ICCP NEWS



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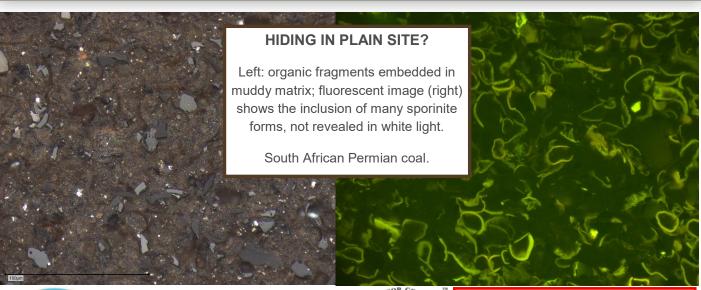


INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION

P3: Obituary Dr Rudi Schwab P4—7: ICCP2025 China P 8—9: ICCP Training Course P11: New members

ICCP Organic Petrology Training Course 2025 attendees







76th Annual Meeting of

International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology 17-25 September 2025 Beijing, China



HOPING TO CATCH UP WITH ICCP FRIENDS AT THE 2025 ICCP MEETING IN CHINA.

CONSULT THE WEBPAGE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

EDITORS COLUMN

Greetings colleagues.

Excitement is mounting regarding the upcoming ICCP Meeting in Beijing. I will collect my visa on Wednesday, and then I'm ready to go (although I still need to mentally prepare myself for the 18 hour flight!). The Meeting Organizers have provided some final information contained herein. Please ensure you investigate the electronic payment (card preferred over cash) and mobile phone / internet usage. Note: Apps like Google and WhatsApp have restricted access in China. To those not able to join us this year, you will be missed, and we hope to catch up with you in Porto in 2026, or possibly South African in 2027. Please do continue to participate in the various working groups, accreditation programs, and, of course, continue to provide contributions to the ICCP News.

We mourn the passing of one of the ICCP icons, Dr Rudi Schwab. We thank him for his decade long support of the ICCP and all his contributions, including holding the position as Returning Officer for many years. Rudi will be sorely missed; may he be at rest. Thank you to Stavros for the obituary contribution.

The National Library of Australia reached out to me in June, to follow up on some missing ICCP Newsletters missing from the collection. "The National Library of Australia collects one copy of everything that is published in Australia under Legal deposit, which makes up the heart of our national collection'. Thus, preserving printed material for future generations. Both Peter and I were impressed that the ICCP Newsletters that we religiously sent them pre-COVID (those good old days when we still printed in hard copy and posted) were actually archived. The University of Porto, through Deolinda Flores, has also archived a complete record of the ICCP News over the years; and the full series (#1 to 91# is also available for free download to all members and non-members via the ICCP website. For those interested in following the TSOP activities, their newsletter is also freely available on the TSOP website at NEWSLETTER.

Save travels all.

Best wishes, Nikki Editor ICCP Newsletter



Above: Always time for a coffee and catch-up at the ICCP meetings.

Den Haag ICCP 2019

Gerd, Gisela and Evelyn Bieg, with Carl Hilgers.

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: WHO ARE DEEP IN THOUGHT?

See page 8



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
NEXT ICCP NEWS BY
20 NOVEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We have less than one month till we meet again in China, 13 years after the last meeting in Beijing, and I do hope that many of you have already completed your travel arrangements. Shifeng and his team have prepared a full-week program with exciting field trips including both scientific and cultural aspects. You will find useful information within this volume enabling you to have a smooth experience, particularly concerning access to IT and media applications.

Last May, sadly, the family of ICCP lost Dr. Rudi Schwab. I am confident that his enthusiastic spirit and love for our organization will drive our future efforts in developing new ideas and continue engaging young organic petrologists. We will definitely miss him in Beijing.

The summer in northern hemisphere started with the 16th ICCP Course, which was very successful in terms of attendance, as well as in terms of scientific and educational interest. The feedback from the attendees is very positive. The ICCP will continue delivering specialised courses in the years to come, to cover the expanding needs for further developments and practical sessions in emerging issues of organic petrology, covering environmental and industrial topics.

Of course, many of you also kept busy with the working group (WG) exercises circulated in the previous months; your efforts

are crucial for successful outcomes. As you will read in the following pages, the 76th ICCP Meeting program includes a significant number of new exercises and ideas, and the contribution of each one is essential. More exercises will follow in the near future as we are in the process of implementing a more web-based workflow utilizing our portal.

Finally, having just returned from a short visit in Australia and particularly to Queensland, I have noticed that there the coal industry is vivid and still growing, with coal geologists being among the most hired specialties in exploration, mining and lab services entities. Surprisingly though, it is also a fact that the academic environment is not quite supporting or investing in our scientific branch, a trend that has been applied also in USA and Europe long ago. ICCP, as a truly world-wide organization, is probably well situated to convey the advantages of organic petrology into solving scientific and industrial problems related to the Energy Transition policies, to academia, policy makers, and standardization organizations; we shall endeavor to focus our efforts on this issue. Perhaps publishing only scientific papers is not enough, perhaps our visibility has to be diversified, and we shall work all together on this.

I hope to see many of you in China. As we will have microscope facilities there, please bring along any polished blocks you would like to discuss.

See you soon in Beijing!

Stavros Kalaitzidis

OBITUARY: DR. RUDI SCHWAB 17[™] MAY 1937-17[™] MAY 2025

With great sadness we received the sad news of the passing of Dr Rudi Schwab at the age of 88 on May the 17th, on the day of his birthday. Rudi was born in Cologne, Germany, and upon reaching his adulthood, he studied Archaeology and Art History at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He continued with Geology at the Technical University of Munich, where he received his intermediate diploma, and worked in the mining, planning and mine surveying Departments of Rheinische Braunkohlenwerke AG. During this period, Rudi completed his studies in Geology at the University of Cologne being granted an honors degree.

As his career developed, he joined a private company in Aachen, becoming an expert in the exploration of coal deposits. He then pursued his PhD studies being employed as an assistant at Aachen University. He received his Doctor of Natural Sciences on his dissertation entitled "Investigations on Rhenish lignite".

After following time undertaking exploration in Indonesia, Rudi joined Royal Shell International, based in The Hague, Holland. While working in The Hague, he also worked on a 4-year pro-

ject in Thornton Shell Research in the UK. Rudi was then called back to The Hague and worked there until his retirement.

In 1976 Rudi joined the International Committee for Coal Petrology (ICCP) in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. And later he became a member of TSOP, and a mem-

ber of the UNECE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).

Rudi's commitment to ICCP was exemplary and he served as Honorary Treasurer of ICCP from 1997 till 2007, and as ICCP Returning Officer from the Porto Meeting in 2011 until September 2024.

His classical studies along with the natural sciences background developed his sharp mind, making him a remarkable person for in-depth discussions. He attended many ICCP Meetings and he was always eager to engage the younger generation with regards to the marvelous journey of organic petrography; he generously shared his many experiences and thoughts.

His generosity, commitment, and good spirit leaves a lasting mark on our community, and we will definitely miss him at the meetings. Our lasting images are of him with his lovely wife Krystyna Tokarska (also a long time ICCP member) at his side, and of course with his camera strung around his neck capturing memories.





76th Annual Meeting of

International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology

17-25 September 2025 Beijing, China





FINALISED SCHEDULE

PLEASE REFER TO NEXT PAGE FOR THE DETAILED PROGRAM PERTAINING TO THE COMMISSIONS I, II, III SCHEDULES AND MICROSCOPE SESSIONS.

THE SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE MEETING WEBSITE, AS WELL AS UPDATES PERTAINING TO THE FIELD EXCURSION.

http://www.iccp2025.com/index.html

	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 8:30-9:00			Registration	Registration				
9:00-9:30			ICCP Welcome & Photo	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission	ICCP ICCP Commission Symposium Meeting	
9:30-10:00 10:00-10:30			ICCP General Assembly					
10:30-11:00			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Photo	
11:00-11:30 11:30-12:00 12:00-12:30	ICCP Registration	ICCP Council Meeting	ICCP General Assembly	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Symposium	
12:30-13:00 13:00-13:30			Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Fieldtrip to Antaibao open- pit coal mine
13:30-14:00 14:00-14:30 14:30-15:00 15:00-15:30			ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP General Assembly	Fieldtrip to Taiyuan, Shanxi by high-speed	
15:30-16:00			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
16:00-16:30 16:30-17:00			ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Symposium		
17:00-17:30								
17:30-18:00								
18:00-18:30	- ICCP Icebreaker Event		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		train	
18:30-19:00								
19:00-19:30 19:30-20:00 20:00-20:30 20:30-21:00					ICCP Council Meeting	ICCP Conference Dinner		
21:30-22:00								







Thursday Sept 18	ICCP Commission II	
1230-1330	Lunch	
1330-1400	Welcome Remarks	Joan Esterle
1400-1415	Geological Application of Graptolite Reflectance	Xiaowei Zheng, Thomas Gentzis
1400 1413	DOMVR and Component Identification Results on microscopy	Maower Zheng, Momas Gentzis
1415-1430	samples in Commission II of the ICCP	Ángeles Gomez Borrego
1430-1500	DOM VR Accreditation Programm	João Graciano Mendonça Filho
1430 1300	DOW VICACCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	Jodo Graciano Mendonça i imo
1500-1515	Dispersed organic matter in sedimentary rocks	Jolanta Kus, Paul Hackley, Paula Gonçalves
1515-1530	Identification of Dispersed Organic Matter	Jolanta Kus
1530-1600	Coffee	
1600-1630	Correction Function for Fluorescence Lamps	Jolanta Kus, Paul Hackley
1630-1645	Identification of Thermal Maturity Relevant Organic Matter	Grzegorz Lis, Paul Hackley
	Identification of Secondary Organic Matter in Sedimentary	0.10B0.1 1.0, 1 dai 1.1doic,
1645-1700	Rocks	George Siavalas, Paul Hackley
10 13 1700	TOOKS	Sandra Rodrigues, Jolanta Kus, Magdalena
1700-1730	Igneous intrusions in coal seams and shales WG	Misz-Kennan, Sue Rimmer
1730-1800	Closing Remarks	Joan Esterle
Friday Sept 19	ICCP Commission I	Journ Esterie
0900-0915	Opening Remarks	Peter Crosdale, Dragana Životić
0915-1015	Single Coal Accreditation Program	Kimon Christanis, Stavros Kalaitzidis
1015-1030	Organic Petrology "Vade Mecum"	Peter Crosdale
1030-1100	Coffee	1 etci crosuale
1100-1130	Xylite WG	Konstantinos Perleros
1130-1130	Peat Petrography WG	Stavros Kalaitzidis, Kimon Christanis
1230-1330	Lunch	Stavios Kalaitzidis, Killion Cillistanis
1230-1330		
1330-1430	Estimation of Maceral Composition in Samples with Low Organic Matter Content	Peter Crosdale
1550-1450	Radiolytic alteration of organic matter in coal and rocks en-	Teter crosuate
1430-1530	riched in radioactive minerals WG	Tatiana Larikova, Ivana Sýkorová
1530-1600	Coffee	Tatiana Lankova, ivana Sykorova
1600-1630	Standardization WG	Angeles Borrego, Stavros Kalaitzidis
1630-1700	Closing Remarks	Peter Crosdale, Dragana Životić
1700-1800	Microscope Session - COM II WGs exercises	Commission II
Saturday Sept 20	ICCP Commission III	Commission
0900-0915	Opening Remarks	Sandra Rodrigues
0915-0930	Carbon Materials WG	Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
0930-1030	Coke Petrography WG	Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
1030-1100	Coffee	Wangorzata Wojtaszek Kalanziai
1100-1130	Self-heating in coal and coal waste dumps	Jolanta Kus
1130-1200	Coal Blends Accreditation Programme (CBAP)	Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
1130-1200	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Walgorzata Wojtaszek Kalaitziui
1200-1230	Optimization of reflectance measurements on complex blends WG	Ashok Singh, Joan Esterle
1230-1330	Lunch	, is now onign, sour Esterie
1330-1400	Hydrogenation residues WG	Henny Gerschel
1400-1430	Biochar Reflectance	Georgios Siavalas, Zhiheng Zhou
1430-1530	Closing Remarks	Sandra Rodrigues
1530-1600	Coffee	
1600-1800	Microscope Session - COM I WGs exercises	Commission I
Sunday Sept 21	ICCP Commissions	
		Commission III
0900-1030	Microscope Session - COM III WGs exercises	Commission III
1030-1100	Coffee	
1100-1230	ICCP Closing Plenary	
1230-1330	Lunch	
1330-1500	ICCP Closing Plenary continued	
5		











ORGANISERS

Guidance Regarding Internet Usage in China

Apps like Google and WhatsApp have restricted access in China. Please ensure you make necessary arrangements before travel should you need these services.

Currency & Payments in Mainland China (Beijing)

Official currency

Renminbi (RMB), commonly called the yuan (CNY).

Current denominations: notes ¥1, ¥5, ¥10, ¥20, ¥50, ¥100; coins ¥1, ¥0.5, ¥0.1.

Mobile wallets – the default option for locals

Alipay (支付宝) and WeChat Pay (微信支付) dominate daily transactions, from metro tickets to Michelin -star dining.

Since 2023 foreign visitors can add an international Visa, Mastercard, JCB, Discover or Diners card directly inside both apps and pay by QR code just like residents.

Download the English-language versions before arrival, complete real-name verification with your passport, then link your bank card.

Top-up with cash is no longer required; charges are settled in your home-currency card. A ~3% FX fee may apply.

International credit/debit cards

Visa, Mastercard, American Express and UnionPay are accepted at most 4- & 5-star hotels, large restaurants, shopping malls.

Smaller coffee shop, taxis and convenience stores may not have physical card terminals—plan to use mobile wallet or cash in those situations.

Contactless "tap" works only where UnionPay QuickPass or dual-network terminals are installed.

Cash

Still handy for street food stalls, some taxis, older subway ticket machines and rural excursions.

ATMs with English menus are widespread; Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and China Construction Bank accept foreign cards. The screen will quote the exact FX margin before you confirm.

Airport currency-exchange counters and major bank branches change USD, EUR, GBP, JPY etc.; passport required.

Typical daily cash budget for a visitor who relies mainly on cards/QR: ¥100-¥300 (≈ US \$14-\$40). Counterfeit notes are rare but do exist—accept change only from reputable vendors and keep larger bills crisp.

Tipping culture

Tipping is neither expected nor required. Upscale hotels may add a 10-15 % service charge automatically.

Backup plan

Carry at least one UnionPay-branded debit card if possible; UnionPay is accepted everywhere domestic cards are taken.

If your non-Chinese card fails in a mobile wallet, try: Buying a prepaid Alipay/WeChat Pay top-up at a convenience store, or Asking a local colleague to receive cash and scan their QR code to transfer the same amount to you digitally.

Summary – what to bring

Primary: Smartphone with Alipay & WeChat Pay set up.

Secondary: International Visa/Mastercard (physical card) for hotels & emergencies.

Reserve: ¥500-¥1,000 in cash for the week.

By following the above mix—mobile wallet first, card second, cash as backup—you will navigate Beijing's cash-light, QR-code-heavy payment environment smoothly during ICCP 2025.

General Information and Safety for ICCP Field Trip

Sept. 23-25, Pingshuo Open-pit Coal Mines, Shanxi Prov., China

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).

Disposable raincoat 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 hat with a chinstrap is advisable for protection against heat exposure.

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 > 15).

A camera and binoculars may be useful.



Left: Open-pit mining in the Pingshua Coal CO., Ltd.(a) industrial square in mining area; (b) the Antaibao mining area; (c) heavy trucks and power shovels; (d) the Anjialing mining area; (e) the eastern opencast.

Open-pit mining in the Pingshuo Coal Co., Ltd. area: (a) industrial... | Download Scientific Diagram







The annual ICCP course took place in Patras, attended by 19 participants. Above are some images shared by Stavros Kalaitzidis.

To the right is an extract from the report prepared

by Stavros which will be shared at the upcoming ICCP meeting.





ICCP TRAINING COURSE on Organic Petrology & Environmental Applications

Conference and Cultural Center, University of Patras Geology Department, Patras, Greece

Trainers:

George Siavalas, The Netherlands, Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi, Poland, Stavros Kalaitzidis, Greece

REPORT AND EVALUATION OF THE 16th ICCP COURSE

1. Introduction

The 16th ICCP Course on Organic Petrology & Environmental Applications took place between 23rd-27th of June 2025, in the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras. The Course was jointly organized by the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology and the Geo-Energy Resources Team of the Department of Geology, University of Patras, being supported by Hilgers Technisches Büro and the Special Research Account of the University of Patras.

Instructors of the course were Dr. George Siavalas, Shell Global Solutions International, The Netherlands, Dr. Eng. Malgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi, Institute of Energy and Fuels Processing Technology, Poland, and Prof. Dr. Stavros Kalaitzidis, Department of Geology UP, Greece. A textbook (of 193 p. with 138 figures) was prepared for the purposes of the course

The course included 5 days of class-based seminars with afternoon practical sessions by using both Fossil Software and actual microscopic examination (see Annex). In the afternoon of the 2nd day the participants visited the Agia mire in Patras, where they had the chance to core environmental samples from a mire. Additionally, a heavily contaminated soil sample, sampled from Poland was used to perform a real-situation OM concentration in lab using heavy media. Practical sessions included also polished block prep and microscope observation.

The Course was attended by 19 participants, including young scientists and professionals, who work in organic petrology related disciplines. Attendees came from universities, research centers, geological surveys, and companies, locating in Argentina, Czechia, France, Greece, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Turkey and USA.

Many thanks to: George Siavalas, and Malgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi for their enormous efforts to prepare a very useful textbook and for teaching the course.

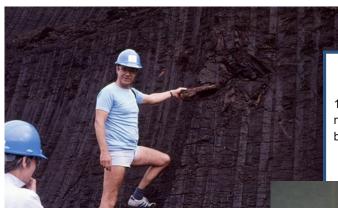
Students Konstantinos Perleros, Maria Georgaki and Mia Dimitriou, from Department of Geology, University of Patras for their incredible help in the preparation and the daily logistics of the Course.

Joan Esterle, for sorting out all the finances and being so helpful with the logistics.

Britta Hilgers for providing the Fossil Software for the practical sessions.

The Department of Geology and the Special Research Account Office of the University of Patras

MEMBERS CORNER



1.1990 Wollongong meeting, Latrobe Valley brown coal field trip

2.Rudi with John Vleeskens, Eva Wolff-Fischer and Duncan Murchison, Utrecht, 2003





KNOW YOUR COAL PETROLOGISTS:

Front: Prof. Dr Magdalena Misz-Kennan, University of Silesia, Poland.

Back: Dr. Ivana Sýkorová, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic.

Both ladies are long time ICCP members.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS —WELCOME TO THE ICCP

Surname: Neža First Name: Malenšek Andolšek Title: Dr. Position: Phd assistant

Degree: MSc

Organization: Geological Survey of Slovenia Address: Dimičeva ulica 14, 1000 Ljubljana, Poland

Email: neza.malensek@geo-zs.si Phone:+ 386 40 872 484

Sponsoring member: Stavros Kalaitzidis

Commissions: I,

Comment: PhD Thesis: Petrology and organic geochemistry of Carnoan carbonate rocks from Drenov and the Libur-

nia Formation in Kras. Expertise in palaoenvironments, biomarkers, organic sulphur.

Surname: Patricia First Name: Alvarez Title: Dr. Position: Científico Titular

Degree: Phd

Organization: Institute for Carbon Science and Technology (INCAR-CSIC)

Address: C/Francisco Pintado Fe, 26, 33011, Oviedo, Spain

Email: par@incar.csic.es Phone:+34 677 716 510

Sponsoring member: Angeles Gómez Borrego

Commissions: I, III

Comment: Her research focuses on the synthesis and structural control of carbon materials (fibers, activated carbons, etc.) and carbon nanomaterials, especially graphene, using tailored processes and a wide range of precur-

sors, including low-value petrochemical and carbo-hemical fractions, as well as, more recently, biological residues such as algal biochars.

As per the ICCP Statutes, associate members are invited to progress to full members.

Full membership enables voting rights. Please consult the webpage.

• FULL MEMBERS: To attain Full Membership candidates must demonstrate their level of experience by sending to the General Secretary a curriculum vitae comprising a candidature letter, a list of their publications and the name of one sponsoring Full Member. The Council of the ICCP shall consider the proposal together with sponsor's statement, and then, on behalf of the General Assembly, determine whether it is to be accepted or rejected.

FULL MEMBER

Surname: Zielinska First Name: Magdalena Title: A/Professor Position: Assistant professor

Degree: PhD

Organization: Faculty of Natural Sciences, Institute of Earth Science, University of Silesia in Katowice

Address: 60 Bedzinska St., 41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland

Email: magdalena.zielinska@us.edu.pl

Phone::+ 48 32 3689 317 Sponsoring member: Commissions: I, II, III

Comment: Prof Zielinska joined the ICCP in 2016. She has participated in accreditation programs, ICCP courses, and attended ICCP meetings.

We welcome Prof Zielinska as a Full ICCP Member.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ICCP NEWS BY 20 NOVEMBER 2025

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

President (2024— 2028) Professor Dr Stavros Kalaitzidis Department of Geology, University of Patras, Rio, Greece mailto: skalait@upatras.gr



mailto:dragana.zivotic@rgf.bg.ac.rs

Vice-president

(2019 - 2026)

Dr João Graciano

Mendonca Filho

mailto:graciano@geologia.ufrj.bı

mailto: Hackley paul@yahoo.com

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mailto: peter.crosdale@energyrc.com.au

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Commission II Secretary (2019—2027) Dr George Siavalas



Commission III Chair (2024—2027) Dr Sandra Rodrigues



Commission III Secretary (2024—2027) Dr. Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi



mailto<u>: j.esterle@uq.ed</u>u

Treasurer (2021—2025) E. Prof . Joan Esterle



Editor (2015—2027) Prof. Nikki Wagner

 Immediate past president:
 Dr Angeles Gomez-Borrego.
 mailto: angeles@incar.csic.es

 Returning Officer:
 Dr Angeles Gomez-Borrego.
 mailto: angeles@incar.csic.es

 Reinhardt Thiessen Award Committee:
 Contact the Chair.
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 Webmaster (http://www.iccop.org):
 Contact Dr Stavros Kalaitzidis,
 mailto:skalait@upatras.gr

 Archives:
 Contact Dr Deolinda Flores,
 mailto:dflores@fc.up.pt

 Membership Enquiries:
 Contact the General Secretary
 mailto: Hackley_paul@yahoo.com

 ICCP Publications & Training Material:
 Prof. Nikki Wagner
 mailto: nwagner@uj.ac.za