

## Euroclay 2015 – Edinburgh, Scotland, 5-10 July 2015

A participation report by **Binoy Sarkar**

Euroclay is one of the biggest international gatherings for clay scientists across the world. As an Early Career Researcher (ECR), it has been a fantastic opportunity for me to attend the Euroclay2015 conference in Edinburgh on 5 – 10 July 2015. I am grateful to the Clay Minerals Group (CMG) who has awarded me the travel bursary to attend the conference. Receiving the award at the conference closing ceremony in front of hundreds of renowned clay scientists has been a moment of honour for me.

To me Euroclay2015 has been a real success for the organisers as well as the world clay science community; almost all modern aspects of theoretical and applied clay sciences including environmental applications of clays have been covered in its themes. Starting from the inaugural reception party to the field trips, glittering gala dinner and the closing ceremony – all events have been outstanding with the spontaneous participation of maximum number of the delegates. The technical sessions were based on strong scientific themes, very well planned and smoothly executed.

My engagement in the conference program has also been significant; my colleague Dr Anke Neumann from the Newcastle University and I have convened the session on ‘clay and fine particle-based materials for environmental technologies and clean up’ which held over two full days to accommodate more than fifty oral and poster presentations including two fantastic key note lectures by Prof Giora Rytwo and Prof David Laird. As an ECR, this has been an excellent experience and a significant achievement in my track record. I am grateful to the Euroclay2015 organisers for providing me the opportunity to run the session. I also thank the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE) for supporting the session.



Image: University of South Australia team with CMG and CMS awards (L-R: Binoy Sarkar, Ruhaida Rusmin, Bhabananda Biswas and Argha Chakraborty)

In addition I have delivered an oral presentation entitled 'Hexavalent chromium remediation by organic ligand-manganese-clay mineral system: A synchrotron based study' which has also been very well received by the audiences. Meeting and having a scientific chat with prominent clay scientists such as David Bish, Giora Rytwo, David Laird, Balwant Singh, Steve Hillier, Kevin Murphy, Cliff Johnston, Jeffrey Post, Bob Gilkes, Juraj Bujdak, Peter Komadel, JF Wagner, Barbora Dousova, Yoshikazu Kameshima and Peng Yuan at the conference has also been a valuable moment and real pleasure.

Overall, attending Euroclay2015 has provided me a broader perspective of my research work and future potential collaborations. I am keen to keep up my commitments to the activities of Clay Minerals Group (CMG) and the Clay Minerals Society (CMS) in the future.