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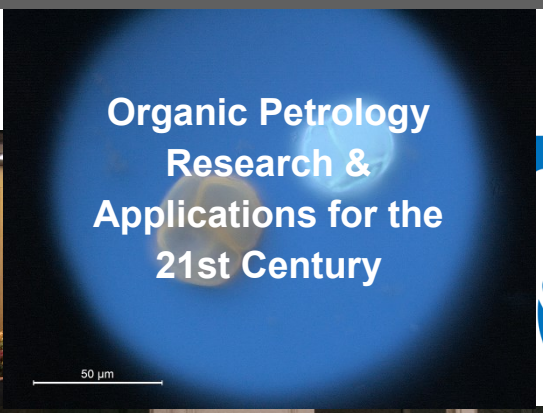

ICCP Meeting
22-28 September 2024
Oviedo, Spain

Cámara Oviedo · INCAR · CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas · Delegación en Asturias · Facultad de Geología Universidad de Oviedo

INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION

EDITORS COLUMN

Dear ICCP members and other interested people,

Welcome to the 3rd and final Newsletter for 2024. It certainly has been an eventful year globally, with many countries returning election results bringing in alternative political parties. The global narrative on the immediate cessation on coal use is becoming more pragmatic, recognizing renewable energy sources are not able to meet energy demand, despite the substantial financial investment over the last 10 years. The world continues to experience changing weather patterns and changing opinions: the only constant is change.

This edition of the ICCP Newsletter provides a full round up of the 2024 Oviedo ICCP Meeting, held in September. For those who unfortunately could not attend (and that includes me), I hope the photographs provide some insight into the social, cultural, and formal aspects of the ICCP Oviedo meeting. Thank you to all who contributed photographs (Jolanta, Paul, Angeles, and others). Congratulations to Carl Hilgers on the award of the Thiessen Medal, the highest recognition to a person involved in organic petrology. And congratulations to those elected to join the ICCP Council – we re-welcome Peter Crosdale and welcome Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi; refer to the Meeting Minutes for indications of Council positions that will become vacant next year. Do involve yourself in the ICCP, on Council and in the various working group activities – refer to the Commission Minutes herein. Please take note of the 2025 ICCP membership fee structure, and continue to pay your dues on time.

The ICCP Organic Petrology training course will take place in Patras in June, 2025 – refer to the ICCP webpage for updates and student applications. The 2025 ICCP Meeting will be held in September in Beijing (see Council Minutes on page 6); again, keep an eye on the webpage for updates and calls for abstracts for the symposium. And do consider submissions for the Organic Petrology award (refer to page 5).

I wish all the very best for the 2024 festivities for those celebrating, and the winter / summer holiday breaks. Here we come 2025; celebrate endings, for they come with new beginnings.

Nikki Wagner,
ICCP Editor.

PS This is the 90th edition of the ICCP Newsletter!

ICCP WEBSITE https://www.iccop.org

Please send any feedback, comments, and uploads to Stavros Kalaitzidis

The ICCP Newsletter, ISN 1445-4793 (1445-4858 online) is distributed 3 times a year, & welcomes contributions from members & non-members. The minutes of the Annual Meeting are published in the final issue each year, & the program for the Annual Meeting is included mid-year. The Newsletter is distributed to all members & is available on the open area of the webpage. This enables anyone interested in the science to obtain exposure to the ICCP activities. ICCP application details are available on the website, or contact the General Secretary Paul Hackley hackley_paul@yahoo.com.

KNOW YOUR COAL PETROLOGIST

See page 28

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the Group Photos from the 2024 Oviedo Meeting have been uploaded on ICCP Webpage (https://www.iccop.org/75th-iccp-meeting-in-oviedo/).

Moreover, under ICCP Publications you can find the:

75th ICCP Meeting, Oviedo Sep 2024. Abstract Book

and the

75th ICCP Meeting. A Commemorative Book

Kind regards

ICCP

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ICCP NEWS BY 30 MARCH 2025

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Members,

We are happy to celebrate the 90th ICCP News edition, which Nikki put together, and I am sure you are going to enjoy reading it over the festive period. This issue contains the Minutes of the 75th ICCP Meeting held in Oviedo last September, and which, being commonly accepted by the participants, was a very successful meeting, both in terms of the presented scientific work but also because of the vivid social events. I would therefore like to thank the Oviedo Organizing Committee for their efforts in hosting a memorable ICCP Meeting.

Of course, among the highlights of the Meeting was the ICCP Commemorative Edition for the 75th ICCP Anniversary, edited by Angeles G. Borrego, with many of you as contributors, and which you can download from our website.

During the meeting, we also had the pleasure of awarding the Thiessen Medal to Carl Hilgers, who for many years contributed passionately to our discipline.

This year we had elections for Council positions, and I would like to congratulate Paul Hackley, Joan Esterle and Carolina Fonseca for being (re)-elected, and thank them for their continuous support for the activities of our Commission. Moreover, Petra David and Aivars Depers received the honorary membership for their long and significant support to ICCP.

Within the Minutes of the meeting you will see that many WGs were quite active during the year, while new ideas and fields of organic petrology are also introduced, and very importantly, we steadily receive applications from young professionals, indicating the continuous interest for Organic Petrology around the globe.

Please note the new simplified fee structure presented herein; you will soon receive a notification to pay your fee through the recently established webpage.

For the next period we are busy with the running Accreditation Programs, the preparations for the forthcoming ICCP Course in Patras in June, and of course soon you will get information for the ICCP Meeting in Beijing. Keep tuned to the ICCP website for more information.

As we are approaching the New Year, I would like to wish we all have a more peaceful planet, with less international turmoil and suffering.

Best wishes for an enjoyable 2025!

Stavros Kalaitzidis

Stavros celebrates his birthday

OBITUARY–

WALTER RIEGEL

1932-2024

Our fellow colleague, teacher, mentor and friend Walter Riegel died on April, 24, 2024 at the age of 91 in Göttingen. Born 1932 in Sommerhausen at the river Main near Würzburg, Walters youth was heavily influenced by the 2nd World War and its aftermath. Having finished school education Walter went to Würzburg in 1952 for studying Geology and Palaeontology, where he finally graduated in 1958. In between he spent a year at the universities of Bonn and Cologne where he was strongly impressed by the lectures of E. Stach (coal petrography), R. Potonié (palynology and coal geology), H.D. Pflug (palynology) and H. Weyland (palaeobotany). He then became Research Assistant of G.O.W. Kremp (palynology) and W. Spackman (coal geology) at the Pennsylvania State University (USA) and broadened his experience in the respective fields. Extensive fieldwork in recent and Holocene deposits of the Florida Everglades formed the basis for his PhD-thesis (1965) on the connections between organic facies and palynology. Later Walter returned to Germany as Assistant and Leading Assistant at the Universities of Bonn and Göttingen, where he became involved as palynologist in the local working groups on the Devonian. Consequently, his habilitation thesis was devoted to a pioneering project on the palynology of the Devonian of the Eifel Hills (1976). On a special grant of the NSF he returned to the States for most of 1978 to conduct research on Upper Cretaceous and Paleogene coals of Wyoming and South Dakota. Back in Göttingen, Walter finally became a regular professor in 1983. This position offered him the basis for a working group uniting his manyfold interests under the heading „Phytogeology". This term was introduced by himself for a holistic approach on marine and terrestrial deposits under diverse aspects of organic petrology, palynology, palaeobotany and sedimentology/palaeoecology. In spite of the heavy load of teaching and examinations at a peak in the number of students between 1977 and 2001, he supervised the remarkable number of 64 diploma theses, 17 dissertations and 1 habilitation. They were mainly based on the Mesozoic sediments around Göttingen and the lignites of Hesse, Lower Saxony, Eastern Germany and Greece. Following retirement in 1998 Walter intensified his fieldwork and research on the Paleogene lignites of the Helmstedt Lignite Mining District (Lower Saxony) and even returned to some of his „old" material from the Devonian of the Hunsrück. For the most part this was done in close cooperation with the Naturmuseum und Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main, where he was appointed a Honorary Member of Staff. It should be mentioned that the last paper with him as a leading author went online just a week before he died! As a lifetime achievement award Walter received the Rolf-and-Marlies-Teichmüller-Price of the DGGV (Deutsche Geologische Gesellschaft−Geologische Vereinigung) in 2021.

Polla Khanaqa

OBITUARY—PAUL C. LYONS 1938 – 2023

Paul Christopher Lyons died on September 24, 2023 at the age of 84. He was born in 1938 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to parents of Irish heritage. After graduating from Cambridge High and Latin School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS Bennington, an Essex -class aircraft carrier. After military service, he enrolled in Boston University, where his mentor was Prof. C. Wroe Wolfe, who founded the Boston University Geology Department in 1943. At Boston University, Lyons received a A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. in 1969. His Ph.D. dissertation was the study of the bedrock geology of the Mansfield Quadrangle, southeastern Massachusetts. The Mansfield Quadrangle has very complex and varied geology ranging from Precambrian calc-alkaline mafic to felsic intrusives, Middle Paleozoic alkaline plutonic rocks, and Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks. The Pennsylvanian rocks were the northwestern part of the Narragansett Basin and there were a number of small coal mines and occurrences around Mansfield. After his Ph.D., Paul stayed at Boston University to teach and began publishing the results of his dissertation. He published on two themes, first the petrology and mineralogy of the igneous rocks, and second, on the details of the paleobotany and stratigraphy of the Pennsylvanian Narragansett and nearby Norfolk Basin rocks. One early publication, in particular, presaged his commitment to correct classification and naming. In a 1976 paper in *Geology*, he critiqued a proposed reclassification of granitic rocks by the IUGS. Although the main part of his dissertation concerned igneous petrology and mineralogy, during mapping he discovered a significant new locality of Pennsylvanian plant fossils and that became his lifelong interest.

Left photo: Undated, courtesy of Lyons family. Right photo: Lyons, 1991 Porto Allegre ICCP meeting, courtesy Alan Davis.

In 1977, Paul joined the Branch of Coal Resources, U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. There he conducted a very wide range of coal-related research on topics such as paleobotany, Appalachian Basin tonsteins, vitrinite chemistry, and with Carolyn L. Thompson (now Thompson-Rizer) and others he began his assault on the validity of sclerotinite, the favorite maceral for some coal petrographers.

Lyons, left, with Hugh O'Donnell, 2000. O'Donnell is holding a polished block of Elkhorn coal that he prepared in 1929 at the U.S. Bureau of Mines when working for Reinhardt Thiessen. Photo by Dorothy O'Donnell.
Left photo: Lyons, right, with Marlies Teichmüller, middle, and Angelika Vieth, 1988 Aachen ICCP meeting, courtesy Angeles Borrego.

Lyons joined ICCP and TSOP and was an active member in both organizations. In ICCP, he participated as a member of Commissions I, II, and III and made significant contributions to all as recognized by his status as an honorary member. For example, during the Porto 1998 Commission II meeting, a working group was created, Coal Bed Methane-CO_2 Sequestration, based on a proposal by Lyons with the aim of identifying possible contributions of organic petrology to coalbed methane studies. And in Commission I, Paul pushed for the reassessment of the inertinite maceral, sclerotinite. He contributed two entries for the ICCP Handbook of Coal Petrology; they were for the inertinite macerals funginite and secretinite, which were accepted for inclusion in 1999. He played a major role in the recognition that the former maceral sclerotinite contained not just materials of fungal origin but also oxidized resinous material. In TSOP, Paul gave many oral presentations and wrote a column for the TSOP Newsletter reporting on the latest ICCP meeting and what was significant for the TSOP members.

Paul retired from the USGS in 1999 and moved up to southeastern Massachusetts, near his Ph.D. field area. He continued actively conducting research and publishing. In 2000, Paul authored a paper defining funginite and secretinite as two new macerals of the inertinite maceral group, as sclerotinite was abandoned as a maceral. Paul's last publication was in 2018 about the fossil flora and age of the Wamsutta red beds, Narragansett Basin, and its correlation with the Cumberland Group in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Left photo: Lyons with Marlies Teichmüller, 1992 PSU Joint TSOP-ICCP meeting. Right photo: Lyons with Marlies Teichmüller, 1996 Heerlen ICCP meeting. Photos courtesy Alan Davis.

Paul is survived by his former wife, four daughters and one son, and many grandchildren.

Paul Lyons, undated, courtesy Peter Crosdale.

By Harvey E. Belkin, Reston, VA, with contributions from Alan Davis, Angeles Borrego, Peter Crosdale, and Paul Hackley

Organic Petrology Award 2025

The Organic Petrology Award was established in 2003 during the 55th ICCP Meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The Award recognises significant contributions by coal and organic petrologists at an intermediate stage of their career. The Organic Petrology Award is limited to applicants under 50 years of age. The award can be conferred every two years. It consists of a bronze medal and the Organic Petrology Award certificate.

Scientific contributions to consider include: scientific and/or practical contribution to various aspects of coal and organic petrology expressed, for example, in quality of the publication, their impact and significance, international recognition, scientific contribution.

Members submitting nominations should provide a letter of nomination, accompanied by any documents supporting the nomination, e.g. available or access to CV, web-based profile, list of publications etc.

The Organic Petrology Award Committee consists of the last five Awardees available. The nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Subcommittee Dr. Magdalena Misz-Kennan (magdalena.misz@us.edu.pl), University of Silesia in Katowice, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Institute of Earth Sciences, Będzińska 60, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland.

The current deadline for submission of nominations is April 30, 2025.

THE REINHARDT THIESSEN MEDAL 2024 – CARL H. HILGERS

Carl H. Hilgers was born on November 25 1940 in Bonn, Germany. His entire professional life has been related to optical instrumentation. In early days, he was a sales representative for Ernst Leitz Wetzlar, supplying universities of Bonn, Duesseldorf, Cologne and Essen as well as research institutes with optical research equipment. In those days he developed contacts with the Mining Research in Essen, especially Prof. Marie-Therese Mackowsky. In 1973, in agreement with the Leitz company, he established his own company for optical and electronic developments. In 1978, he developed a new type of carbon reflectance microscope photometer. This instrument was based on a new way of measuring light using a photodiode instead of a photomultiplier and utilizing powerful microprocessors. The device was used in all areas of carbon reflectance measurement. A total of 24 devices were sold both in Germany and other countries.

From 2000, a well-known coal laboratory in Essen commissioned him to develop a follow-up- device. This newer device recorded all measurement processes with photos and used a digital camera instead of a photodiode. This way, the "Fossil-System" was born. First presentation of the “Fossil-System” for the ICCP audience was made during ICCP Meeting in Budapest – Hungary in 2004.

Although not an organic petrologist himself, Mr. Hilgers has made outstanding contribution to the field of organic petrology. The microscopy system that he developed has revolutionized the way we conduct microscopic analysis, make measurements, and perform organic petrology-related research. The Fossil-Hilgers system has provided a gigantic leap forward by enabling scientists to make optical measurements on the finest macerals with the greatest reproducibility and stability. This integrated system conducts random reflectance, bireflectance, advanced image acquisition in both white and fluorescence images, white light spectrometry, point counting for coal, maceral counting in shale, and fluorescence spectrometry—all in one system, both online and offline. These advancements not only contributed to the scientific research but also to wider utilization of petrographic studies in industrial activities, for example by the ease of collecting data for blend analysis and the ability to measure reflectance of very small areas. Mr Hilgers has made organic petrology easy, fun, and accessible for students, scientists, enthusiasts, and technicians.

Mr Hilgers has always had close connections with ICCP and TSOP membership. He frequently attended ICCP and TSOP conferences, providing demonstrations of his ever-evolving systems, listening to scientists patiently, and striving to solve technical problems for the ever-changing research landscape. He conducted workshops and short courses. His workshop in Königswinter has always been open to everyone where people experienced his gracious hospitality. He installed new systems in every corner of the globe, working exhaustively to ensure systems are operational without any troubles. Beyond any doubt, Mr Hilgers’ contributions have significantly advanced the field of organic petrology. His dedication to developing and refining these systems has had a profound impact on the scientific community and we are sure that the community of organic petrologists will recognize his gigantic impact over decades to come. Therefore, we congratulate Mr. Carl H. Hilgers on receiving the highest award of the ICCP, the Reinhardt Thiessen Medal.

The Thiessen Award Committee:

Alan Davis, Reinhard Sachsenhofer, and Maria Mastalerz (Chair)

A proud daughter, Britta, receives the Thiessen medal on behalf of her father.

MINUTES OF THE ICCP COUNCIL MEETINGS

22ND AND 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

As compiled by the General Secretary

Council met Sunday 22 September in the Cámara Conference Room in the Chamber of Commerce Building. In attendance were Paul Hackley, Stavros Kalaitzidis, Angeles Borrego, Peter Crosdale, Dragana Životić, Jolanta Kus, George Siavalas, João Graciano Mendonça Filho, and Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi. Sandra Rodrigues, Nikki Wagner, and Joan Esterle attended online via Zoom from Australia, South Africa, and Mongolia, respectively. The same members were present on Tuesday September 24 with the exception of Joan Esterle who was traveling from Mongolia and unavailable.

Some of the attending Council members on the Sunday

1. Apologies
Apologies were received from the following members: Nikki Wagner, Joan Esterle, Sandra Rodrigues, Rudi Schwab, Rashmi Singh, Ivana Sýkorová, Ashok Singh, Magdalena Misz-Kennan, Antonis Bouzinos, Itumeleng Matlala, Marvin Moroeng, Sherry Zheng, Lila Gurba, Ioannis Oikonomopoulos, Joana Ribeiro, Paddy Ranasinghe, Sanki Biswas, Alan Davis, Maria Mastalerz, Mehmet Akbulut, Iwona Jelonek, Zeynep Buckun, Thomas Gentzis, Maria Georgaki, Mia Dimitriou, and Dave, Jen, and Rich Pearson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
Short minutes of the Patras Council meetings and minutes of the 2023 plenary session were published in the ICCP Newsletter #87.
Resolution ICCPC24/2/1. *Council approves the 2023 Council minutes as printed in the ICCP Newsletter #87.*
Resolution ICCPC24/2/2. *Council approves the 2023 Plenary Session minutes as printed in the ICCP Newsletter #87.*

3. Arrangements for the Oviedo meeting
The arrangements for the outstanding 2024 meeting were discussed, including a presentation of all the supporters and sponsors, of whom the primary sponsors are CSIC and INCAR. Organizing Committee chair Angeles Borrego listed out the committee members and described the 39 abstracts, representing 14 oral presentations and 23 posters, delivered by 141 authors. The posters and the microscope session are to be held in the same room on the 5th floor of the Cámara Chamber of Commerce. Hilgers Technisches Buero is sponsoring the meeting by providing a fully equipped Hilgers microscope system and software access. The deadline for submissions to the International Journal of Coal Geology of papers related to the meeting presentations will be January 31st, 2025. To celebrate the 75th meeting of ICCP, a commemorative book has been edited, including 53 contributions by 61 authors, reaching 362 pages. One hundred and fifty copies of the commemorative book were printed for distribution to the Oviedo meeting attendees and others.
Resolution ICCPC24/3/1*. Council thanks the organizers on their excellent work in preparation of the meeting and the 75th ICCP Commemorative Book.*

4. Future meetings
4.1 The arrangements for the 2025 76th annual ICCP meeting in Beijing, China were reviewed, with the dates to be September 17-24 in Beijing. The meeting chair is Prof. Shifeng Dai and the field trip organizer is Dr. Beilei Sun. The dates were selected to allow attendees the option to travel to the TSOP meeting as well, which will be held in Indonesia the week before, with 2 full days available to travel to ICCP. The arrangements for the Beijing meeting venue are still being decided, with the choice between 3 hotels. The registration fees are set and are lower than recent meetings. A field trip of 3 nights is planned to a surface mine via high-speed train. The meeting will start on Wednesday September 17 and extend over the weekend to the Monday with the field trip to follow starting on Tuesday. The field trip will visit the Antaibao surface mine (largest in China), the Jin Shrine, and the ancient city of Pingyao. Because of limited access to Google and other software, including email providers, international meeting attendees will need to download and install a VPN on their electronic devices before entering China for the meeting.
Resolution ICCPC24/4/1*. Council thanks Shifeng Dai and Beilei Sun and their organizing team on their excellent work in preparation of the meeting presentation and planning.*

4.2 The arrangements for the 2026 77th annual ICCP meeting in Porto were presented by Prof. Deolinda Flores on the September 24th meeting of Council. This will be the 4th ICCP meeting held in Porto and will be organized by the Faculty of Science in the University of Porto, with Deolinda as the organizing committee chair. The ICCP sessions will meet in Porto over a compressed 2½ day schedule, followed by a field trip to the Peniche peninsula, where we will visit the Lower Jurassic GSSP global stratotype section with two golden spikes. Following the field trip, the meeting attendees will participate in the ICCP symposium, which will be held in the Academy of Sciences in Lisbon. For those who elect not to go on the field trip, they will arrange their own travel from Porto to Lisbon via a train or bus trip of approximately 3 hours. The facilities are booked and confirmed, and the management of the congress will be supported by Skyros Congressos Lda. Of course, the conference dinner will be held in a port wine cellar, with a tour and wine tasting.
Resolution ICCP24/4/2 *The ICCP Council accepts the proposal from Deolinda Flores for hosting the 2026 ICCP annual meeting in Porto and thanks Deolinda and her organizing committee.*

4.3 Nikki Wagner discussed preliminary plans for a joint ICCP meeting with TSOP to be held in Johannesburg in 2027. The Council awaits the receipt of the meeting checklist to approve the 2027 meeting, and looks forward to an exciting plan.

4.4 There have been communications regarding a meeting in Izmir, Turkey, which could be a possibility for 2028, with a potential meeting in North America in 2029, although no formal invitations have been received to-date.

5. Awards
5.1 A nomination for the Thiessen Award was received and discussed, the laudation

Continue to page 8…..

The 7th time that the ICCP was held in Spain

Madrid, 1966

See front cover for 2024 photograph

Oviedo 1983

Oviedo 1994

Oviedo 2008

will be read and the award will be presented at the closing plenary.

5.2 No nominations were received for the Organic Petrology Award.

6. Elections
Elections were held during the year **for Chair of Commission I with Peter Crosdale elected, and Secretary of Commission III with Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi elected,** as presented in ICCP News #88.
Candidates for the Council positions of General Secretary, Treasurer, and Secretary of Commission I are currently needed. The Council discussed renovation of the General Secretary and Treasurer positions and a nominee for the position of Secretary of Commission I. Both Council positions of Commission II will end in 2026 and cannot be renewed; **the call for new candidates in both Commission II positions will be issued at the 2025 Beijing meeting.**
Resolution ICCPC24/6/1. Council nominates the following candidates for election: Paul Hackley for General Secretary in renovation, Joan Esterle for Treasurer in renovation, and Carolina Fonseca for Secretary of Commission I.

7. Membership
7.1 Applications for Associate membership:
Dr. Greg Lis, 2023 ICCP Newsletter #87; Mr. Javin Hatcherian, 2023 ICCP Newsletter #87; Ms. Mia Dimitriou, 2023 ICCP Newsletter #87; Dr. Tushar Adsul, 2024 ICCP Newsletter #88; Dr. Bei Liu, 2024 ICCP Newsletter #88; Mr. Ingo Arndt, 2024 ICCP Newsletter #88; Dr. Divya Mishra, 2024 ICCP Newsletter #88; Ms. Maria Carmen Niembro Bueno, 2024 ICCP Newsletter #89; Ms. Georgia Petratou.
The application of Archchi Sarkar was received during the meeting.

7.2 Applications for Full membership:
The application of Alexander Zdravkov for full membership was received during the meeting.

7.3 Honorary membership:
Nominations of Petra David and Aivars Depers for honorary membership were received.
Resolution ICCPC 24/7/1. Council has accepted the membership applications and nominations and has forwarded them to the Plenary Session for approval.

7.4 Deceased members:
Dr. Noe Piedad Sánchez, obituary in ICCP News #87; Dr. Aleksandar Kostić, obituary in ICCP News #89; Prof. Dr. Marian Wagner, obituary in ICCP News #87; Dr. Neely Bostick, obituary in ICCP News #88; Dr. Paul Lyons; Prof. Dr. Antonis Foscolos.

8. Financial matters – Treasurer's report
The treasurer gave the financial report, which included the posting of 215 membership renewals, from which a response was received from 110 members, resulting in dues income of 4,300AUD. There was no short course income this year, yet the organization had a net financial surplus of 15,380AUD in 2023-2024, primarily from the accreditation programs. Council discussed a simplification of the membership structure and fees, with an updated dues fee structure to be presented for acceptance at the closing plenary: **Editor: please refer to those minutes and page 19 herein.**

The treasurer stated the need to review the list of non-paid members to understand the reasons behind why they have not renewed, whether that is members who have retired, members who have left the organic petrology community, or members who are too busy to bother with dues payment.
Resolution ICCPC24/8/1. Council i) receives the report presented by the Honorary Treasurer, ii) agrees that the report represents a fair statement of the financial affairs of the ICCP and congratulates the Honorary Treasurer on the report, and iii) thanks the Honorary Treasurer for her outstanding work to update and reconcile the membership accounts and to ensure all ICCP memberships are current.

9. Editor's report
The editor's report included discussions of content, number of pages, and presentation of new members for ICCP News #87, #88, and #89.
Resolution ICCPC23/12/1. Council receives the report of the Editor and congratulates her on her outstanding work.

10. Accreditation programs
The accreditation subcommittee report covered the details of the programs, scheduling, and the overall decreasing number of participants. Council discussed the need to upgrade the online registration form, especially regarding the more functional capture of participant details, like addresses for sample and certificate distribution. This can be accomplished through interaction with the web designer Silktech, but they will need clear and specific instruction on what should be changed in the online form to capture the required information.
Resolution ICCPC24/10/1 Council thanks the organizers of the three programs Kimon Christanis, João Graciano Mendonça Filho, and Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi for their work and congratulates them and accreditation subcommittee chair Sandra Rodrigues for their reports.

11. Training Courses
The next ICCP Training Course will be held in June 2025 in Patras, Greece, on Organic Petrology and Environmental Applications with instructors Dr. George Siavalas and Dr. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi. Information will be prepared to announce the course in the ICCP News and on the website.

11. Other business
Council discussed the possibility to have the working groups meet during the ICCP commission meetings in the future, as was done in the past. The advantage of this approach is that it allows in-person, face-to-face interaction to promote progress in the working groups. The disadvantage is that it would take attendees of other working group presentations away from these presentations to go off and work in a sequestered working group, i.e., splitting the activity of the gathered attendees at an ICCP meeting. Council decided to table this idea for now and to come back to it after the 2025 and 2026 meetings.
Following Council meetings, the members retired to the bars and restaurants in the beautiful city center of Oviedo.

Some of the Council members advancing to the bar after the business of Council.

Council Members enjoying several paella dishes.

ICCP MEETING ICE-BREAKER & OPENING

MINUTES OF THE 75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ICCP, SEPTEMBER 22ND TO 28TH, 2024, OVIEDO, SPAIN

As compiled by the General Secretary

The 75th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology was held from September 22nd to 28th, 2024, in Oviedo, Spain.

The meeting was organized by Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología del Carbono (INCAR-CSIC) and held in the Chamber of Commerce of Oviedo Building. The Chair of the organizing committee was Dr. Ángeles Borrego, and the Symposium was organized around the theme of "Organic Petrology Research and Applications for the 21st Century".

The meeting was in a fully in-person format, although facility was provided for recorded presentations to be delivered. Sixty-two delegates were registered from twenty-four countries. The meeting offered several microscopy sessions, a cultural excursion to UNESCO World Heritage Sites of pre-Romanesque (IX Century) monuments in Mount Naranco, and a geological field trip to study organic-rich shales in the Cantabrian Mountains.

Following the Ice Breaker at the Gran Hotel España, the technical meeting convened on September 23rd with a gathering of representatives from regional authorities on the dais. The Chair of the Organizing Committee **Dr. Ángeles Borrego** opened the ceremonies to introduce the speaking authorities.

The institutional delegate on behalf of CSIC María Fernandez spoke, followed by the representative on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Carlos Paniceres. On behalf of the mayor of Oviedo, **José Ramón** presented from the City Council in his position as Councilor for Licenses and Urban Planning, noting that Oviedo was designated the capital of gastronomy for Spain in 2024.

Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis presided as President of ICCP, giving an address to thank the cooperation of the city of Oviedo, and with hopes to return, although acknowledging the challenges of the future with respect to energy and climate. The Asturian Minister for Science, Enterprises, Training and Employment Borja Sánchez, mentioned the challenges of the energy transition in an area which has a long history of coal mining and utilization. There were over 50 attendees present at the opening welcome session, as well as representatives of the local media with cameras.

Gathered attendees at the opening session of ICCP in Oviedo, with the regional authorities on the dais.

An invited talk on decarbonation was delivered by **María Lorenzo Conto** of HUNOSA, the primary state mining company for Asturian coal. Asturias has a rich history of mining from the year 1591 with 73 mining collieries at different times. HUNOSA was founded in 1967 to incorporate all of the mining companies and collieries with up to 27,000 employees in the Asturian region at times. Originally, HUNOSA was a 100% coal mining company but now has future plans for biomass, solar, hydro, and wind energy. Currently, HUNOSA operates 3 facilities including a washery, colliery, and a circulating fluidized bed technology power plant. HUNOSA has over 4000 hectares of lands, on which they are planting trees for biomass, planning the carbon-to-mine project to develop the biomass aspect of the company, and working on the La Pereda power plant transition from coal to biomass, including a full boiler transition. La Pereda started operation in 1994 and was designed for 5% biomass, then redesigned for up to 30% biomass, and now for 100% biomass including regional organic waste. HUNOSA also is involved in CO_2 capture as a pilot project, and has already constructed a 13 MW solar project over a restored coal dump. They are taking advantage of water energy at some of their collieries, using reversible pumping technology. Pumped water is 23°C and they are using the increased temperature for other waters including sanitary hot water, i.e., district heating. This geothermal district heating has been introduced in phases with infrastructure to support. This is their first renewable project and is the biggest geothermal system in Spain. Pozo Fondón is another geothermal project of HUNOSA boasting 1.5 MW, which is in phase 1 since 2022. Overall, HUNOSA is planning the change from a company based on fossil fuel to a company based on renewables.

Dr. Rosa Menéndez of INCAR delivered an invited lecture on graphene carbon materials. Dr. Menéndez was the former director of INCAR from 2003 to 2008, and an ICCP member since 1988. Not only that but she has received the Silver Medal of Asturias and has an Oviedo Street named after her! She began her talk by recognizing the vigorous life of ICCP today and her joy that it continues. Dr. Menéndez is an organic chemist by training and was not familiar with organic petrography at the start of her career, only later recognizing the power it brings to studies of coal conversion and carbon materials. Dr. Menéndez presented pitch stacking PAHs to convert to mesophase to coke to graphite at subsequently higher and higher temperatures, taking the audience through the dependencies on starting materials, heating conditions, and rate. Carbon material microstructures can be tailored depending on the need and application, but the power of polarized light microscopy in provision of information on these materials is necessary at all stages. Dr. Menéndez discussed preparation of carbo-carbon composites including vapor deposition and liquid impregnation, and then launched into the applications of graphene, which the 17 varied members in her research group are pursuing.

Following the coffee break, the opening plenary session of the ICCP was chaired by President Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis and General Secretary Dr. Paul C. Hackley, based on the agenda items as follows, with about 41 ICCP members (and one quiet child) in attendance:

1. Greetings and welcome, introduction – Stavros Kalaitzidis
2. Information about the 75th ICCP Oviedo Meeting - Ángeles G Borrego
3. Minutes from previous meetings- Stavros Kalaitzidis
4. Apologies - Paul C. Hackley
5. Future Meetings (short status) - Stavros Kalaitzidis
6. Awards (short status) - Stavros Kalaitzidis
7. Membership - Paul C. Hackley
8. Elections (short status) - Paul C. Hackley
9. Editor´s report – Nikki Wagner/Paul Hackley
10. Treasurer´s report – Joan Esterle/Stavros Kalaitzidis
11. ICCP Accreditation Program – Sandra Rodrigues/Stavros Kalaitzidis
12. ICCP Training Program – Stavros Kalaitzidis

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1. Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis welcomed the gathered attendees.

2. Dr. Ángeles Borrego gave the overview of the Oviedo meeting logistics, which so far have been suffered and enjoyed! The timing of the family photograph was announced for Wednesday

before lunch.
3. Short minutes of the Patras Council meeting and minutes of the Plenary Sessions were approved, as published in the ICCP Newsletter #87, as listed in the Council minutes within this newsletter.
4. Apologies for non-attendance were received from members, as listed in the minutes of the Oviedo Council meetings.
5. Arrangements for future meetings were presented, as listed in the minutes of the Oviedo Council meetings.
6. The two awards of ICCP were announced, the Organic Petrology and Thiessen Awards, with the presentation of the 2024 Thiessen Award to be had during the closing plenary.
7. Associate membership applications as listed in the minutes of the Oviedo Council meetings were forwarded to the General Assembly. The loss of members Dr. Noe Piedad Sánchez, Dr. Aleksandar Kostić, Prof. Dr. Marian Wagner, Dr. Neely Bostick, Dr. Paul Lyons, and Prof. Dr. Antonis Foscolos was announced, and a moment of silence was held in their memory before the General Assembly.
8. The results of the elections held in 2024 were announced, as listed in the Council minutes, and previously in ICCP News #88. The call for nominations to the offices of General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Secretary of Commission I was announced, with nominees to be received from the floor during the closing plenary.
9. The report of the Editor was delivered by the General Secretary.
10. The report of the Honorary Treasurer was delivered by Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis with remarks on the proposed simplification of the fee structure, and the pending removal from the roles of ICCP members who have lapsed in their dues payments for more than 2 years.
11. Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis presented the Accreditation Subcommittee report, on behalf of Dr. Sandra Rodrigues, with questions from the General Assembly on the length of the certificate and how it would be impacted by the delayed sample distribution. Comments were also had on the need to simplify the registration form to expedite sample and certificate distribution. Furthermore, Dr. Peter Crosdale, as Chair of Com I, will replace Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis in the Accreditation Subcommittee.
12. Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis presented on ongoing discussions regarding the training program selection of classes for 2025 with a decision to be announced in the closing plenary. Furthermore, Dr. Peter Crosdale, as Chair of Com I, is replacing Stavros in the Walter Pickel Student Travel Grant Committee.

The fabulous conference dinner was held on Wednesday September 25th at the Restaurant Tierra Astur El Vasco, which was amazing with cider, salad and fish paste, steak, and delicious fish for the pescatarians.

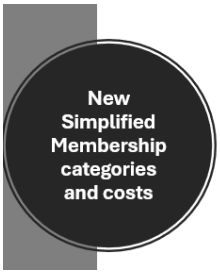
ICCP President Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis thanks Oviedo Organizing Committee Chair and the Asturian delegation at the Tierra Astur.

Delicious salad with mushrooms at Tierra Astur.

The closing plenary began before lunch on Thursday September. 26, chaired by President Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis and General Secretary Dr. Paul Hackley, and was based on the agenda items as follows:

1. Membership - Paul C. Hackley
2. Candidates for elections – Stavros Kalaitzidis
3. Other business – Resolutions – Stavros Kalaitzidis
4. Short Report from the Commission Meetings – Comm. Chairs
5. Short Report from the Council meetings- Paul C. Hackley
6. Awards – Stavros Kalaitzidis
7. Future Meetings – Stavros Kalaitzidis
8. Thanks to the 2024 Organizing Committee – ICCP Council

1. Membership: The new associate, full, and honorary members presented and approved by the General Assembly at the opening plenary were welcomed to the ICCP.
2. Candidates for elections: Candidates for General Secretary Paul Hackley (renovation), Honorary Treasurer Joan Esterle (renovation), and Secretary of Commission I Carolina Fonseca were presented to the gathered General Assembly. No nominations were received from the floor, so the candidates were elected, with 4-year terms to begin following the 2025 meeting of ICCP.
3. Other business – Resolutions and the training program:
3.1 The returning officer Rudi Schwab has resigned, and his resignation was accepted by the Council.
Resolution ICCPC24/3/1 Council thanks the former returning officer Rudi Schwab for his many years of service to ICCP and wishes him the best in his health.
3.2 The Council has asked Dr. Ángeles Borrego to step up to the appointment of returning officer based on her past service to ICCP and she has agreed.
Resolution ICCP24/3/2 Council thanks the new returning officer Dr. Ángeles Borrego for stepping into this new role of service to ICCP, after 27 years of service on the ICCP Council.
3.3 The new simplified dues and fee structure proposed by Council was accepted by the General Assembly.



Member Type	1 yr	3 yr
Regular	26 Euro	60 Euro
Retiree and student	13 Euro	30 Euro

New dues and fees structure.

Resolution ICCP24/3/3 ICCP General Assembly approves the new dues structure and fee amounts, and it will be published in the Newsletter and posted on the ICCP website in time for the 2025 dues renewal.
3.4 The next **ICCP Training Course** was announced for June 2025 in Patras, Greece, on Organic Petrology and Environmental Applications with instructors Dr. George Siavalas and Dr. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi.
4. Short reports from the Commission meetings were delivered by Dr. Peter Crosdale (Commission I), Dr. Jolanta Kus (Commission II), and Dr. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi (on behalf of Chair Dr. Sandra Rodrigues for Commission III) as further documented in the meeting minutes contained in this edition of the Newsletter.
5. A short report on the minutes of the ICCP Council Meetings was delivered by the General Secretary as further documented elsewhere in this Newsletter.
6. The laudation for the **2024 Thiessen Award** to Mr. Carl Hilgers was delivered by ICCP President Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis in front of a backdrop showing photographs of Carl. The laudation is contained in full elsewhere in this edition of ICCP News. On behalf of her father, Britta Hilgers accepted the Thiessen medal, delivering some very touching and extemporaneous remarks of her father's career and business and his background in optics and microscopy. Surely, Carl has touched the ICCP community and has single-handedly made a huge change in the

way we apply the techniques of organic petrology with the innovations of the Hilgers FOSSIL microscope system.

Britta Hilgers accepting the 2024 Thiessen medal on behalf of Carl Hilgers.

7. The preparations for the 2025 meeting in Beijing was given on behalf of Dr. Shifeng Dai by Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis. The organization is as presented in the minutes of Council and elsewhere in this Newsletter.
Resolution ICCP24/7/1 The ICCP thanks Shifeng Dai for the planning and preparations for the 2025 meeting in Beijing.
The preparations for the 2026 meeting in Porto organized by Dr. Deolinda Flores were also announced.
Resolution ICCP24/7/2 The ICCP Council accepts the proposal from Deolinda Flores for hosting the 2026 ICCP annual meeting in Porto and thanks Deolinda and her organizing committee.
8. Finally, there was the presentation of gifts for the Organizing Committee and the amazing work to host the conference. ICCP President Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis made remarks and the gifts for the members of the organizing committee, including the Chair and her team: Dr. Ángeles Borrego, Prof. Dr. Rosa Menéndez, and Dr. Diego Álvarez; the CSIC Local Team: Carmen Niembro, Ana Vallejo, Concha Prieto Alas, and Juliana Sánchez Villar; the Cámara Oviedo Team: Fernando Villabella, Susana Estébanez Sierra, Natalia Vallina, Sonia Fernández Castillo, Juan Carlos Bueno, Javier Fernández; and the Univ. Oviedo Team: Dr. Oscar Merino Tomé, Dr. Luis Pedro Fernández, and Dr. Juan Ramón Bahamonde.

Ángeles (L) and Rosa (R) accepting gift sfrom Stavros.

The general assembly adjourned with a coffee break prior to the **cultural field excursion** to Mount Naranco, which was guided by the very knowledgeable tour guide. The first place we visited is the pre-Romanesque (IX century) Iglesia de Santa María del Naranco, formerly thought to be a church or palace but now regarded as a potential resting place for King Alfonso, although he was not buried there.
Then we had a short walk up the street to Iglesia de San Miguel de Lillo, where frescos are still visible on the ceiling. More than ½ the church is lost due to collapse in the past but enough remains to enjoy its grandeur.

The Iglesia de Santa María del Naranco with the touristic host in the doorway.

The Iglesia de San Miguel de Lillo.

SYMPOSIUM

The **ICCP Symposium** on Friday September 27th began with a presentation on biocoke by Dr. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi, which included a nicely produced and exciting video. Dr. Agnieszka Drobniak spoke on the commercial production of wood pellets, some of which include misleading advertisements on their packaging, e.g., 0% emission of CO_2 in their production. Dr. Patricia Álvarez from INCAR spoke on the production of graphene from graphite. Finally, Dr. Ana Pérez-Mas from Oviedo University presented on the use of atomic force microscopy to predict the photoluminescence of graphene dots.
After coffee Dr. Silvia Omodeo-Salé from Geneva gave an animated presentation on the use of basin modelling to derisk geothermal drilling in Switzerland. Dr. Luis Fernández from Oviedo University gave a presentation in collaboration with Dr. Ángeles Borrego at INCAR on the use of VRo in characterizing the thermal history of northern Spain. Dr. Paul Hackley gave a presentation on radiometric dating of the world's oldest oil shales in Pakistan. Aarhus University PhD student Zhiheng Zhou presented on terrigenous input to the Danish North Sea Basin in the Tertiary. PhD student Mariana Costa from Porto University spoke on the coals of the Douro Carboniferous Basin in Portugal. Last before lunch, Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis presented on behalf of PhD student Panagiotis-Marios Chrysochos on peat-forming environments in the Maputaland coastal plain of Mozambique.
After the lunchbreak, Dr. Bruno Valentim delivered a remote presentation on the petrography of end-of-life lithium-ion batteries. Dr. Carolina Fonseca presented on lamalginite, identi-

fying new work for ICCP in the need for a term or definition that more accurately describes lamalginite composition as derived from bacteria. Julito Reyes from the Geological Survey of Canada presented on critical minerals and rare earth elements in coals from Alberta. Finally, the last speaker, Dr. Greg Smith of Curtin University presented on organic controls on sedimentary mineralization utilizing examples from many environments.

FIELD EXCURSION

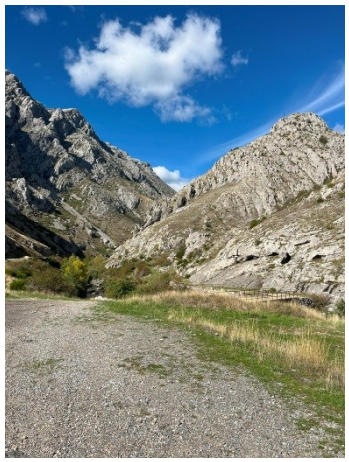
On Saturday, September 28th, the field trip attendees embarked into the Cantabrian Mountains, led by Oscar Merino-Tomé, Luis Fernández, and J.R. Bahamonde from the Departamento de Geología, Universidad de Oviedo.

Cantabrian Mountains field trip leaders Drs. Luis Fernández, Oscar Merino-Tomé, and J.R. Bahamonde, from left to right.

The field trip leaders had prepared an amazing 58-page guidebook for the occasion. The bus drove into the mountains until we arrived to enjoy coffee at the high pass of Cafetería Antiguo Parador de Pajares with amazing views back to the north.

Field trip attendees with the view from Cafetería Antiguo Parador de Pajares.
Sampling black shale of the Tournasian Vegamián Formation.

At the first outcrops where we sampled black shales of the Tournasian Vegamián Formation near an abandoned quarry. The field trip lunch was held in the Restaurante Las Nieves in the village of Cármenes, where the group was treated to potatoes with octopus, and delicious cheesecake desert.



Octopus with potatoes!
Barcaliente Formation limestone outcrops at Hoces de Valdeteja gorge

Following the lunch, we continued to limestone outcrops of Barcaliente Formation at Hoces de Valdeteja gorge. Back to Oviedo in time to drop passengers for departure to travel.

ASTM

Dear ASTM D05.28 Subcommittee Members, and ICCP members,

It is time for us to review and or revise ASTM D05.28 D5061 (Standard Method for Microscopical Determination for the Textural Components of Metallurgical Coke). As it has been 5 years since its last revision.

Please read the current standard, and send any suggested revisions or updates to me before December 1, 2024. I have put together a Work Item (WK89806) to incorporate any changes for balloting. If you require access to a current version please let me know.

in order to access the Standards the ASTM requires a membership which is $50USD/year which gives you access to all the ASTM Standards (D05 Coal and Coke).

Regards, Rich Pearson

If you are interested in contributing, please reach out to Rich Pearson as soon as possible.

rpearson@coalpetrography.com

MINUTES OF COMMISSION I

GENERAL COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY

Chair: Peter Crosdale, peter.crosdale@energyrc.com.au
Secretary: Dragana Životić, dragana.zivotic@rgf.bg.ac.rs

Opening remarks

The sessions of Commission I started September 25th at 09:00 and finished on September 26th at 10.30. The Chair of the Commission gave a general description of COMMISSION I with existing Working Groups, active, finalized-inactive, and outlined the programme for COMMISSION I. Progress within the Single Coal Accreditation Program (SCAP), Distinguishing Features of Macerals EG, ICCP Petrographic Image database, ISO standard WG, Peat Petrography WG, Xylite-rich Lithotype Classification WG, Classification and Terminology of Zooclasts in old sediments WG and Radiolytic alteration of the organic matter in coal and rocks enriched in radioactive minerals WG, were planned to be presented.

Commission's I sessions included a Microscope Session, as well as presentations of the following WG's:

SCAP - Single Coal Accreditation Program,
Distinguishing Features of Macerals EG,
ICCP Petrographic Image database,
ISO Standard Working Group,
Peat Petrography WG,
Xylite-rich Lithotype Classification Working Group,
Classification and Terminology of Zooclasts in old sediments Working Group,
Radiolytic alteration of the organic matter in coal and rocks enriched in radioactive minerals WG.

Accreditation Program – Kimon Christanis

Kimon Christanis presented activities on the 2024 Single Coal Accreditation Program, and challenges with sample distribution in some countries. The 2024 SCAP exercise was announced in October 2023 and participants have electronically registered *via* the ICCP webpage until June 2024. The dispatch of invoices, samples and instructions has finished in August 2024. The sample set for Mongolia were firstly sent to Jolanta Kus, asking to forward. The exercise was carried out on bulk samples: beginners received six and continuing participants two bulk coal samples. The deadline for result submission was planned for October 2024. The participants had to measure the following parameters:

Vitrinite random reflectance (VR) according to ISO 7404-5
and
Vitrinite content (VC) according to ISO 7404-3.

For the 2024 SCAP exercise 98 analysts were registered, from whom 49 were ICCP members, from 55 laboratories located in 25 countries. The breakdown in continuation *versus* new entries is 76 vs. 22, respectively. The geographic distribution of the participants was as follows: from America 29% (South America 8%, North America 21%), Oceania 19%, Europe 25%, Asia 19%, and Africa 8%.

Kimon pointed out the problems with the shipping addresses in some countries and emphasized that the Registration Form for SCAP should be changed and supplemented. He noted that the coal bank is currently in good shape thanks to receipt of some coals from Mongolia. Also, Kimon will attempt to treat statistically the large SCAP dataset after finishing the 2024 exercise.

The organizer of the 2024 SCAP exercise highly acknowledged the contribution of all the members of the Accreditation Sub-Committee, particularly the current chair Sandra Rodrigues, the Honorary Treasurer Joan Esterle, Jolanta Kus and BGR's post office, as well as Batbold for bulk samples supply, postgraduate students Costadis and all the participants. Members who can supply suitable bulk, single coal samples (2-3 kg, vitrinite-rich, low ash coal with reflectance between 0.5 to 1.8% Rr, even higher), have to contact Kimon: christan@upatras.gr.

After short discussion Commission I thanked Kimon for all his efforts in convening the SCAP.

Distinguishing Features EG – Stavros Kalaitzidis, Dragana Životić

Stavros Kalaitzidis presented the overview and status of the **Distinguishing Features of Macerals EG**. He pointed out that Commission I will compile all the available texts, add photomicrographs to visualize better the features and send back to members of WG for comments. Stavros proposed preparation of a more interactive tool connected with the ICCP Petrographic Image database, which will be on the ICCP website. During the discussion participants supported Stavros' proposal and pointed out that features for all macerals should be presented in more interactive tool.

Commission I would like to thank Stavros for his efforts in this EG.

ICCP Petrographic Image database – Stavros Kalaitzidis

Stavros Kalaitzidis gave an overview of the progress related to the ICCP Petrographic Image database, and the future plan to finally develop the database. He asked ICCP members to review the metadata information regarding each photomicrograph that will be in the database. Approval was received from members of the commission to ask the Council for financial support to buy or develop a professional database to progress the activity. Stavros plan to start with Demo Version with images from Qualifying WG. He will contact convenors of the Concentration of Organic Matter WG and DOM Atlas WG to check if their collections can be used as a starting set for the image database (advantage is, that we have photomicrograph from different techniques and light conditions). When the demo version of the Petrographic Image database has been established Stavros will request for other sample sets. The purpose of the database, the way of using it and the financing of the Image database are the questions that were raised in a short discussion.

Commission I thanks the WG Members for their efforts and dedication on this work.

ISO standard WG – Angeles Borrego

Angeles Borrego gave a short review of the Methods for the petrographic analysis of coals ISO - **ISO standard WG.** She presented all suggestions for modifications submitted to WG 14 of ISO SC-5, which is working in the revision of the ISO 7404 standards during the year. These standards cover vocabulary, preparation, maceral analysis, microlithotype analysis and reflectance analysis. Modifications were largely editorial but some significant changes in procedures were also made to account for the recent developments in optical microscopes, e.g. the possibility to use LEDs as a light source for reflectance as well as digital cameras to collect data. She emphasized that the ISO standards draw heavily on the work of ICCP, and it is important to maintain strong links with ISO. During the discussion participants pointed that all result from SCAP and DOMVR should be included in ISO standard. Angeles informed the audi-

ence on behalf of Rich Pearson that ASTM is also undertaking revision of standards for petrographic analysis of coal and coke. Rich is leading this process for ASTM and would like to count with the input of the ICCP. Chair of Commission I proposed that this could be done through the Standardization WG. Rich and Angeles would be in contact to request the input of the WG Members when required.

Commission I would like to thank Angeles for her fantastic efforts in this WG.

Peat Petrography WG –Stavros Kalaitzidis and Kimon Christanis

Stavros Kalaitzidis presented the overview of previous exercises and publications of the Peat Petrography WG. In the second part of the presentation, he showed the recent progress within the WG with new data set related to tropical peatlands (photomicrographs and reflectance measurements). The WG is preparing the draft paper with the peat maceral classification.

After short discussion Commission I thanked Stavros and Kimon for their efforts and dedication on this WG.

Xylite-rich Lithotype Classification WG – Ioannis Oikonomopoulos and Konstantinos Perleros

Konstantinos Perleros presented the overview of the **Xylite-rich Lithotype Classification WG** exercises with the proposed definitions, as well as the problematic issues during the last two years. Next steps in the activities of the WG will be pellets distribution (to the participants) for macro and micro scale characterization. Following up stage will involve a) discussions on particular definitions, which were identified as “too extensive” during the last meeting, and b) contribution to the ICCP database with photomicrographs of woody materials.

During the discussion participants supported Konstantinos proposal. Members interested in participating in the activities of this WG please contact Ioannis (ioikonomopoulos@helpe.gr) and Konstantinos (cperleros@gmail.com).

Commission I would like to thank Konstantinos and Ioannis for their initiative and efforts in this Working Group.

Classification and Terminology of Zooclasts in old sediments WG – Thomas Gentzis and Xiaowei Zheng

Chair of Commission I presented the overview and aim of the **Classification and Terminology of Zooclasts in old sediments WG**. Proposed the future activities within Commission I is to tested nomenclature/classification of zooclasts in a Round Robin Analyses. Anyone interested in participating in the new exercise may contact Thomas (thomas.gentzis@corelab.com) and Xiaowei (zhengxiaowei1103@outlook.com).

After a short discussion Commission I thanked Thomas and Xiaowei for their efforts and dedication on this WG.

Radiolytic alteration of the organic matter in coal and rocks enriched in radioactive minerals WG – Tatiana Larikova and Ivana Sýkorová

Tatiana Larikova presented results of the second Round Robin Exercise of the **Radiolytic alteration of the organic matter in coal and rocks enriched in radioactive minerals WG**. The long-term aims of the Radiolytic alteration WG are: i) Petrological identification and definition of microscopic textures of radiolytic alteration of organic matter (bitumens, coal macerals, dispersed organic matter); ii) Determination of the basic types of the bright areas around radioactive minerals: halos, bright zones around cracks and veins, and others. On this basis, the system of optical structures will be developed (for the ICCP Classification).

After the evaluation of the results of the 1st RR exercise the preliminary classification of radiolytically altered textures of organic matter was proposed for second RR exercise. The 2d 2024 Round Robin exercise (31 marked areas on 31 images) was concentrated on the radiolytic alteration of the organic matter only in the bituminous coal, with correlation of these alteration features with maceral composition. The evaluation of the second RR exercise provided some differences in radiolitic alteration of the OM in coal and bitumen. Also, Tatiana pointed out of some challenges and misunderstandings, and pointed out the problem of distinguishing of the altered and newly formed textures in the OM.

During the discussion the participants congratulated the conveners on the results of the second RR exercise. It was suggested that the next 2025 exercise will be concentrated mainly on shales, rich in organic matter.

Conveners encourage all participants to provide their examples of the radiolytically altered samples or photos of the U-bearing shales. Members interested in participating in the activities of this WG please contact Tatiana (larikova@irsm.cas.cz) and Ivana (sykorova@irsm.cas.cz).

Commission I thank Tatiana and Ivana for her initiative and efforts in this Working Group.

Proposals for New Working Groups

Estimation of Maceral Composition in Samples with Low Organic Matter Content – Peter Crosdale

A new working group was approved **Estimation of Maceral Composition in Samples with Low Organic Matter Content** with Peter Crosdale as convenor. Its objective is to provide guidelines to estimate the maceral or maceral group composition of samples with low organic matter content such as shales for shale gas or for source rock evaluation. The first year of activity will be round robin using a terrestrial carbonaceous mudstone of reflectance around 0.5%. Participants will be asked to provide maceral composition using either a method provided or their own preferred method.

Commission I also approved that the chair conducts a survey of members to see what sort of QA/QC procedures they before issuing data to clients or feel it is of good quality for their research purposes.

Anyone interested in participating in the new exercise may contact Peter (peter.crosdale@energyrc.com.au).

After a short discussion Commission I thanks Peter for his efforts in this WG and in general for his dedication to the ICCP tasks.

Microscopy session

The Microscopy Session took place on Wednesday the 25th of September. The new semi-automated Hilgers System demonstrated by Britta Hilgers, was used for the session. The participants had the chance to discuss on the petrographic features of Zooclasts in old sediments presented by Jolanta Kus, thermally affected organic rich sediments (pyrobitumen) samples presented by George Siavalas.

Commission I would like to thank Britta Hilgers for her great help sponsoring the microscope facilities, and all participants providing samples and contributing to the fruitful discussions.

Closing Remarks

Peter Crosdale and Dragana Životić closed the Session of Commission I. In closing remarks, Chair of the Commission I expressed his gratitude to the conveners and all members of the WGs for their dedication and efforts to the scope of ICCP. Conveners of WGs encourage to check and provide any additional information.

ICCP Members were also reminded that the following Commis-

sion I Services are available for the Organic Petrography Community:

1. Single Coal Accreditation Program, SCAP – Kimon Christanis (christan@upatras.gr).

2. Reflectance Standard Checking: The service to check standards against the *ICCP Reflectance Standard* continues to be available from Richard Pearson (50€ for non-members and free for ICCP members) and from Evelyn Bieg (only for ICCP members).

As final remarks, Commission I would like to encourage ICCP members to visit the webpage. A lot of data and information from the WGs has been uploaded http://www.iccop.org/commissions/commission-i/. The convenors of the various WGs are encouraged to check and regularly update the web material.

At the end, Commission I would like to express gratitude to Angeles and her team, as well as all participants of the sessions for their active participation resulting in well organised and productive Meeting.

We hope to see you in China next year.

Thank you!!!

Dragana and Paul leading Com I.

Editor: do all take note here and check in on the website regularly.

Above: Asturian culture, cider poring (recognized as a UNESCO Cultural heritage in 2024)

Left: Oviedo landmark…. And the ICCP President (below)

ICCP CONFERENCE DINNER

The conference dinner, with relaxed and joyful conversation, smiling faces, in the beautiful scenery of La Sidrería Tierra Astur Gascona, Oviedo.

At the restaurant, the sidra is poured in a way that adds to its flavour and it is fun to watch!

Traditional Asturian plates! What more could you want ☺

Jolanta Kus

MINUTES OF COMMISSION II

GEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY

Chair: **Jolanta Kus,** J.Kus@bgr.de

Secretary: **George Siavalas,** Georgios.Siavalas@shell.com

Tuesday – 24th September

The Commission II meeting started on Tuesday September 24th at 10:30am (local time), and the Chair and Secretary chaired the session in the Chamber of Commerce of Oviedo, Asturias. Peak attendance was 32 persons and the meeting did not include an option for online participation.

10:30 – 10:45 - Opening address – Jolanta Kus & George Siavalas

Com.II Chair, Jolanta Kus, in her welcome talk, kicked off the activities of the Commission. She gave an overview of the publications generated from the Commission's past activities, the recent developments in the ICCP webpage, the training material currently available under Com.II, the recently formed working groups within Commission II including the Geological Applications of Graptolite Reflectance, Igneous Intrusions in Coal Seams, and Shales and the Identification of Secondary Organic Matter working groups. Closing the opening session the Chair presented ideas for new working groups under Commission II into solving certain geological problems, invited attendees to propose new working groups in the closing session and showed an outline of the meeting's schedule.

10:45 – 11:20 – Dispersed Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks, Classification, Identification and Thermal Maturity – Conveners: Jolanta Kus, *Paul C. Hackley,* Paula A. Gonçalves

Jolanta Kus moved forward to present a summary of the activities of the Working Group during 2024. The activities focused on the publication of two manuscripts summarizing the work done in the working group since its establishment, prepared by the current Conveners. The first manuscript, titled "The petrology of dispersed organic matter in sedimentary rocks: review and update", authored by Gonçalves et al., was published during the 2024 calendar year. Jolanta presented a brief summary of the steps and activities that predated the publication, which in chronological order included the following: 1. February 2024, invitation to the co-authors to revise the MS. 2. February to May 2024, revision of the MS. 3. April 2024, USGS internal approval for publication. 4. May 2024, BGR and ICCP council discussion on coverage of the GOLD access fee. The ICCP council approved 50% allowance for covering the GOLD access fee. 5. June 2024, submission of the MS to the International Journal of Coal Geology. 6. September 2024, publication of the MS in International Journal of Coal Geology. The Conveners acknowledged several contributors to this achievement including, Prof. Deolinda Flores, IJCG Editor-in-Chief, for coordinating the review of the MS and publication, all the past participants in the exercises of several ICCP WGs that generated the data and findings published in this review paper, Harvey Belkin and Peter Warwick (USGS) for their technical reviews, several internal voluntary reviewers within ICCP, BGR for 100% coverage of the GOLD access fee and BGR's library collection for multiple loans. Jolanta showed a brief outline of the published review paper focusing on the title page and showing its structure and contents. The published version of the paper is composed of 33 pages, 18 figures and 4 tables.

The second manuscript titled "Applications of dispersed organic matter petrology in the 21st century: a review" by Kus et al. is intended to be published in the 2025 calendar year. The current status is that the manuscript is prepared and includes 14 chapters in 258 pages, excluding figures and tables. Eight of the chapters have been technically reviewed and review is pending or not yet started on the remaining 6. The authors, which are also the active Conveners of the WG announced their intention to make the manuscript available for review to active members of Commission II in February 2025. An invitation to review will be announced in the Newsletter and ICCP webpage. The technical review at USGS will also commence during the same time period.

Jolanta acknowledged the contribution and excellent collaboration with her co-Conveners in the WG, Paul Hackley and Paula Gonçalves, and because of the size of the final MS, she raised the question to the floor whether this MS should be submitted for publication as a paper or a book with Elsevier.

Discussion:

P. Hackley congratulated Paula and Jolanta on leading the effort to complete the two manuscripts, respectively.

A.G. Borrego congratulated the Conveners for the prepared manuscripts and highlighted the fact that if the second MS is published as a book with Elsevier the copyright will automatically pass to the publishing house and will not stay with ICCP. Alternatively ICCP could attempt to publish the MS alone in the form of an e-book and keep the copyright.

P. Hackley stated that an e-book is not as prestigious as a hardcopy book in a publishing house and does not reflect the value and effort put in the preparation of the MS.

J.Kus indicated that if the MS is submitted to be published in the form of a book it needs modification to match the requirements of a book and therefore the publication will be delayed by this additional effort.

D. Flores offered to investigate with Elsevier whether it is possible or not to publish the book with this publisher, but ICCP retains the copyright, and advise on actions to take to achieve that.

S. Kalaitzidis stated that since this publication will be an ICCP copyright then the content has to be approved by the members of Commission II before the submission for publication.

It was agreed that when the MS is ready it will be posted on the ICCP webpage and become available to the members. The request for approval from Com.II will be placed in the 2025 meeting.

J. Kus asked for members of Com.II who are willing to review the MS. S. Kalaitzidis and G. Siavalas volunteered to review. Additional voluntary reviewers should contact the authors when manuscript 2 becomes available for review.

Commission II thanks Jolanta, Paul and Paula for their enormous effort in the preparation of the two manuscripts and congratulates them for the publication of manuscript 1 under the GOLD access system.

11:20 – 12:00- Correction Function for Fluorescence Lamps WG – Conveners: *Jolanta Kus and Paul Hackley*

Jolanta continued the presentations showing the efforts done under this WG since the last meeting, after giving a short account of activities between 1997-2014 related to the acquisition of calibrated quartz-iodine lamps and the performance of two inter-laboratory exercises on fluorescence spectral measurements, which resulted in two published articles respectively. However, in the 2015 meeting in Potsdam it was suggested that supplementary work is required for the standardization of the methodology for spectral fluorescence measurements, particularly on the establishment of a correction function, which is the problem that the activities of the WG try to solve.

The work was carried out in the BGR facilities by the presenter and was a continuation of the work that commenced last year searching and testing certified reference materials for spectral fluorescence measurements, spectrometer device and emission lamps. Several limitations with regards to the compatibility of the lamps to different microscopes stages were noticed. Eventually, the absolute and relative intensity of the ICCP Lamp 2B were measured in a Zeiss Axio Imager M2m, with a TEC-5 spectrometer operating in the 200-980 nm spectral range. The software used was the Hilgers FOSSIL Spectral and observa-

tions were made with a 63x water objective without water immersion. Several strange peaks that could not be explained were identified in the relative and absolute intensity vs. wavelength curves, which are also part of the calculated correction function.
The same measurement was repeated with the calibrated Gigahertz Lamp (ISS 5P-10-V01), the specifications of which were described. The Gigahertz lamp is not equipped with an opalin glass and the direct usage of immersion objectives is not possible with this lamp. However, the Convener is in contact with the manufacturer to add a cover glass of specific reflectance and transmission. In addition, this lamp requires 1h warm up time as opposed to the ICCP lamp, which only requires at least 10 min to warm up and to reach the correct and stable colour temperature. The measured emission spectra of the Gigahertz lamp under the same conditions as with the ICCP lamp did not display peaks or shoulders for both the absolute and relative intensity curves. The correction function from this lamp acquired at 1 μm resolution was correct to 10 μm resolution of the certificate and was then applied to the spectrum of sample C3 of the 2014 Thermal Indices WG exercise. For validation of the wavelength accuracy of the spectral measurements, an average curve of 10 points was also acquired from the BAM-F012 standard and compared to the certified spectrum of the standard displaying spectral emission of 8 peaks and shoulders. The Convener concluded that every set-up will have a different correction function because of differences in the configuration and the dimensions of the illumination trays. For this reason, a round robin exercise was proposed as a future activity with defined specifications and requirements. The proposed exercise will be performed on the BAM-0F012 reference material kindly supplied by Dr. U. Resch-Genger (BAM) and will involve the Hilgers FOSSIL Spectral software for the acquisition of the spectra, with the availability of the Gigahertz lamp in the participating labs being a pre-requisite. The well-designed methodology of the set up is essential and includes among others warm-up time, distance to the objective, type of objective, magnification and numerical aperture, background correction, dark current correction, filters set, etc.
A list was circulated to the floor for interested participants to sign up for this exercise and was returned to the Convener.
Discussion:
A.G. Borrego indicated that the observed differences in the peaks between the uncorrected and corrected spectra could be the result of device limitations in resolution (1 nm vs. 5 nm). The Convener agreed to test this assumption by intrapolating the emission spectra from different devices.
A.G. Borrego also suggested that other software for spectral acquisition should also be allowed to participate in the round robin exercise. The Convener responded that it is possible but in that case, the methodology and specifications should be adjusted to the other operating software systems and agreed to accept those to in the exercise.
P. Hackley inquired about the cost of the Gigahertz lamp, which according to the Convener should be in the order of 10k $USD.

Com.II thanks Jolanta Kus for carrying out and presenting this work under the frame of this WG.

12:00 – 12:15- DOMVR Accreditation Programme – João Graciano Mendonça Filho

João Graciano Mendonça Filho presented the 2024 DOMVR Accreditation Programme explaining the objectives of the programme and the timeline for the current exercise. At the time of the meeting in September, the information letters and spreadsheets for the return of the results had been distributed to the participants. However, even though the process with the online applications for participation was smooth there were several issues with inaccuracies in the address or contact information of the participants which resulted in the late distribution of the physical samples to them. At the time of the meeting, the tentative timeline was that sample distribution would be completed in September and the participants would return the results for evaluation between October and December. This means that the issuing of the new certificates will post-date the expiry date of the certificates awarded to the accredited petrographers from 2022 exercise (31st December 2024). The Convener asked from the Commission to approve the extension of the validity of the 2022 certificates until the 31st of either January of 2025 or indefinitely until the 2024 are issued.
João Graciano presented information on sample requirements in order for them to be appropriate for the DOMVR Accreditation Programme, and showed the historical evolution of the participation in the exercise since 2006. Forty-eight analysts participate in the 2024/2025 round which is the 10th in total. Thirty-six out of them continue from previous rounds and 12 are new entries. Same number (36) of analysts are ICCP members and 12 are non-members. The geographic distribution of the participants revealed that most of them work in the USA (19%) with Brazil (15%) and Australia (13%) being second and third, respectively in number of participants. Several countries have only one participant accounting for 2% of the total analysts in this round. The Convener also highlighted that the number of laboratories providing multiple participants is always relevant to the programme because of potential bias in the dataset introduced by colleagues. In this round, 7 laboratories participate with multiple participants and different sets of samples were sent to each one of them in order to mitigate the potential bias mentioned above.
The Convener also praised the outstanding performance of the database and the evaluation software and as opposed to the several previous years was very pleased to announce that the sample bank is healthy again with replenished supplies of new samples, which will secure the activities of the programme for several more rounds. In more detail, 7 new samples were donated and after tested for TOC, organic composition on strewn slides, and vitrinite reflectance were incorporated to the sample bank. New samples included 3 from India, 2 from Brazil, 1 from Portugal and 1 from Nigeria and the Convener briefly described the age and specific location of each one of them.
João Graciano thanked Jolanta Kus for assisting with sample distribution, Joan Esterle for invoicing and archiving of the applicants, and Magda Misz-Kennan for helping in obtaining new samples. He is also grateful to those who donated samples to the programme including among others Prof. Dr. Atul Varma, Dr. Andre Singolon, Dr. Mario Assine, and Dr. Luis Duarte.

Discussion:
Jolanta Kus congratulated João Graciano for all of his effort in running such an important programme for ICCP and agreed with the Convener's proposal to extend the expiry date of the 2022/2023 certificates until issuing of the 2024/2025 certificates. Commission II thanks João for his continuous effort to keep running this significant activity for ICCP.

12:15 – 12:50 – Classification of Dispersed Organic Matter, ICCP–TSOP Atlas WG- Convener: Paula Alexandra Gonçalves

The Convener gave a short summary of the history of this WG from the original idea and creation in 2003, to the objectives of the Atlas and of all past versions and rounds of review up to date. The modifications since the last meeting in Patras included deletion of some low quality images, the addition of new photographs received from Romania, and the addition of new references. Paula stated that the plan is to publish the Atlas next year in the ICCP and TSOP websites and mentioned some minor problems to be dealt with before that. The first is that for some components all photographs originate from the same sample, and the second is related to issues emerged last year with some ICCP members indicating during the Patras meeting and through later communication, that the classification of components shown in the Atlas is not consistent with the ICCP/TSOP DOM classification. Specifically, the discrepancies are noticed in three components namely, the term bitumen as stated in the Atlas vs. solid bitumen in the classification, the omission of amorphinite from the Atlas, while it is an equivalent to bituminite component in the classification, and whether exsudanite should be included in the liptinite maceral group or under the secondary components group. The Convener stated her intention to communicate with the TSOP President Lei Zhao with regards to these three issues that still remain open and asked from the members of Commission II for comments and advice related to this topic.

Discussion
During the discussion session, it was agreed that both the Atlas and the ICCP/TSOP tables should align and several Commis-

sion II members expressed arguments on either the inclusion or omission of the term amorphinite from the Atlas and whether the term exsudatinite is relevant to DOM as it is in coal. There was a general consensus that the term bitumen should be replaced with solid bitumen. For the outstanding items of amorphinite and exsudatinite it was eventually suggested by the chair of Commission II, to add footnotes to the Atlas table to include amorphinite as a maceral equivalent to bituminite and explaining that exsudatinite is a secondary component in DOM organic matter although it is included in the lipinite maceral group in the classification of liptinite because it can be very well defined in coal but not as an independent component in DOM.
G. Smith asked Paula to circulate a list of components for which photographs are still missing or are only available from one sample. The Convener agreed to circulate a list of those components.
J. Kus suggested an announcement that the Atlas is ready to be published and request for approval from Commission II members. The announcement will be published in the ICCP Newsletter, in the ICCP webpage and will be circulated with an e -mail to Commission II members.

Commission II thanks Paula for her continuous effort to update the Atlas and incorporate received feedback to it.

12:50 – 13:30 –Geological Application of Graptolite Reflectance WG – Conveners: Xiaowei Zheng and Thomas Gentzis (Presented by Jolanta Kus on behalf of the Conveners)

The WG group was created in the 2022 meeting in New Delhi and after a call for a round robin exercise and sample distribution that was carried out during 2023, the report presented the results of this first round robin exercise. Twenty-four analysts expressed interest to take the exercise and 15 returned results on time to be included in the evaluation of results. The analysts were asked to measure and report the random reflectance of granular, non-granular and nodular graptolite, respectively in a single sample that they received. Except for the received results the Convener reported some initial feedback reported by some analysts including that most of the graptolites have continuous morphologies from cleat graptolite to more bituminite-like substance making it difficult to include them into a certain class (P. Crosdale) and that the granular graptolites are heavily mineralized and contain solid bitumen resulting in very high standard deviation (A. Zdravkov).
The group statistics for each of the graptolite varieties were presented and it was demonstrated that for the granular and non-granular graptolites the mean values were similar but the range of reported values among the analysts was very broad and the group standard deviation for both varieties were exceptionally high compared to the mean values. The results were significantly improved in the case of nodular graptolite with a narrower range in reported values and a significantly lower group standard deviation. The actual values are not disclosed in this document because the pool of results is still open for analysts who did not have time to submit their results on time to be included in the presentation to Commission II. For this reason, participants who were present in the room and intended to take the exercise were asked to exit the room when the slides showing the actual values were presented. From the results, it became evident that analysts have a difficulty in identifying granular vs. non-granular graptolite and the Convener asked for feedback on how this issue should be approached in the future.

Discussion:
Several analysts who took the exercise commented that the sample did not contain much non-granular graptolite or that they had difficulties separating this form from the granular morphotype.
J. Kus stated that the initial planning was that the round robin exercise in this WG would be carried out at the same time with an exercise under the Zooclasts WG under Commission I so analysts would become more acquainted with the identification of the different graptolite varieties. However, during the execution the two exercises did not progress with the same pace and analysts did not have the necessary exposure to identifying the granular vs. non-granular varieties resulting in the high range of mean values and group standard deviations reported. The Convener of the Zooclast WG, Thomas Gentzis should be contacted to be aware of this issue.
J. Reyes commented that the identification of granular vs. non-granular graptolite is also a matter of the microscope's resolution since under higher resolution observation mode more graptolite would reveal a granular texture.
A. Zdravkov noted that the association of micirinite in the matrix of the graptolite bodies results in high standard deviation because of the internal reflections and the higher reflectance of this maceral.
It was proposed that measurement of $R_o$max instead of Random reflectance would help mitigate this issue, and P. Hackley mentioned that his group measured $R_o$max in the same sample showing that there is very low anisotropy in the nodular forms of graptolite and higher in the non-granular graptolite.
It was decided to propose to the Conveners to organize a second exercise on a different sample, which contains higher amounts of well-defined non-granular graptolite and that both random and maximum reflectance should be measured on it. It was also suggested to send an unprepared aliquot of the new sample to J. Reyes and J. Nedzweckas for checking if non-granular graptolite can be identified in this one.

Commission II congratulates Sherry for her efforts in coordinating the round robin exercise and quickly advancing the activities of this WG.

13:30 – 14:00-Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:40 – Identification of Thermal Maturity Relevant Organic Matter WG– Convener: Paul Hackley

Paul Hackley presented the history of the WG including the original problem to be solved, which was to provide clear guidelines for the identification of thermal maturity relevant organic matter population in dispersed organic matter, and a quick overview of the past activities and major milestones, such as the development of the ASTM D7708 for the Microscopical Determination of the Reflectance of Vitrinite Dispersed in Sedimentary Rocks and two articles published in Marine and Petroleum Geology summarizing the results of two interlaboratory exercises on the identification and measurement of vitrinite and solid bitumen reflectance in sedimentary rocks, respectively.
Paul refreshed the planned activities for 2023 onwards as they were presented in the Patras meeting, which included a photographed-based round robin exercise to identify vitrinite vs. solid bitumen, a round robin exercise using the Hilgers Fossil Student system on calibrated images, continuing the maintenance of D7708 and work on the standardization of broad ion beam milling in sample preparation for reflectance measurements. Paul reported that there were difficulties in accomplishing the goals set in 2023 primarily because of difficulties to secure funding to continue the activities but also administration blockers of several organizations on the use of the Hilgers Fossil Student for a round robin exercise. Paul reported that there was progress made in the testing of BIB milling vs. conventional polishing and showed that BIB milling yields consistently higher mean %Ro values but it does not result in lower standard deviations, and commented on the effect of the cooling of the stage on the measurement quality. One outlier that showed lower %Ro post-BIB milling was attributed to the effect of coarse milling followed by a finer beam effect, which created facets in the surface resulting in lower %Ro readings.
Concluding the presentation, Paul stated that the original goal of the WG is largely met with the establishment of the D7708 standard and the publication of the two papers and proposed to either close the activities of the WG or his intention to resign as a Convener and be replaced by another person. He also stated that the maintenance of D7708 will continue regardless, similar to further work on BIB-milling standardization, and assistance in spectral fluorescence standardization, since he secured funding for new spectral fluorescence equipment.

Discussion:
Several members of Commission II indicated that the activities of the WG should continue with several areas identified for fu-

ture work, including among others the identification of different generations of solid bitumen, the conversion of solid bitumen % Ro to equivalent vitrinite reflectance, etc.
S. Kalaitzidis proposed that Paul will continue to be a transitional Convener until a new group of Conveners is appointed. Paul agreed to carry out transitional Convener duties.
Grzegorz Lis, expressed interest to join the Conveners board and it was eventually proposed to the General Assembly that Greg will join Paul in the group of Conveners of this WG. The proposal was approved in the closing plenary session of the General Assembly.

Commission II thanks Paul Hackley for his highly valued work and determination together with the major achievements offered within this WG all these years welcomes Greg as a co-Convener and wishes him success with his new duties.

14:40 – 14:50 – Identification of Dispersed Organic Matter – Convener: Jolanta Kus

J. Kus briefly refreshed the aims of the WG, which include to test the suitability of the ICCP-TSOP classification of DOM in the identification of organic components in whole rock pellets and to modify, if necessary, the ICCP definitions of liptinite macerals (lamalginite, telalginite and bituminite-ICCP, 1993). She also gave a brief overview of the history and previous round robin exercises and publications of past activities with extra focus on the results of the 2020 round robin exercise, which warranted the need for the analysts to repeat the exercise during 2023 on the same polished pellets, which were dry-polished in the same laboratory. The results of which were presented in the Patras meeting.
Jolanta also presented the plan of activities until the 2025 meeting, which include the preparation of a draft manuscript to be submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed journal summarizing the results of the 2016, 2018 and 2020 round robin exercises focusing on specific problematic areas, These areas include the clarification of the term “unstructured”. description of the morphological characteristics of bituminite according to its definition and how to identify bituminite from alginite macerals and mineral-bituminous groundmass. The draft manuscript is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year 2024.

Commission II thanks Jolanta for her energy and dedication to the activities of this WG.

14:50 – 15:30 – Igneous intrusions in coal seams and shales WG – Conveners: Sandra Rodrigues, Jolanta Kus, Magdalena Misz-Kennan and Sue Rimmer

The report of the activities of this WG was presented through a recorded presentation by Sandra Rodrigues. The objective of the WG is to investigate the petrographic changes in dispersed organic, coaly and mineral matter promoted by contact metamorphism. The Conveners plan to meet the objectives through the execution of photomicrograph-based round robin exercises which will have as direct output the preparation of Petrographic Atlas that will include megascopic and microscopic features of related to the impact of igneous intrusions on dispersed organic matter in coal seams and shales of various rank and thermal maturity. The focus of activities during the last year was the compilation of photomicrographs in a Microsoft Forms format to be distributed to the participants for the first round robin exercise. The exercise is still under preparation. In addition to that activity, three samples of thermally-altered coals provided by Prof. A.I. Karayigit, which were characterised by J. Kus applying organic petrography, XRD/XRF analysis, IR-spectroscopy, and TOC and RockEval analyses.
The round robin exercise will focus on the identification of petrographic features in heat affected rock particles. The identification will focus on three primary items including, the characterisation of organic/carbon material (thermal alteration, formation of new particles, optical anisotropy), microstructures (devolatilization pores, fractures, breccia, etc.) and minerals (metallic vs. non-metallic, mode of occurrence, shape, mineral paragenesis). A list of participants who have already expressed interest to participate was shown and more participants were invited to sign up to the exercise. A document was circulated in the room for this reason.
Discussion:
P. Crosdale asked for clarification whether the objectives of the WG relate to the establishment of criteria for thermally altered coal particles or to study intruded coal seams. He mentioned examples of different sorts of alteration including liquefied and reinjected coal in overlying sediments and offered to supply a sample to assist with the activities of the WG. Following a discussion around the features of altered vs. unaltered vitrinite, Peter strongly recommended that the measurement of $R_o$max and $R_o$min and the determination of bireflectance should be used as a diagnostic criterion on the identification of heat-altered vitrinite.

Commission II congratulates Sandra, Jolanta, Magda and Sue for their initiative to create this working group and wishes them success in their first efforts.

15:30 - 16:30 – Identification of Secondary Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks– Conveners: George Siavalas & Paul Hackley

George Siavalas presented the activities of the Identification of Secondary Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks WG, established in 2021. He described the WG’s first, photograph-based exercise showing the objectives and anticipated outcome from this exercise together with the material supplied to the interested participants. Because of the low response rate the Conveners re-ran the exercise in real time in the conference room using an interactive presentation tool which allowed the attendees to give their interpretation on 9 photomicrographs demonstrated on the presentation monitor using their smartphone or laptop. The participants were asked to describe the components shown on the screen and rank the different diagnostic criteria. The participant’s responses were recorded and the Conveners will evaluate the answers of the participants and report the findings.

Discussion:
The interactive presentation stimulated discussion on the shown photographs and their identification. Suggestions for improvement, particularly regarding the clarity of the component that participants were asked to identify and the context of the samples were received. Overall feedback received for this practice was very positive and many analysts stated that they would be interested in participating in more similar interactive sessions.
Commission II thanks George and Paul for their time and effort in convening this WG and congratulates them.

16:30 – 16:45 – Closing Remarks – Jolanta Kus & George Siavalas

The Chair of Commission II, Jolanta Kus closed the meeting of the commission by congratulating all Conveners and Participants and asked for proposals from the floor for new working groups. The chair showed a list of potential subjects, which could potentially warrant further investigation within a WG under Com.II. These subjects include: Faults and other structural discontinuities and impact on VRo (%), Relationship between VRo (%) and Hg porosity across sedimentary basins, paleo-wildfire temperature vs. fusinite reflectance, Particle size and particle area analyses vs maceral group analysis in rock samples? (via the Hilgers Fossil Student software), and meta-liptinite in the geological context. No further comments or suggestions were added from the floor and Commission II concluded its activities during the 75th ICCP Meeting.

The meeting of Commission II ended at 16:45 on September 24th 2024.

Commission II congratulates and recognizes all of the significant and valuable work of the Convenors and Participants, thanks all ICCP Commission II Attendees, and special thanks to Stavros Kalaitzidis for helping to update the webpage of Commission II.

MINUTES OF COMMISSION III

INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY

Chair: Sandra Rodrigues (s.rodrigues@uq.edu.au)
Secretary: Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi (mwojtaszek@itpe.pl)

Opening remarks:
The sessions of Commission III took place On Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of September. 36 members attended the session of Commission III. The Chair (remotely – prerecorded presentation) opened the Session by welcoming attendees. Sandra mentioned that it is her first time in the role of Chair of Commission III, for which she has been for many years the Secretary. Sandra also welcomed Margo, who also served as Secretary for the first time this year. The Chair of the Com III presented the status of several WGs, which have been active or partly active during the past few years. Sandra described the activity of Com III on Facebook and invited conveners and participants to send photos and short notes to publish on social media.
Due to the absence of the Chair in person, the Secretary acted as Chair during the Sessions of Com III and asked for help Konstantinos Perleros to act as a Secretary.
Commission's III sessions included presentations of the following WG's:

- Microscopy of Carbon Materials
- Coke Petrography
- Environmental Application of Organic Petrology
- Identification and Petrographic Classification of Components in Fly Ashes
- Self-heating of Coal and Coal Wastes
- Microscopic constituents in solid residues from household combustion
- Coal Blends Accreditation Program

Microscopy of Carbon Materials – Georgeta Predeanu & Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
The Presentation was given by the Convenor, Georgeta Predeanu. The Convenor presented the past activities of the WG, as well as the recent achievement in the form of published paper: (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0166516224000764).
The paper entitled "Structure and morphology of chars and activated carbons obtained from thermal treatment of coal and biomass origin materials, including their wastes: Results from the ICCP Microscopy of Carbon Materials Working Group" was authored by the active members of the WG. Georgeta presented the summary of the activities of the WG describing the sample bank and the methodology used during the exercises performed during the years 2009-2022.
After many successful years of convening, Georgeta resigned from being the Convenor of the WG. Małgorzata thanked Georgeta for her enormous contribution to the activities of the working group and the development of techniques for the analysis of carbon materials using organic petrography. Małgorzata proposed that the working group remains active, and therefore proposed to appoint a new Convenor and herself remain as a co-convener. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi suggested a person from Rosa Menendez's research team. The final decision was to leave the WG open and request for a convenor until the next meeting.

Coke Petrography - Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
The Convenor Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi presented the recent activities and exercises of the WG. So far, all the conducted exercises have indicated some difficulties in achieving accepted consistency of results, mostly for the middle-size optical textures. Taking into account the results of the previous exercises, Małgorzata suggested to use a more simplified classification, which can reduce the variations in the effectiveness of consistently identifying the textures. She presented the next planned exercise of the coke optical textures based on the simplified classification of textures, which is planned to be released in the end of December 2024. Małgorzata proposed also to run the Round Robin exercise with physical samples of coke, which she will prepare as polished blocks and distribute. Jolanta Kus offered her support in sample's distribution. This exercise will begin before or during next ICCP meeting.

Environmental Applications of Organic Petrology – Georgios Siavalas, Stavros Kalaitzidis
The Convenor Georgios Siavalas recalled the last organized exercise, as part of the WG's activities. Although the results of the exercise have already been evaluated, George invited participants, who have not yet taken part in the exercise but are willing to do so, to send the results. Additionally, George raised a problem with the new standard, or lack thereof, regarding biochar reflectance analysis. George indicated that a company is interested in assessing the permanence of biochar based on reflectance, but due to the lack of standards and confirmed laboratory competencies in this area, the company remains skeptical about this method. George said that ICCP's involvement in such activities would promote the use of organic petrology. George proposed interlaboratory research on the determination of biochar reflectivity within the ICCP framework. The only uncertain issue is whether such activities will be carried out within the existing working group or whether a new group should be created, for example, Charcoal Petrography. It was decided that the testing of reproducibility have to be done as a first step. The number of points necessary to measure remains a controversial issue. This is strongly dependent on whether the analyst uses an automatic or manual method. Measuring 500 points using the manual method is very laborious and time-consuming. Members are divided on the issue of whether reflectivity should be measured at 500 points or 250 is enough. This dilemma should be solved by inter-laboratory tests and further discussions with the WG members. Georgios was asked to prepare a proposal for the new Working Group to be presented in the end of the Com III session as the biochar work will not take place under the Environmental Applications of Organic Petrology WG.

Petrographic Identification and Classification of Components in Fly Ashes – Bruno Valentim, Nikki Wagner
Bruno Valentim presented (pre-recorded presentation) the results of the last 2024 exercise, in which the participants were asked to identify the fly ash components, and particularly whether they are fused or unfused. The exercise form was accompanied by the instructions and guidelines for the correct identifications containing necessary definitions. The Convenor used the Microsoft Forms tool to perform the last three exercises, and this was praised by participants as a very friendly tool. The agreement was based on the statistical analysis involving Fleiss Kappa agreement index. Ten participants took part in the exercise. The results presented significant discrepancies, even in the case of evidently fused or unfused particles. Also, the average time needed to perform the exercise was surprisingly long. The Convenor summarized that the significant discrepancies could be a result of not having the same understanding of the "Fused" and "Unfused" definitions. The only acceptable agreement was in the case of the particles containing two different materials in equal amounts.
Georgios Siavalas commented, that the time is not a correct parameter to evaluate as some participants could go away from the computer for a break while doing the exercise. It was commented that the

definition of "fused" for cokes and chars is different, so maybe it would be good to call it plasticized/non- plasticized. It was also noticed that it is difficult to estimate the percentage share of components "by eye", and that not everyone can do it. The members suggested rewriting the definitions and percentage contents (1/3, ¼ or ½) and repeat the exercise.

Self-heating of Coal and Coal Wastes – Jolanta Kus, Magdalena Misz-Kennan, Deolinda Flores

Jolanta Kus presented the summary of the latest WG's activities and the results of the last exercise on thermally/oxidatively affected coals in coal seams. The objectives of the WG were to apply the established classification of oxidatively and thermally affected coaly matter in self-heated coals and to test the applicability of the classification of oxidatively and thermally altered coaly matter in self-heated coals. The main aim of the exercise was to test the modified terminologies of the following categories: porous and massive, isotropic, and anisotropic in natural cokes, and fractures. The Convenor repeated the structure and rules of the exercise. Seventeen Participants took part in the 2024 exercise. Jolanta presented the preliminary statistical evaluation of the exercise, describing Level of Overall Agreement (LOA) by category:

- Altered and Newly Formed LOA for both at 79%,
- Coke and Pseudomicrinite LOA of 88% and 91%, respectively,
- Porous and Massive LOA of 82 and 90%, respectively,
- Isotropic and Anisotropic LOA of 80% and 79%,

It was discussed that some categories required modification for more clarity to increase LOA. Members noted that categories "newly formed" and "coke" should be more precisely described as they are still a bit confusing, the same with porous and massive terms. There is also a need to put an evident threshold between altered material and newly formed.

Microscopic constituents in solid residues from household combustion - Iwona and Zbigniew Jelonek and Magdalena Misz-Kennan

The presentation of Microscopic constituents in solid residues from household combustion WG was given on behalf of the Conveners (Iwona and Zbigniew Jelonek and Magdalena Misz-Kennan) by the Secretary of Com III. The presentation showed the raw results of the 3rd exercise. The exercise aimed to optically identify the quality, and quantity of the components found in ashes obtained from household furnaces,. The presentation contained the sample selection and preparation, as well as the description of the exercise guidelines. Eighteen participants took part in the exercise. The Convenors noticed a problem in the identification of coke and metal particles. They also plan to consolidate some categories together as it was also suggested by participants. The next step is to propose a fourth exercise, which will consider all participant comments. It is planned to send out photomicrographs for three ashes to check the accuracy and repeatability of the results. Only when 90% accuracy in the identification of individual components has been achieved will a new classification be proposed. A full static study will be presented at the next ICCP Committee meeting in 2025, after which a publication will be prepared containing all the results received from the participants.

Coal Blends Accreditation Program - Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi

The Convenor Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi presented the progress of the next round of Accreditation within Coal Blends AP. The Organizer presented the time frame of the program:

- Coal samples preparation and blends' composition November 2024
- Samples will be distributed to the participants in December 2024
- Samples will be delivered by Participants in January-March 2025
- Results submission by 31st of March 2025

The new certificate will be valid from 01/07/2025 till 30/06/2027.
The program collected 28 participants plus one during the Thursday session, so in total 29 participants, the same as in the previous round. The Participants come from all over the world: Australia, Colombia, Czech Rep., France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Poland, South Africa, Spain, and the USA. Seventeen participations are ENTRY ones, while 12 are Continuing.
The Organiser informed the members that the sample bank has coals for the next rounds.
The participants were asked to monitor the possible Customs announcements in case their samples' dispatch require additional actions to be made in the country of destination.
The budget booked to organize the CBAP round is 500 Euros and contains samples' preparation, packing and posting. All the samples will be sent by regular mail.

Additional Business

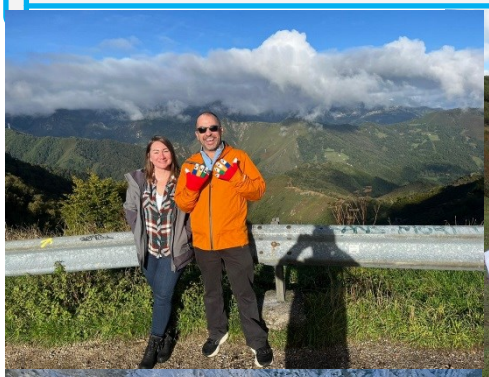
During the COM III session, it was also discussed that there is a problem in the recent standard EN 1860-2 for the determination of the inadmissible additives in charcoal and charcoal briquettes for BBQ. The problems were mostly related to the laconic and unclear description, as well as the problem regarding if the precision of maceral point counting can ensure the detection level of 1% up to the first decimal place. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi mentioned the need to have a document, to which the next version of the standard can refer. The members agreed on the need for ICCP support in this issue, the form of which will be formulated in the forthcoming months and discussed also within the Standardization WG under Com I. Agnieszka Drobniak commented to refer to the recent studies of her research team. The team was kindly invited to cooperate with ICCP activities.

Georgios Siavalas presented the proposal of the new Working Group "Biochar Reflectance". It was proposed for Georgios Siavalas and Zhiheng Zhou to become the Convenors of the new WG. Both petrographers are experienced in the field of charcoal analysis. The future activities of the WG will be focused on establishing a convenient methodology for biochar reflectance measurement as well as determining the repeatability and reproducibility of reflectance measurements that can be achieved. Convenors are to obtain knowledge on this subject by conducting international Round Robin exercises based on biochar samples of various origins. The General Assembly approved the creation of the new Working Group and its planned scope of activities.

Com I Microscopy Session, lead by Britta Hilgers

Editor: ICCP Members and interested people, I encourage you to read the minutes and apply for participation in the various Working Group activities.

ICCP FIELD TRIP, CANTABRIAN ZONE, NORTH SPAIN









ICCP CULTURAL VISIT



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS —WELCOME TO THE ICCP

Surname: Fatah First Name: Sardar Title: Mr Position: PhD candidate
Degree: PhD
Organization: Department of Earth Sciences and Petroleum, College of Science, University of Sulaimani
Address: 64002 Kurdistan Region-Iraq
Email: sardar.fatah@univsul.edu.iq / sardargeo@yahoo.com
Phone:+00964 7703554808
Sponsoring member: Stavros Kalaitzidis
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: MSc. Thesis entitled "Source rock characterization and biomarker distribution of Sargelu Formation (Middle Jurassic), Miran Oil Field, Sulaimani area, Kurdistan Region, NE-Iraq

Surname: Sun First Name: Beilei Title: Dr / Prof Position: Professor
Degree: Phd
Organization:
Department of Earth science and Engineer, Taiyuan University of Technology, Shanxi, China
Address: 79 Yingzexi St , China
Email: sunbeilei@tyut.edu.cn
Phone:+8613834547128
Sponsoring member: Sandra Rodrigues
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: PhD in Mineral Resource Prospecting and Exploration from the same university, focusing on the basin evolution of Xishan Coalfield, North China. Dr. Beilei Sun specializes in geochronology of coal system using the U-Pb isotope systems, and fission track.

Surname: Sarkar First Name: Archchi Title: Position: PhD candidate
Degree: MSc
Organization: Pandit Deendayal Energy University, India
Address: 68/112, Jessore Road, Dum Dum, Kolkata 700074, West Bengal, India
Email: sarkar.archchi@gmail.com
Phone:+:+91 89109 90313
Sponsoring member: Atul Kumar Varma
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: Masters dissertation: "Characterization of Korba Coals and its Utilization Potentiality for Sponge Iron Industry" . At present, she is carrying out her doctoral research on the macromolecular characterization of coal and shale, using various geochemical and spectroscopic proxies. She is well-versed in multiple instrument operations and analysis of spectral data, along with a solid background in petrography.

Surname: Petratou First Name: Georgia Title: Miss Position:
Degree: MSc
Organization: University of Patras
Address: Patras, Greece
Email: georpet94@gmail.com
Phone:+:+306945416487
Sponsoring member: Stavros Kalaitzidis
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: MSc dissertation: "Petrological study of self-heated coal wastes from the Bytom dump, Upper Silesia, Poland"

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Petra David and
Aivars Depers

NEW FULL MEMBERS

ALL ASSOCIATE MEMBERS MAY PROGRESS TO FULL MEMBERS — SEE WEBSITE FOR BENEFITS , WHICH INCLUDES VOTING FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alexander Zdravkov

NEWS FROM TSOP

40th Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (14-22 September 2024)

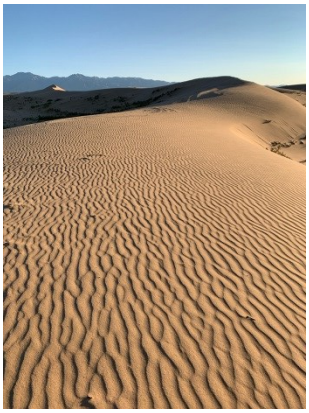
Decoding the shift: Organics and Critical Minerals in Future Energy

We had a very successful meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) with nearly 100 participants with 71 talks, 21 posters and 50 oral presentations over the two days of technical talks. 12 students presented, and they did a fantastic job! Participants came from 15 countries including China, India, Mongolia, USA, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Russia, Kazakhstan, Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Canada, Greece and Poland.

Group photo of the participants of the 40th Annual Conference of The Society for Organic Petrology, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Before the main technical talks started, we had two workshops; the first on oil and gas shale presented by Prof Marc Bustin, Amanda Bustin (both form the University of British Colombia, Canada), John Hattner and Jim Davidson (both from NSAI, Dallas, USA). The second workshop was on Critical Minerals in Coal by Prof Shifeng Dai (China University of Mining and Technology Beijing).
There was also a pre-conference cultural field trip where 33 of our members and some of their spouses went into the countryside, rode horses, were introduced to eagle hunting, visited the giant Chinggis Khan statue, and ate like a Mongolian!





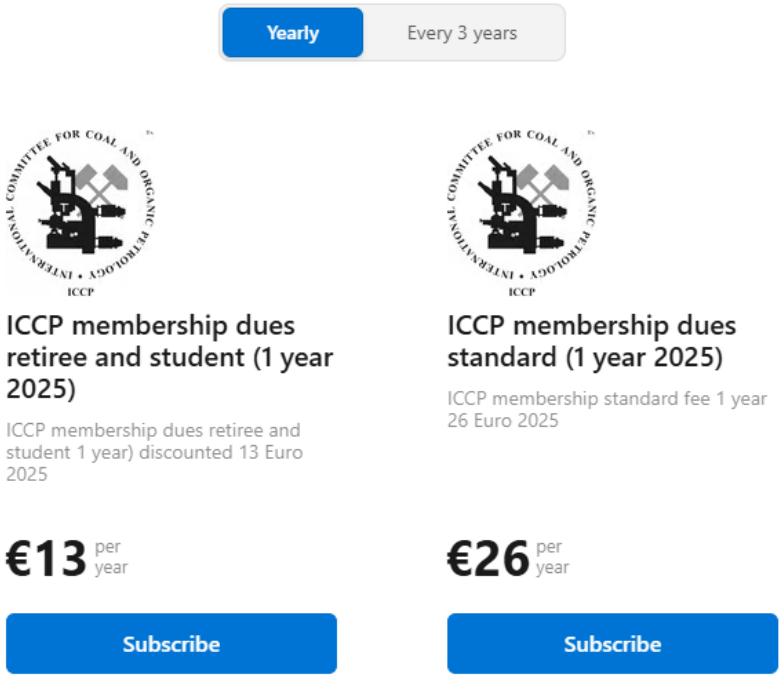
L—R: Priyanka Shukla giving her student presentation during the technical session.
Konstantinos Perleros (left) and Marvin Moroeng at the Chinggis Khan monument near Ulaanbaatar
Dune field on day 3 of field trip near the Govi-Altai Mountain range (photograph courtesy Tim A. Moore).

As part of the technical sessions, we had a special symposium on the morning of the second day that addressed the 'Geological Issues of Mongolia and Adjacent Region' where we learned, among other things, about critical metal distribution and the vegetational composition of the Lower Cretaceous.
After the conference 18 participants embarked on a 5-day field trip through the geo-vastness of Central Mongolia. We visited the Tavan Tolgoi coking coal deposit, Flaming Cliffs (where Jon O'Neill of ALS Brisbane, found a dinosaur egg!), The Bada Bogd Mountain area (where we spent a cold, -5ºC night in tents), the Bayanteeg coal mine and finally a stop at a Lower Cretaceous oil shale deposit (see the summary by Joan Esterle in the TSOP Newsletter).

Both the Proceedings and the field trip guide are available to members on the TSOP website (https://tsop.org/). As in the past, all presenters will be invited to submit a paper for review for a special Issue of the **International Journal of Coal Geology**.
Finally, the Organising Committee would like to thank our wonderful sponsors: Mongolian Mining Corporation; Terra Explorers Oil and Gas, Mongolia; Takhi Resources, Mongolia; TMK Energy, Mongolia; Netherland Sewell & Associates, Inc.; ALS Global; U.S. Geological Survey, Cipher Consulting Pty Ltd, Titan Energy Resources LLC and Petromatad.

Tim A Moore
On behalf of the Organising Committee of the 40th Annual TSOP Conference

ICCP MEMBERSHIP DUES 2025



Please make payments via the ICCP web page, or contact the Treasurer Joan Esterle

j.esterle@uq.edu.au

for an invoice and any queries.

You may continue to pay for 3 years in advance if you so wish.

Please ensure you keep you memberships dues up to date.

Note these dues exclude the accreditation fees.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED! PLEASE SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS, THOUGHTS, REQUESTS, CONNECTIONS, STUDENT ABSTRACTS, SHORT PAPERS, DISCUSSION POINTS.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, LET'S ENJOY IT AND MAKE IT FUN !

TSOP AWARD

John Castaño Honorary Membership Award

Call for nominations, 2025

Deadline: May 31, 2025

TSOP members are invited to nominate the scientist of your choice for the 2025 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, The Society for Organic Petrology's highest honor (www.tsop.org/honmem.htm). The award acknowledges distinction in a scientific discipline of significance to the society, in recognition of contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. The John Castaño Honorary Membership conveys life membership in the society. It is named in honor of John Castaño, one of our most active Houston-based founding members. John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later, as President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area, and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. John served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June 1997 issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

If you would like to suggest a candidate for the 2025 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, please submit a letter of recommendation and a brief vita of the nominee to:

Dr. Magdalena Misz-Kennan, University of Silesia, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Institute of Earth Sciences, ul. Będzińska 60, 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland; email: magdalena.misz@us.edu.pl by May 31, 2025.

It is suggested that supporting letters of recommendation from colleagues and other scientists accompany the package. Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work.

Nominations will be reviewed by the John Castaño Award Committee and results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. The selection process is confidential and nominees do not have to be former or current TSOP members.

The committee evaluates research, service and educational impact on the following criteria:

- **Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.**
- **Nominees recommended for service must demonstrate significance contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the society.**
- **Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines.**

Dr. Magdalena Misz-Kennan
TSOP Vice President, Chair of the Honorary Member Selection Committee

Commission II - Dispersed Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks Working Group

The conveners of the Dispersed Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks Working Group (Commission II) are pleased to announce the publication of a review paper titled "The petrology of dispersed organic matter in sedimentary rocks: Review and update" in the International Journal of Coal Geology. This paper is available Open Access and can be accessed from https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166516224001617

This comprehensive review synthesizes key literature on petrographic analysis of dispersed organic matter (DOM) in sedimentary rocks. It outlines the use of optical microscopy techniques in both reflected white light and fluorescence mode to aid in the identification of organic components and thermal maturity assessment. The paper is designed to serve as an efficient, concise and well-informed guide, offering recommendations that encourage further exploration and research in this field. It serves as a guide not only for specialists but also for students and researchers new to organic petrography and petrology.

The conveners would like to extend their gratitude to all contributing authors and to the ICCP members who have supported this WG over the years. This paper is dedicated to Dr. Walter Pickel (24.09.1957–03.06.2022), an outstanding scientist in the field of coal and organic petrology, coal geology, and scientific education.

Several authors of the paper enjoyed the conference dinner at the 75th ICCP Meeting in Oviedo. From left to right: Maria Hámor-Vidó, Paula C. Hackley, Henrik I. Petersen, Paula A. Gonçalves, Jolanta Kus, João G. Mendonça Filho and Isabel Suárez-Ruiz.

KNOW YOUR COAL PETROLOGIST

DID ANYONE IDENTIFY ALL FOUR?

L—R CLAUS DIESEL, MONIKA WOLF, EVA WOLFF-FISCHER, MARLIES TEICHMULLER,.OVIEDO 1983.

OVIEDO 2024

Some of the ICCP family at the Fuente de la Catedral.

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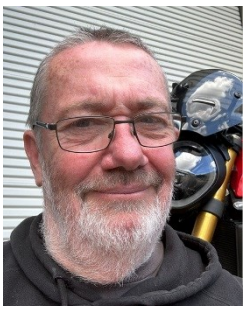

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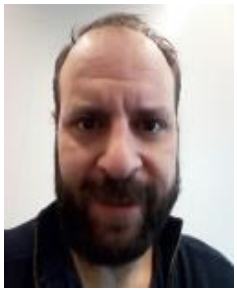
Commission II Chair
(2019—2026)
Dr Jolanta Kus



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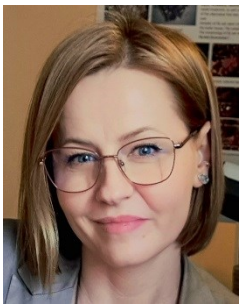

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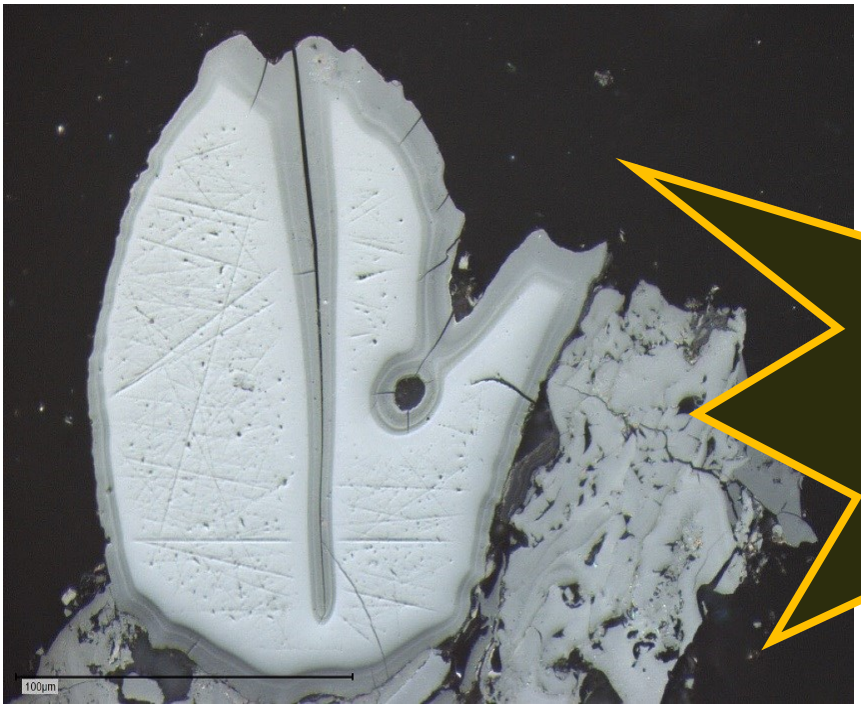
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ICCP ON THE 90TH EDITION OF ITS NEWSLETTER

Saints Peter and Paul?

The ICCP Newsletter would not be complete without at least one photomicrograph. Thumbs up to secretinite. Submission by N. W.



DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS 30 MARCH 2025