

Travel Bursary Report

IMA 2010 Bonds & Bridges, 21-27 August 2010, Budapest, Hungary

The 20th General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association "Bonds and Bridges" was held in Budapest, Hungary between August 21 and 27, 2010. The conference took place in the Danube Riverside Campus of the Eötvös University, close to the heart of Budapest. The conference was extremely well organised with 1700 contributions on a vast array of aspects of mineral science and its applications.

I am most grateful to the Mineralogical Society for the award of the Senior Travel Bursary which enabled me to accept the invitation to deliver the keynote address at the session on 'Biominerals and Biomaterials: the interface between geosciences and life sciences'.

The session covered mineralization of shell, bone and teeth, pathological mineralization in humans, interaction of living tissue and biomaterial implants, biomimetic synthesis of advanced materials, and the role of mineral surface in the origin of life on earth.

Thanks are due to the session organizers for preparing such a multidisciplinary programme, combining the expertise and achievements of colleagues from mineralogy, geochemistry and materials science with those of the life sciences.



On a personal note, apart from learning a great deal about the interaction of dissolved inorganic species, bio-organic molecules, and microorganisms with mineral surfaces, the conference provided me with an excellent opportunity to initiate collaborative links. I have already exchanged samples in new international collaborative projects.

I would therefore like to express my sincere thanks to the Mineralogical Society for the Senior Travel Bursary, without which I would not have been able to highlight my work and initiate new research.

The photograph was taken during my lecture and appeared on the conference newsletter of 25th August.