

I would like to thank the Mineralogical Society for providing funding which allowed me to travel to Melbourne, Australia to attend the IUGG General Assembly in July 2011. This conference brought together approximately 3,500 delegates from over 90 countries and provided a great chance to meet with colleagues and friends from around the world. The program featured symposia on a wide range of earth and environmental science topics led by various associations, including the sessions that I was most interested in relating to volcanology and igneous petrology, led by IAVCEI. Here I presented a talk in the IAVCEI session "Magma chambers and intrusions: their physical and chemical dynamics". My talk was based on the research I am currently undertaking for my PhD, with the aim of constraining magma storage and ascent conditions at Merapi volcano, Indonesia, using a combination of petrological and textural analyses. In particular, I am investigating the driving forces behind recent eruptive activity by comparing the pre-eruptive conditions of the 'typical' Merapi-type, dome-forming 2006 eruption and the more explosive 2010 eruption. After the talk I received constructive feedback and enjoyed thought-provoking discussions with scientists working on Merapi and at other dome-forming volcanoes. The conference offered a valuable opportunity to meet new colleagues as well as strengthen established connections and to discuss my research, which provided many ideas about the direction of my future work as I approach the 3rd year of my PhD.

After the busy schedule of the conference, there was unfortunately no time to see the sights in Melbourne, as I not so unfortunately travelled immediately to Indonesia to undertake fieldwork at Merapi. In the field I met with other colleagues from universities around the world, who have various research interests in Merapi, as well as with local scientists. The latest eruption, which occurred in October and November 2010 was the biggest eruption at Merapi since 1872 (estimated VEI 3- 4), killing nearly 400 people and displacing more than 300,000 residents from the densely populated region surrounding the volcano. Here, I sampled the 2010 deposits which were emplaced up to 15 km from the summit, for further petrological, textural and chemical analysis and helped colleagues to log and sieve the deposit in order to gain more information about eruption and emplacement dynamics.

Thank you Mineralogical Society for helping to make this great trip possible!

