suggested that, in the future, it should mention the accreditation program (as the ICCP has now three running programs).

It was also noted that it could be convenient to have certificates in the same format for the now 3 programs and each lab had the same certificate/accreditation number in each program. Kimon pointed out that this is too late for the 2006 exercise but in the future it could be done.

All members approved the following resolutions:

Resolution n° 1 – In the future, the certificate/accreditation number should be the same format for all 3 programs, and should include the name of the A. Program and the date of expiry.

Resolution n° 2 - Certificates will be personalized and each analyst will have one certificate/accreditation number that can not be changed. The AP Subcommittee will coordinate the list of analysts and the identification.

Alan Cook asked about the sample code of the samples in the SCAP Program and if the participants of the same lab will have or not the same set of samples. Kimon informed that he had changed the code n°s of the samples that were sent to the SCAP participants. Concerning the latter question Kimon noted that he has sent different samples for the different participants of the same lab. However there are labs with so many people applying for accreditation that it is impossible to send different samples for all participants.

Concerning the AP Subcommittee, Council suggested that it will be convenient to have a member outside the Council. Kees Kommeren will be invited to join the AP Subcommittee. As far as commission 1 knows, Kees has in the meantime accepted the invitation and we would like to welcome him.

Kimon asked all ICCP members to send coals to be included in the SCAP bank coals to be used in the next exercises.

Petra congratulated Kimon for all his work and effort spent during this year to reorganize the SCAP as well as the preparation of the 2006 exercise.

Standardization Working Group – Harold Read

Walter Pickel presented a report from the Convener Harold Read concerning the last Huminite Round Robin as well as the progress on the revision of the ISO 7404 standards:

“No exercises have been conducted since the round-robin exercise on 2 Greek lignites reported at the last ICCP meeting.

In general, the conclusion of that exercise was similar to that of previous round-robins on higher rank coals; good agreement for maceral groups and vitrinite reflectance but poor agreement for macerals and subgroups.

The clear indication is that work should concentrate on improving the definitions for major macerals, eg fusinite/semifusinite; collotelinite/collodetrinite, etc.

It may be preferable to start with maceral subgroups, as this may be easier than for macerals.

ISO work on revision of ISO7404 has progressed slowly but final committee drafts for parts 2, 3 & 5 have been sent to ISO TC27 secretary for preparation of drafts to be circulated to the various participating National Standardsbodies for comment and voting.

It is unclear if microlithotypes need to be looked at – a suggestion at a meeting in Krakow that there was no interest and the standard should be abandoned.

If anyone still uses microlithotypes and is interested in revising the current standard, their effort will be appreciated.

It is anticipated that the revised standards may be published in one, but more likely in two years.

Previous revisions have been published at about 10 year intervals. The current revision started 1996. The revision has succeeded in its objective to cover coals of all ranks, but has failed to expand coverage to include maceral subgroups and macerals.

This is a disappointment to me, but as noted above regarding round-robin results, much more work is required from ICCP to improve its definitions.

ICCP has played a significant role in developing the ISO petrographic standards (also the current coal classification standard), in fact all working group members are members of ICCP.

The increasing significance of coal petrographic analyses to the coal industry makes it imperative that ICCP attends to any deficiencies in petrographic techniques, maceral descriptions, classification and terminology.

It is equally important that unrealistic claims are not made regarding accuracy and precision.

In summary: there is a clear need to address a number of problems with macerals.

If the same interest can be shown in standardization by practicing petrographers as that shown by the participation in the maceral group/vitrinite reflectance accreditation program, then I am optimistic that progress can be made.

The need is for interested petrographers to volunteer their participation –

Nominate perceived problems, possible solutions and participate in the inevitable round-robin exercises plus discussion and evaluation of results.

I can coordinate this work (if there is any) but I am not prepared to chase participants or run exercises where there is little interest.

Harold Read
August 2006”

It was decided to run another exercise using one new sample and ask participants to count macerals, maceral sub-groups and -groups, to take photos of typical and special untypical aspects and ask participants to classify their own experience with lignite analysis. The exercise will also include very clear instructions about the analysis requested. The sample that will be used in this exercise will have a very low mineral content.

Walter Pickel invited Ivana Sykorova to join him in the preparation of the next round robin exercise that will be prepared and sent to the participants as soon as possible. Aivars Depers volunteered to join and help with the WG as well. The conveners are hopeful though that the number of participants will exceed the number of conveners.

Com I Chair pointed out the necessity and importance to organize at least one exercise per year within this WG.

Com I encourages members to join this WG especially in this year's round those who have experience on lignite maceral analysis. Interested members, please contact one of the conveners.

Editorial Groups

Walter Pickel presented an overview of the working group status, the ICCP projects for publication and the problems concerning them as well as further plans.

Microlithotypes – It is necessary to have a set of photos to include in the draft text.

Liptinite – Walter Pickel informed that liptinite sheets are ready to be submitted to an International Journal. This version however does not include alginite, as the alginite sheets were prepared by Alan Cook in Commission 2. Alan Cook and Walter Pickel will meet later this year to combine the two documents.

Methods on Fluorescence Microscopy and Fluorescence Photometry – There is no need to publish these methods elsewhere; they will be as in the handbook.

After the discussion concerning the ICCP Editorial Groups all members present accepted the following resolution:

Resolution – It should be recommended that in the future any publication prepared within ICCP Editorial Groups should be published or submitted for publication in the following 3 years.

New ICCP Handbook Edition

Petra presented the status concerning the preparation of the New ICCP Handbook Edition. A further discussion on content and format of this ICCP publication was held.

Petra presented the structure of the handbook and with the list of people, who had taken responsibility for the different topics. This schedule will be available on the ICCP web-site.

Alan Cook noted that he would prefer the maceral definitions re-written so that a paragraph of distinctive features could be added to each maceral definition. After a lengthy discussion a suggestion by Walter to add one chapter distinctive features for all macerals into the new handbook, was accepted and Alan volunteered to look after this chapter.

The problem of photos for ICCP publications was raised again. All the Com I member present in the meeting agreed that a minimum and desirable requirements need to be established for the ICCP publication photos. Alan Cook will prepare notes on these requirements to be published in the next ICCP News.

It was noted that there is documentation that is yet missing or must be improved. Petra also noted that there are items that need to be reviewed, completed or written. In the past some members volunteered for this work. Not much has happened yet. A revision of list of collaborators/volunteers was undertaken and members will be contacted accordingly to evaluate their availability to prepare the documentation needed.

Petra asked Kimon and his co-workers to volunteer to do/revise the “Definitions” of the Handbook.

All bibliography will be compiled by Petra and Ivana agreed to organize the final version of the references.

Concerning the item “Methods” of the New ICCP Handbook Edition Isabel agreed to coordinate the preparation of the texts however seeing the enormous volume of work and there are methods that are not of common use, she will firstly contact ICCP members to collaborate in the elaboration of the drafts. In a first approach Isabel and Alan would be responsible of the following methods: Maceral analysis, Microlithotype analysis, Combination analysis, Reflectance analysis, and Coal Blend Analysis. Walter will prepare the texts concerning fluorescence as well as sample preparation. Ed will be asked to be responsible for the items Automation and Colour image analysis. Barbara will be contacted to prepare the methodology concerning TEM and SEM techniques. The item thin sections will be looked after by Ivana.

In the next month Petra will send the existing texts and it was proposed that the revised ones must be ready by 15th April 2007. Peter will be responsible for the editorial revisions and to get people to revise the documents.

The prime goal is to have a CD version of the New ICCP Handbook to be presented in the next ICCP meeting at Victoria.

Temporal Variation of Coals – Lopo Vasconcelos

On behalf of the Convenor Walter presented the report on the activities developed during 2005-2006:

“As reported in previous years, the group is reduced to 2 people, despite appeals done during the meetings at in the Newsletter.

This situation seems to have no solution; therefore we decided to give up looking for new members and continue the work with the two members.

During the period spanning from the Patras Meeting (2005) and the next Bandung Meeting (2006), the convener was submerged with the organization of the 21st Colloquium of African Geology (CAG21) that took place in Maputo in July 2006, with 300 participants, and therefore didn't have much time to deal with the Working Group.

In Patras (2005) it was suggested to use the ICCP website to ask for data of countries of which only few or no data were available. Unfortunately this was not done, mainly because we didn't consider it very necessary due to the non-responses to the appeals done in the Meetings and in the Newsletter.

Despite these difficulties, something was done, which is described below.

TASKS FOR THE YEAR

- a) Complete the homogenization of the data tables layout
- b) Complete blank fields of data collected up to now
- c) Get new data
- d) Prepare a data base

Task a)

The homogenization of the data table layout was carried out taking into consideration old and new nomenclatures of macerals. Since many data come from papers prior to the adoption of new nomenclatures, both old and new should be included.

This task was carried out by Lopo Vasconcelos and one of his collaborators at the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Mr. Eduardo Siquela.

Task b)

Some difficulties were encountered to fill some of the blank fields for lack of information and difficulties to access to information on the Mozambican side. Some information was included considering new literature referring to coals in the table with blank spaces.

Task c)

We received from Dragana Životić some data from Serbian (70) and Bosnia & Herzegovina (20) coals, countries that were missing in the data bank.

We also received 9 data from Slovenian coals from Miloš Markič, from the Geological Survey of Slovenia.

Some information was downloaded from the internet on British coals, and coals from other parts of the world

Task d)

Not carried out.

Task e)

Not yet achieved. Members of the WG would like first to try to receive data from non-represented coal countries before preparing the database and making it available.

FUTURE WORK

Complete tasks a) and b) whenever possible. This will be a permanent task

Prepare a database: presently the information is in Excel format, but we will discuss other options that may be more practical.

Maputo, 18th August 2006



Lopo Vasconcelos

WG Convener”

Peter suggested to have a database that could be easily sorted by the different items/subjects of the database.

Angeles suggested that Ivana, Dragana, and other members should take part of the WG as they also contribute with data to be included in the coal databank.

Isabel agreed to send data from Peru, Spain and possibly Mexico.

Peat Petrography Working Group –Kimon Christanis and Stavros Kalaitzidis

A report on the 2006 round robin exercise and a summary of the 2004-2005 round robin exercises were presented by the Convenor. 2004-2005 round robin exercises were performed using a photo-gallery file distributed among the participants (in pdf format by e-mail). Each file contained photomicrographs from Phlippi (for 2004 only white light) and Nisi topogenous peat and from an ombrogenous peat in Canada (for 2005 both white light and fluorescence). Each participant was asked to use his own-understanding “terms”. In 2004 11 members conducted the exercise and in 2005 only 9 members replied.

From the 2004 exercise it has been realized that by using only white reflected light, difficulties were encountered in the identification of some macerals. The 2005 Exercise included a pair of microphotographs under both white reflected light and blue light excitation. It is evident from the participants comments that fluorescence is very important for peat petrography. A variety of terms have been used by the participants for describing Huminites.

The statistic of the 2005 exercise is as follows: totally agreement, 20 photos including 38 macerals to be identified; average agreement in the predominant maceral: 67% (2004: 58%) and a range of 22-100%. The agreement increases, if replies are grouped under maceral subgroups or groups (80%).

In 2006 exercise 2 polished blocks were distributed to the 10 interested analysts. They are asked to perform qualitative assessment, description of macerals and to define possible problems. They were also invited to take photos from usual and specially

unusual aspects. Only 4 participants replied up to the beginning of the meeting however the rest promised to reply later. 2 participants sent only images, 1 participant gave images and qualitative description and 1 participant replied and included comments, maceral analyses, reflectance data and images. Selected photos were presented and discussed.

Kimon made an appeal to the participants that have not yet replied to perform the exercise and take pictures in order to prepare a CD with the pictures taken by all analysts. This CD will circulate to all the interested participants for comments.

Degradinite WG – Peter Crosdale

The convenor informed that no exercise was performed this year. The discussion within this working group took place during the microscope session where samples from NZ and the Surat Basin in Australia supplied by the convenor were looked at and discussed.

ICCP Website

Due to the difficulties on the access to the internet and as the format of the Commission's webpage will be similar it was pointed out that Chair and Secretary of the Com will be able to put documents and update every year with the documentation presented during the meeting.

Microscope Session

The microscope session was attended by all members present at the meeting and took place on Thursday (05/09) in the Mineral Physics Laboratory Center for Geological Resources.

Samples from the Peat Petrography WG and the Degradinite WG were looked at and discussed at the Microscope session. A discussion about the peat samples (from peatlands in northern Greece) went about the sufficiency of the Huminite Classification for peat petrography. Though the classification was in general considered to be sufficient the possibility to add further distinctions in the description of peats was discussed.

Peter Crosdale showed samples with Degradinite (samples from NZ and the Surat Basin in Australia). A discussion, if the terms Degradinite and Bituminite are synonymous and if the Degradinite/Bituminite structureless and what 'really without structur' means was held vividly.

The session was very vivid and discussions around the two available microscopes were extensive.

Commission I would like to thank Herudiyanto as well as Alan Cook for their efforts to make this microscope session successful.

Deolinda Flores/Walter Pickel – Porto/Sydney November 2006