

ICCP NEWS



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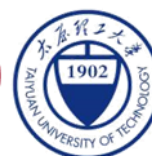
Newsletter of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP)
Founded 1953.
<http://www.iccop.org>



76th Annual Meeting of ICCP

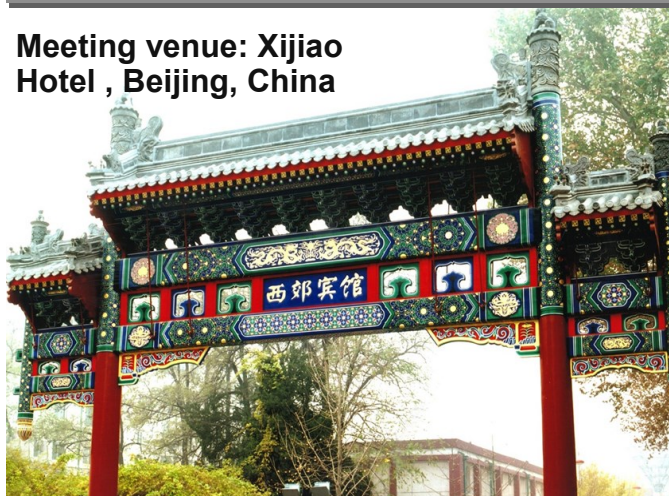
17-25 September 2025

Beijing, China



Organized by China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) (CUMTB) and Taiyuan University of Technology (TYUT)

Meeting venue: Xijiao Hotel, Beijing, China



**INCLUDED IN
THIS EDITION**
Obituary Carl Hilgers
ICCP2025 China

Student abstract
ICCP Training Course
New members
Membership dues
Know your petrologist

EDITORS COLUMN

Greetings colleagues.

I hope that your ICCP2025 travel plans are coming along and we will all meet in China in September. Prof Dai and his team have compiled documentation which has been on the website for a while ([Symposium - 76 ICCP Meeting](https://www.iccop.org/2025-76th-iccp-meeting-in-beijing-china/); (<https://www.iccop.org/2025-76th-iccp-meeting-in-beijing-china/>), and accessible from the ICCP webpage. In this Newsletter essential additional information is provided—please refer to pages 4–9 herein. I have never travelled to China before and I am looking forward to experiencing the culture, food, and interacting with fellow organic petrologists. The field excursions offer both technical and cultural experiences. I hope those who are not able to travel can participate in the discussions remotely. Those first participating in TSOP in Indonesia, safe travels.

In addition, petrographers should consider participation in the ICCP training course in June, hosted in Patras – please refer to page 11, Note the applications deadline for the Walter Pickel Student Travel grant closed 15 March 2025.

We mourn the loss of Carl Hilgers (25/22/1940 – 12/02/2025); the obituary can be read on page 3. I particularly appreciated the quotation included in the mourning card: “There are moments in life, when the world stands still for a moment. And then when it keeps turning, nothing is as it was. But what remains is the memory of a wonderful person. HANS BÖCK”. Yes, indeed Carl was a wonderful person and I am most grateful that the ICCP were able to honor his contributions to organic petrology in the presentation of the Thiessen Award in 2024 (refer to ICCP News 90).

The SCAP and DOMVR certificates should have been received by all participants. Those who participated in CBAP should receive feedback shortly. Thank you to the ICCP Accreditation Sub-Committee for their hard work in keeping these programs going to such a high standard. I encourage all petrographers to ensure they maintain their accreditation; please watch the webpage and social media for the announcement regarding the next accreditation round (2026).

2025 has been a year of disruption, and less of ‘2020-thrive’ than I was hoping for. The USA disruption has certainly caused disturbances globally, changing many aspects in global operations. In Africa, research funding has been cut, including just-energy-transition (JET-IP) projects. President Trump is taking steps to revive the coal industry in the USA and is also rolling back on environmental protection regulations. The more pragmatic shift in opinion of the coal industry certainly became apparent in 2024, prior to the Trump Administration. As organic petrographers, in my opinion, we can be part of the pragmatic approach to coal and hydrocarbon utilization for the benefit of society and environmental obligations. I look forward to the deliberations in China.

Please ensure your membership dues are up to date—refer to the webpage or contact Joan Esterle <j.esterle@uq.edu.au> directly.

Best wishes,
Nikki
Editor 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 PETROLOGISTS

See **page ...**



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ICCP NEWS BY 30 JULY 2025



Cheerful laughter, making memories, ICCP Oviedo 2024.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Members,

As you already noticed in Nikki's column, we sadly lost Carl Hilgers this February. This is undoubtedly a moment of grief for all of us. Carl's technological contributions brought Organic Petrology into the 21st century, and his legacy will remain with us. On a personal note, I feel deeply honored to have participated in recognizing Carl's achievements through the awarding of the Thiessen Medal, and I would like to sincerely thank all of you who contributed to this meaningful tribute.

In the course of our regular activities, I am pleased to see that ICCP continues to attract new members, particularly from India, reflecting the sustained interest of the younger generation in our field. In this regard, I would also like to highlight the establishment of a new membership fee portal by Joan, designed to be more user-friendly and interactive. We trust that this improvement will facilitate more efficient operations and enhance the regular management of membership dues.

Regarding our Accreditation Programs, many of you have already received your certificates, with only the CBAP program still ongoing. I am confident that our Accreditation Programs

will not only maintain their success but also expand into emerging fields within Organic Petrology. The increasing global recognition of the necessity for a more balanced and sustainable energy transition presents promising prospects for our discipline.

Preparations for the 76th ICCP Meeting in Beijing, China, are progressing well, and registration is now open. Shifeng and his colleagues have prepared an excellent program, the details of which are outlined in the sections below. Based on the memorable experience of the 2012 Meeting in China, I am confident we will once again enjoy the country's hospitality and rich culture. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee for their dedicated efforts.

Please ensure you check visa requirements promptly [and prepare accordingly for restrictions that may affect access to email or social media platforms in China, as this could impact communication. Your local IT support or the Organizing Committee will be able to assist you in managing these challenges to avoid any inconvenience.](#)

Lastly, I would like to remind especially our younger members of the forthcoming 16th ICCP Course, which will take place in less than two months. I look forward to meeting some of you in Patras.

Stavros Kalaitzidis

OBITUARY: CARL HILGERS (25.11.1940 – 12.02.2025)



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 devel-

oped 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. 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.

In 2024, the ICCP awarded Mr. Carl H. Hilgers the highest award of the ICCP, the Reinhardt Thiessen Medal. His daughter, Britta Hilgers, collected the medal on his behalf at the Oviedo meeting in September 2025.

May you rest in peace, Carl. Your legacy lives on all over the world.

Adopted from the Thiessen Medal laudation printed in the ICCP News 90.

ICCP MEETING CHINA 2025: UPDATES

WEBSITE: <http://www.iccp2025.com/index.html>



76th Annual Meeting of ICCP

17-25 September 2025

Beijing, China



Dear distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and friends, **Symposium**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 76th Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP), hosted in the vibrant and historic city of Beijing, China, from September 17th to 25th, 2025. This year's meeting is graciously hosted by China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) (CUMTB) and Taiyuan University of Technology (TYUT), institutions renowned for their dedication to advancing research and education in the fields of mining, energy, and environmental science. The conference venue for our sessions and accommodations will be at Xijiao Hotel near CUMTB, ensuring a productive and comfortable experience for all attendees.

In addition to an engaging scientific program, we are excited to offer a field trip to Shanxi Province, home to the Antaibao open pit mine, the famous open pit mine in China. This visit will showcase the impressive Pingshuo Mining District and its rich deposits of coal and critical elements like gallium, lithium, and rare earth elements, highlighting the region's geological significance.

We encourage each of you to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to exchange ideas, foster collaborations, and immerse yourselves in both the academic and cultural richness of this event. Your presence and contributions will undoubtedly enhance the success of this meeting.

We wish you a fruitful and memorable experience at the ICCP 2025 meeting. Welcome to Beijing!

Thank you!

The Organizing Committee for the 76th Annual ICCP Meeting

Organizing Committee

CUMTB Team

Prof. Shifeng Dai
Prof. Shaoqing Wang
Prof. Jing Lu
Prof. Na Xu
Assoc. Prof. Shuai Zhang
Assoc. Prof. Ruiwen Yan
Assoc. Prof. Shixi Zhang
Assoc. Prof. Kuo Li
Assoc. Prof. Yu Liu
Asst. Prof. Xiaofang He
Asst. Prof. Kai Zhou
Asst. Prof. Zhengfu Zhao

TYUT Team

Prof. Beilei Sun
Assoc. Prof. Dongna Liu
Assoc. Prof. Meifen Li
Assoc. Prof. Chao Liu

The Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee kindly invite you to submit abstracts to participate as Oral or Poster presentation to the Symposium with the theme:

Application of Coal and Organic Petrology

The Sessions to be selected are:

- ⇒ Organic Petrology and Climate Change.
- ⇒ Coal Geology and Coal Hosted Critical Minerals.
- ⇒ Artificial Intelligence and Coal - Organic Petrology.
- ⇒ New Technology Development.

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: 5 July 2025
Early registration deadline: 15 July 2025
Symposium: 17-21 September 2025
Field Excursion: 22-25 September 2025

Travel to Beijing

Beijing, the capital of China, is a bustling metropolis rich in history and culture. The city is served by two major airports: Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK), located approximately 32 km northeast of the city centre, and the newer Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX), situated about 46 km to the south. There are numerous international flights to Beijing from major cities worldwide, including London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, and Sydney, as well as frequent domestic flights connecting Beijing to other Chinese cities.

Transport from the Airports to the conference venue (Xijiao Hotel Conference, 18 Wangzhuang Rd., Wudaokou, Haidian District, Beijing, China, 100083)

From Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK):

Airport Express Train: The train runs every 10–15 minutes, connecting Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 to key metro lines in the city. Tickets cost 25 RMB (about 3.5 USD).
Taxi: A direct ride to downtown Beijing costs approximately 100–150 RMB (14–21 USD) depending on traffic and distance.

Airport Shuttle Bus: Several routes connect PEK to various parts of the city for around 30 RMB (4 USD).

From Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX):

ICCP MEETING CHINA 2025: SCHEDULE

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tue-Thu
	17 Sep	18 Sep	19 Sep	20 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep	23-25 Sep
8:00-8:30	ICCP Registration	Registration	Registration				Fieldtrip to An-taibao open-pit coal mine
8:30-9:00		ICCP Welcome & Photo				ICCP Symposium	
9:00-9:30		ICCP General Assembly	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting		
9:30-10:00							
10:00-10:30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Photo	
10:30-11:00		ICCP General Assembly	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Symposium	
11:00-11:30							
11:30-12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:00-12:30		ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP General Assembly		
12:30-13:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
13:00-13:30		ICCP Council Meeting					
13:30-14:00							
14:00-14:30							
14:30-15:00							
15:00-15:30							
15:30-16:00	ICCP Icebreaker Event						Fieldtrip to Taiyuan, Shanxi by high-speed train
16:00-16:30							
16:30-17:00							
17:00-17:30							
17:30-18:00							
18:00-18:30		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner			
18:30-19:00							
19:00-19:30							
19:30-20:00				ICCP Council Meeting	ICCP Conference Dinner		
20:00-20:30							
20:30-21:00							
21:30-22:00							

Daxing Airport Express Train: Connects the airport to the city centre in about 20 minutes, costing 35 RMB (5 USD).
Taxi: A ride to downtown Beijing is around 200 RMB (27 USD).
 Both airports offer efficient and affordable public transport options, it convenient to reach your hotel or place of residence. Taxi services are also widely available for a more direct and comfortable journey.

Accommodation information

Participants could contact iccp2025@outlook.com for arranging their accommodation in Beijing. Alternatively, they could book the recommended hotels with the following link. The venue, Xijiao Hotel, is conveniently located near the China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) in the Haidian District, offering plenty of nearby accommodation options. To assist participants, the Organizing Committee has provided details for the following recommended hotels:

Xijiao Hotel (4 Stars)

Address: 18 Wangzhuang Rd., Wudaokou, Haidian District, Beijing, China **Website:** <https://www.booking.com/Share-N3uXma>
Located within walking distance of the venue, the Xijiao Hotel provides comfortable lodging with excellent facilities and proximity to the event venue.

Ji Hotel / Exchange Center of China University of Mining & Technology (Beijing)

Address: Ding 11, Xueyuan Rd., Haidian District, Beijing, China



Website: <https://au.trip.com/hotels/beijing-hotel-detail-122805557/guan-ji-jiu-dian/>

This hotel offers modern amenities and is situated near the venue, it an excellent choice for participants seeking convenience and comfort.

For any questions regarding accommodation or logistics, please contact the Organizing Committee for assistance.

76th ICCP Field Excursion, September 22-25, Pingshuo Open-pit Coal Mines, Shanxi Province, China

General Information and Safety

Physical Demands and Environmental Information

FOR THIS FIELD EXCURSION PHYSICAL DEMANDS ARE LOW

- The field trip will take place on uneven ground, but nothing overly strenuous, with short hikes and on a mountain roadside.
- Altitude is between 1247 and 1270 m.
- The weather can be variable. Forecast for previous days estimates cool early mornings (around 9 °C) and rather warm middays (20-24 °C) with partially cloudy conditions. Nevertheless, rain should not be discarded.
- Fieldwork will start around 9 AM to finish from 5 to 6 PM.

Safety Equipment (for the group)

GENERAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE GROUP (loaded on the coach)

- First-aid kit.
- Fire extinguisher equipment.

OTHER MATERIAL FOR EACH PARTICIPANT (provided by the organizers)

- Reflective vest (to be worn at roadsides).
- Safety helmet (to be worn at coal mine).
- Rain gear (jacket and pants) for unexpected rain.

Required Personal Equipment

Footwear

- To be properly equipped for geological fieldwork, you need the correct type of footwear.
- It is recommended lightweight hiking boots or robust training boots with appropriate ankle and foot support, protection and grip.

Clothing

- We recommend a range of clothing, which will allow for layered dressing, adaptable to the possible weather variances.
- A wide brimmed or warm hat with chinstrap is advisable for protection against both heat and cold exposures.
- A dust mask or face covering is recommended for areas with dust levels.
- Durable work gloves are recommended to protect hands from rocks, plants, or equipment.

Miscellaneous

- No dangerous animals live in the area, but mosquitoes and other insects are present. Using insect repellent is recommended.
- Sunblock is advisable (SPF > 30).
- Sunglasses with 100% UVA protection are strongly advised.
- A camera and binoculars may be useful.



**Take
note**

EDITOR: SOME USEFUL CHINESE VOCABULARY

Common Greetings

When meeting someone in China, it's customary to greet them with a simple "nǐ hǎo" (你好), which means "hello."

Other common greetings include:

- "zǎo shàng hǎo" (早上好) – "good morning"
- "xià wǔ hǎo" (下午好) – "good afternoon"
- "wǎn shàng hǎo" (晚上好) – "good evening"

Expressions of Gratitude

Showing gratitude is an important part of Chinese culture, so it's essential to know how to say "thank you" in Chinese:

- "xiè xiè" (谢谢) – "thank you"
- "bú kè qì" (不客气) – "you're welcome"

Other Essential Everyday Phrases

These phrases will come in handy when navigating China:

- "tīng bù dǒng" (听不懂) – "I don't understand"
- "duō shǎo qián" (多少钱) – "how much does it cost?"
- "qǐng wèn" (请问) – "excuse me"

English	Chinese	Pronunciation
Dumplings	饺子	jiǎozi
Noodles	面条	miàntiáo
Hot pot	火锅	huǒguō

Venue: Xijiao Hotel, Beijing



The venue for the meeting is the Xijiao Hotel, located in Beijing, near the China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing). The Xijiao Hotel is conveniently situated within close proximity to numerous hotels, the university, and several dining and shopping options, it an ideal location for the event. The ice-breaker party will take place at the Xijiao Hotel Banquet Hall, providing an excellent opportunity for attendees to network and connect in a relaxed setting.

Field trip TO ANTAIBAO Open-pit mine, Shanxi, China

Field trip schedule:

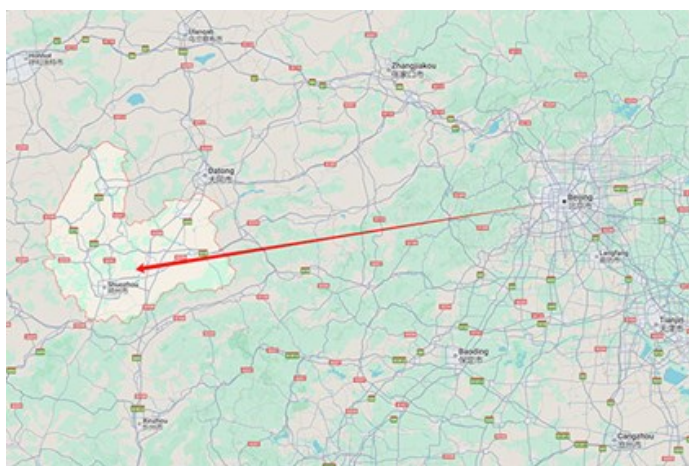
Sept 22: Departure at 14:00 from Beijing by high-speed rail and arrive in Shuozhou (Shanxi Province) at ~19:00.

Sept 23: Visit Antaibao open pit mine, the famous open pit coal mine in China.

Sept 24-25: Visit Jinci Temple and Pingyao Ancient City, and return back to Beijing.

Location: Antaibao Open-pit mine, Shanxi, China

The Antaibao Coal Mine, a famous open pit coal mine in China, is located in the Pingshuo Mining District, Ningwu Coalfield. The Ningwu Coalfield, in a N-E trend, covers a total coal-bearing area of ~2760 km² (~160 km long and ~ 20 km wide) in the central-northern Shanxi Province. The major coal-bearing strata in the basin include the Benxi and Taiyuan Formations (both Late Carboniferous) and Shanxi Formation (Early Permian) with a total average thickness of 182.8 m. The coals from Antaibao open pit mine are also rich in critical elements such as Ga, Li, rare earth elements and Y, and Al.





Mid-Fieldtrip excursion: Jinci Temple and Pingyao Ancient City



Contact

Contact the Organizing Committee for further details

Email: iccp2025@outlook.com

Prof. Shifeng Dai

Address: China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), D-11, Xueyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China

Email: iccp2025@outlook.com; daishifeng@gmail.com

For fieldtrip, please contact Prof. Beilei Sun

Address: Taiyuan University of Technology, No.79 West Street Yingze, Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province, China

Email: sunbeilei@tyut.edu.cn



76th Annual Meeting of ICCP
17-25 September 2025
Beijing, China



Please Note:

Registration fee includes: Participation in All Sessions and Symposium, coffee breaks and lunches, Book of Abstracts.

Fieldtrip to Antaibao open pit mine, Shanxi Province. The fee includes field guide, transport by high-speed train from Beijing to Shanxi Province and bus in Shanxi, meals, and 3-night accommodation. Minimum number of participants for the field trip: 30 persons.

Types of registration

Category	Early Registration before 15 th of July 2025	Late Registration after 15 th of July 2025
ICCP Member	<input type="checkbox"/> 280 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 USD
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 USD
Student *	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 USD	<input type="checkbox"/> 120 USD
Fieldtrip	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 USD	
Ice-breaker for guest	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 USD	
Conference dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 USD	
Total	USD	

* Proof of Student enrolment required

Confirm the attendance to the following events (included in the registration Fee)

Fieldtrip to Antaibao open pit mine, Shanxi Province (22-25 September)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you need an invitation letter for the meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



Please refer to the ICCP2025 China Meeting website to register, or email the organisers at details provided above.

DOCTORAL THESIS ABSTRACT

THE GEOLOGY AND THE PETROLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION OF COAL RESOURCES OF THE IMALOTO BASIN, SOUTH-WESTERN MADAGASCAR

Moses Babila Ndasi

Supervisor: Prof. Nicola Wagner

Co-Supervisor: Dr. Richard Viljoen

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Science, at the University of Johannesburg, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in geology.

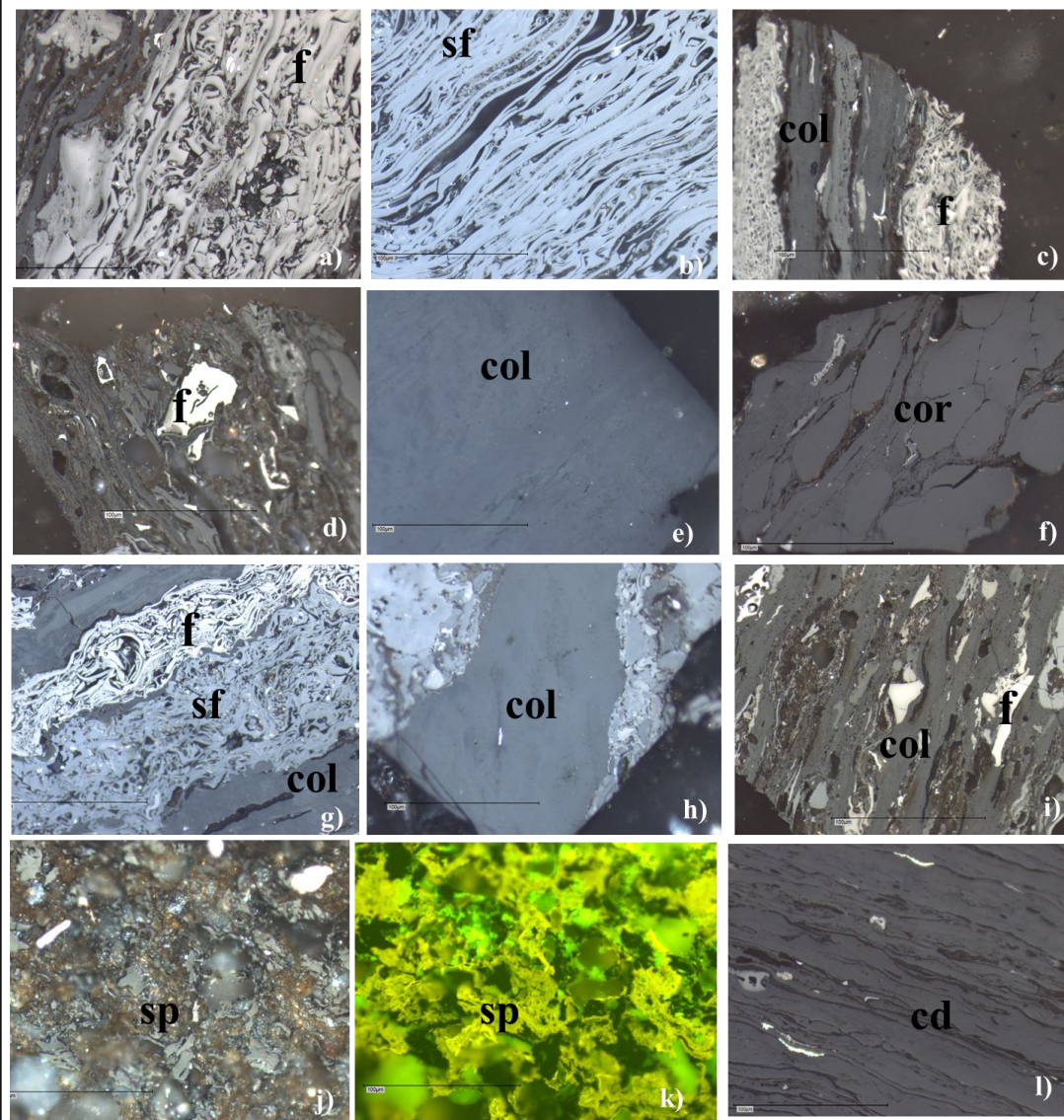
Summary of abstract

The aim of this study is to describe the geology of the Imaloto Basin in South-Western Madagascar, to characterize the petrology of the Imaloto coals, and evaluate the coal resources of the Basin. Data was collected from historical drilling by Lemur Holdings (2009-2012) and additional drilling (July-December 2019) for a social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA).

A detailed geological map at a scale of 1/5000 was constructed through satellite imagery interpretation (2008), ground-based mapping (2011-2012), and further mapping during the 2019 SEIA drilling program. The map delineated major lithological units within the Sakoa Group, particularly the "Coal Measures," and identified the axial zones of the Dwyka glacial valleys and major faults. Cross-sections were constructed to portray lithological continuity and fault impacts.

Coal seam thicknesses and quality parameters were used to evaluate the coal resources. The estimated gross tonnage in-situ (GTIS) over Lemur Holdings permit areas is 135.737 Mt, with 91.613 Mt classified as measured, 31.497 Mt as indicated, and 12.267 Mt as inferred resources according to the JORC code (2004). Geological models were constructed using Surfer software.

Twelve coal samples from three economic coal seams (Main Seam, Upper Seam, Top Seam) of seven boreholes drilled during the 2019 SEIA program were characterized using petrography, geochemistry, and mineralogy. The Main Seam showed high inertinite content (63 vol.%), while the Upper and Top Seams had higher vitrinite content (39.7 vol.% and 50.3 vol.% respectively). This suggests different depositional environments for each seam.



Vitrinite reflectance measurements place the Imaloto coals between Sub-Bituminous A and Bituminous Medium D. Minerals identified include clays, quartz, pyrite, and carbonates, with clays being the most abundant. Pyrite content averaged 9% in the Main Seam, 9.5% in the Upper Seam, and 7.1% in the Top Seam. XRF and XRD analyses revealed high Na and analcime in some Top Seam samples.

This study enhances the understanding of the Imaloto Basin's geology and coal quality, aiding future exploration, mine design, and exploitation.

Photograph plate (left):

Examples of macerals observed in the Madagascan coal samples. White light, immersion oil, scale bar = 100 μm.

f = fusinite
Sf = semifusinite
Col = collotelinite
Cor = corporgelinite
Sp = sporinite
Cd = cutinite



1. Introduction

The ICCP, in conjunction with the Department of Geology, University of Patras, is pleased to announce a training course in [Organic Petrology and Environmental Applications](#) to be held in Patras, Greece **between 23-27th June 2025**.

The course is centered on the application of standard organic petrography techniques in environmental science, with emphasis on the cycle of organic-based microscopic components from the lithosphere, to the anthroposphere and from there to the hydro- and the atmosphere. The course is structured in two major units, one covering the petrographic classification and identification of industrial and manufactured materials, which are either composite carbon materials useful in other industrial or domestic applications (e.g. coke, biochar, charcoal, activated carbon, graphite etc.) or are by-products of industrial activities (e.g. flyash char, fuel refuse), and the thermochemical transformations involved during the formation of those materials.

The second unit covers the petrography of organic matter in environmental samples, where a large heterogeneity in the composition occurs. For this reason, and in order to facilitate the attendees to better understand the classification, identification and quantitative interpretation of organic matter in environmental samples with emphasis on the basic distinction between natural and anthropogenic organic matter, the coal maceral group classifications, including low-rank macerals will be also briefly covered. Source appointment of microscopic organic components, their fate in the environment, their importance in the carbon cycle and carbon capture practices, and in the development of remediation strategies of contaminated sites will also be discussed.

The course is designed for professionals and students, and is not exclusively targeting organic petrologists but also those, who rather deal with petrographic data and/or environmental proxies.

Instructors will be **Dr. George Siavalas** and **Dr. Eng. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaizidi**, with the participation of **Prof. Dr.**

Stavros Kalaizidis.

2. Course outline

The course will be held daily (23-27th June) from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with breaks for morning and afternoon coffee/tea, and lunch.

The course will cover the following topics; emphasis will be given to practical exercises.

Theory sessions:

- ☐ Introduction to environmental science, scope, definitions
- ☐ Industrial processes as a source of anthropogenic particles
- ☐ Sample types, sampling strategies, sample collection, sample preparation & analytical techniques.
- ☐ Petrography of industrial & manufactured materials; environmental concerns & applications. Classifications and methods.
- ☐ Petrography of organic matter in soils and recent sediments.
 - o Petrography of natural organic matter
 - o Petrography of fossil organic matter
 - o Petrography of carbonized organic matter
- ☐ Tracing contamination sources, mitigation strategies and monitoring;
- ☐ Application of organic petrography in carbon capture practices and nature-based solutions including petrography of biochars
- ☐ Other environmental applications
- ☐ Case studies.

Practice sessions:

- ☐ Sample collection and preparation
- ☐ Incident light microscopy sessions on
 - o Industrial materials
 - o Manufactured materials
 - o Feedstock
 - o Soil and recent sediment organic matter

Practical session facilities will be provided by Laboratory of Economic Geology, Department of Geology, UP, using a microscope coupled to an image projector equipped with the HILGERS FOSSIL software for reflectance measurement.

3. Registration and fees

[Registration](#) is now open

Costs for the course include course notes, lunches and coffee-breaks. Cost for the course excludes travel, accommodation and meals other than during the course. The number of participants is limited to 20.

Due date for registration and payment is **May 31st, 2025**.

A detailed outline of the course will be available on the website closer to the course.

Fees:

Company / Professional: 1300 €

Government / Non-Profit: 750 €

Student: 250 €

Pay either by Bank Transfer to:

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank of Australia Address: 48 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

Account Name: International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology BSB: 064107

Account Number: 10409339 Swift Code: CTBAAU2S

Reference: your surname and 16th ICCP Course.

Or Contact ICCP's Treasurer Dr. Joan Esterle j.esterle@uq.edu.au for Credit card payments. Receipt will be sent upon payment.

4. Accommodation

Participants will have to arrange their own accommodation. However, the organizers arranged special prices with the following Hotels:

☐ Castello Hotel (<https://castellohotel.gr/>) in walking distance to the Venue (single 65€, double 90€, plus Accommodation tax; please quote code **16th ICCP Course** in your correspondence).

☐ Moxy Patra Marina (<https://moxy-hotels.marriott.com/>; reservations@moxypatra.com) in city center.

5. Venue

Conference and Cultural Centre, University of Patras University Campus, 26504 Rio-Patras, Greece.

Please note the University Campus is located about 7 km from the city center. There are regular buses and the cost of a taxi is about 8 Euros one way (about 15 - 20 min drive).

For further Information visit the [16th ICCP Course Site](#) or please contact Prof. Dr. João Graciano Mendonça Filho at graciano@geologia.ufrj.br or Prof. Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis skalait@upatras.gr



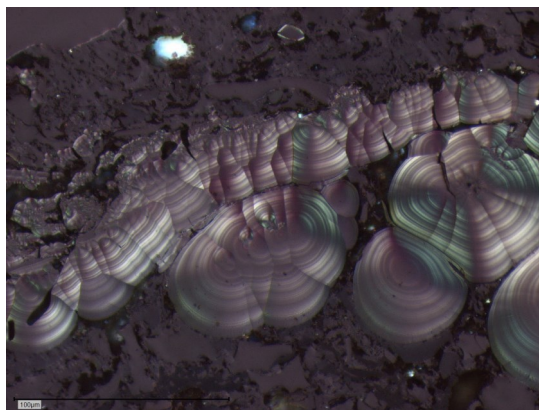
KNOW YOUR COAL PETROLOGISTS

Xibo Wang, Yuegang Tang, Shifeng Dai, Lei Zhao (May 2017)

Visiting Lexington, USA.

Photograph courtesy of Prof Jim Hower.

Petrographic analysis always reveals something amazing. Pyrolytic carbon in a Witbank Coalfield sample. Reflected white light (L) and x-polars @, scale bar indicated.



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS –WELCOME TO THE ICCP



Surname: Sethi First Name: Chinmay Title: Mr Position: Phd candidate
Degree: MSc
Organization: CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research
Address: CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad, Jharkhand-826001, India
Email: chinmaysethi430@gmail.com
Phone: + 91 9861161319
Sponsoring member: Joan Esterle / Maria Mastalerz
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: MSc. Thesis entitled “ New models for predicting strength and elastic modulus of sandstone from coal bearing rock formation .”



Surname: Panda First Name: Mahima Title: Ms. Position: PhD Candidate
Degree: Phd
Organization: CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research
Address: CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad, Jharkhand-826001, India
Email: mahimapanda03@gmail.com
Phone: +8613834547128
Sponsoring member: Joan Esterle / Maria Mastalerz
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: PhD thesis (under assessment): “Petrography and Geochemistry of Talcher Coal, India: Implications on Depositional Environment and Gasification Characteristics”.



Surname: Hazra First Name: Bodhisatwa Title: Dr. Position: Senior Scientist
Degree: PhD
Organization: CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research
Address: CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad, Jharkhand-826001, India
Email: bodhisatwa.hazra@gmail.com; bodhis001@gmail.com
Phone: +91-8900718631
Sponsoring member: Joan Esterle / Maria Mastalerz
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: Dr Hazra completed his PhD in 2025, graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School Mines), Dhanbad. His research involved organic petrology and shale gas.



Surname: Kumar First Name: Alok Title: Dr Position: National Post Doctoral Fellow
Degree: PhD
Organization: Banaras Hindu University
Address: Department of Geology, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, 221005 Varanasi, India
Email: alok.gly@gmail.com
Phone: +91 9170085095
Sponsoring member: Prof. em. Dr. Kimon Christanis
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: Dr Kumar obtained his doctoral degree from the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Jais, Amethi, India. He is current a postdoctoral research fellow in India, and also held a similar position at the University of Malaya, Malaysia. The title of the PhD thesis: ‘Petrological and geochemical characterization of the Rajasthan lignite deposits, India, with relevance to their source rock potential and paleodepositional setting.”

FULL MEMBER



Surname: Hower First Name: James (Jim) Title: Professor Position: Distinguished Fellow
Degree: Phd
Organization: University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research and Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Address: 416 Greenbriar Road , Lexington, Kentucky 40503 USA
Email: james.hower@uky.edu
Phone: +1 859 333 0883
Sponsoring member: Alan Davis
Commissions: I, II, III
Comment: Prof. Jim Hower is well known to the ICCP community, and we welcome him back as a full member.

MEMBERSHIP

Dear ICCP Member

First of all, happy season of choice for those shifting their weather to something preferable. I thought that I'd send a prompt for membership dues payments and thank those of you who read the wonderful ICCP News No 90 and followed the links to membership dues payments. So far we've had 12 persons from our 200+ fold of eligible members pay their dues for 2025, and many elected to pay for 3 years. Remember that we pay in advance, and thank those who paid during our last dues campaign. Your dues keep the organisation going, sending out informative newsletters, supporting student to travel to meetings and conduct research, keep the website going, and so on. Value for money, and tax deductible in most locations.

Rather than me invoicing you individually as we have tried to in the past, we have moved to an online system that is easy to use, tracks your payment, keeps all your details private. If you do require a personal invoice from me, or your company does not allow you to use credit card payments, please email me with ICCP Membership Invoice Required in the subject heading. Also, bank transfers take exorbitant fees and YOU are responsible for paying them. For this year, and until 30 May, 2025, the ICCP absorbs the transaction costs for using STRIPE, and the conversion fee since our membership wishes to pay in Euros although we bank in AUD. HOWEVER, **the carrot** may not work, so **the stick** will be that from 1 June, 2025, the ICCP will no longer absorb the transaction fees. **SO, TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES.**

A further stick, is that you might not receive Nikki's wonderful newsletter, and you will lose contact with a great community of people that are the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology.

If you no longer want to be an active member, please have the courtesy to contact us and we will mark you as an inactive former on the website. Retirement is not the same as inactivity- just ask many of us.

Instructions for online payment. Go to [iccop.org](https://www.iccop.org) and then to application and fees or just click here: <https://www.iccop.org/application/fees/>

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I AM THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE! And hopefully we will see you in China if not before, or at one of the fantastic courses being planned.

Regards , Your ICCP honorary treasurer , Joan

Joan Esterle <j.esterle@uq.edu.au>

COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY (ICCP)

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(2024—2028)

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Department of Geology, University of Patras, Rio, Greece
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(2024—2027)
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Commission I Secretary

(2016-2024)
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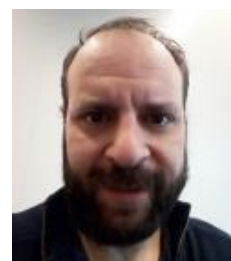
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COMMISSION II

Commission II Chair (Jolanta Kus) and Secretary (George Siavalas) reviewed the past year activity of Commission II and gathered new inspiration for the coming year. Please find a moment or two to look back on the year 2024.

Above all, I would like to say THANK YOU. Thank you for your many contributions, activities, and your work.

The year 2024 was a year full of impressive developments and successes.

- Commission II activities during the 75th ICCP Meeting in Oviedo, Spain.

We had the pleasure of presenting many activities at the venue location of Chamber of Commerce of Oviedo.

The personal dialogue with you was inspiring again this year and gave us many valuable ideas for our future work.

Thank you very much! Thank you to the Organisation Committee for the fabulous Meeting!

<https://www.iccop.org/75th-iccp-meeting-in-oviedo/>

- The Conveners of the Dispersed Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks Working Group (Commission II)

<https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/dispersed-organic-matter-in-sedimentary-rocks-classification-identification-and-thermal-maturity-white-paper/> 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 via 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 Geological Application of Graptolite Reflectance EG

<https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/geological-application-of-graptolite-reflectance/>

run this year the first interlaboratory study on graptolite reflectance.

Congratulations to the Conveners!

I look forward to continuing on this path with you. We are planning for the 2025 year:

- continuing our collaboration to give scientific findings a practical basis.

- running a round robin exercise on Kimmeridge Clay from North Sea on

wet polished and dry polished sample with aim to compare reproducibility of vitrinite reflectance.

re-activate standardisation of spectral fluorescence measurements.

A big THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!!!

Without YOU, your interest, your support and the discussion with you, none of this would have been possible.

We would like to express my sincere thanks for this.

We look forward to shaping another successful moments in 2025 together with you.

Jolanta & George



TSOP 2025

Critical Minerals and Unconventional Hydrocarbon Resources in Future Energy

ORGANIZED BY

Unconventional Georesources Research Group,
Department of Geological Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering,
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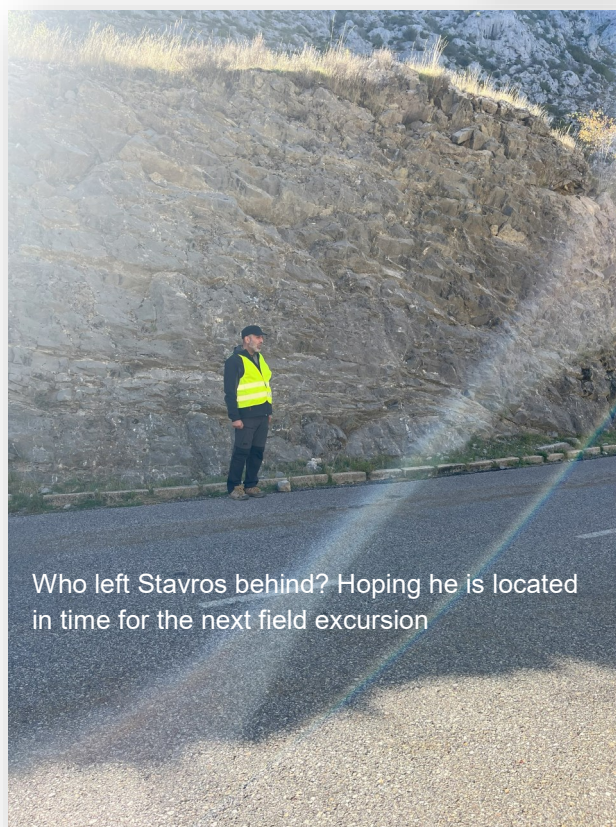
Email : ugrg.ft@ugm.ac.id

MEMBERS CORNER

Right: Four members of the Carbon Ore Research Group, Department of Geology, University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa, successfully completed the ICCP Single Coal Accreditation program.

Ms Matlala (DSTI-NRF CIMERA PhD candidate) and Prof Wagner received re-accreditation, and Dr Biswas (PDRF) and Ms Chitlango (DSTI-NRF CIMERA PhD candidate) received first time accreditation.

There are 6 accredited petrographers on the African continent, 4 now based at UJ, and less than 90 accredited petrographers globally. [List of Accredited Petrographers in SCAP | ICCP](#)



Who left Stavros behind? Hoping he is located in time for the next field excursion

DEADLINE FOR
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NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSIONS IS
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16th ICCP Course: Organic Petrology and Environmental Applications, Patras, Greece, 2025

Dear ICCP Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, ICCP is delighted to welcome you to the [16th ICCP Course: Organic Petrology and Environmental Applications](#) to be held in Patras, Greece, from **23–27th June 2025**.

The course is organised by ICCP in conjunction with the Department of Geology, University of Patras, with the support of the UPatras Special Research Account, and is designed for professionals and students.

The course is not exclusively targeting organic petrologists but also those, who rather deal with petrographic data as well as environmental proxies.

Instructors will be Dr. George Siavalas and Dr. Eng. Małgorzata Wojtaszek- Kalaitzidi.

Please visit the [Course webpage](#) for more information.

or contact Dr. S. Kalaitzidis (skalait@upatras.gr)

Link to the post: <https://www.iccop.org/16th-iccp-course-organic-petrology-and-environmental-applications-patras-greece-2025/>

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