

CMG Bursary Report: International Clay Conference, Dublin 2025

Recipient: Dr Bhabananda Biswas

Institution: University of Newcastle, Australia; University of Greifswald, Germany; crcCARE Australia

Event: International Clay Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 12-18 July 2025

Organisers: Clay Minerals Group (CMG) of the Mineralogical Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

I sincerely thank the Clay Minerals Group (CMG) for the travel bursary that enabled my participation in the International Clay Conference in Dublin (12-18 July 2025). With more than 600 delegates and over 45 sessions, this exciting event was key for both networking and the advancement of clay science.

Key contributions included co-chairing the "Modified Clays for Environmental Remediation" session with Prof. Laurence Warr, while engaged with conveners Dr Bénédicte Perlot and Dr Himanshu Yadav, which sparked engaging discussions among attendees in house and during breaks. I delivered two oral talks in two different sessions: one on teaching clay science: a bibliographic point of view of applied clay research, and another on mechanochemically activated halloysite nanotubes for slow-release phosphorus fertilisers, both receiving interactive feedback. Apart from the technical sessions, it was a great experience working with the Clay Minerals Society colleagues for some society business and communications.

My PhD student, Mr Zubaer Hosen, presented his project on kaolin clay as cattle feed, earning praise, while my team researcher Dr. Rashidul Islam shared insights on iron impurities in kaolin, contributing to our project's success.



Collage Caption: Engaging at the International Clay Conference, Dublin 2025.

The bursary facilitated impactful networking, skill-building through a day-long workshop, and cultural highlights like Irish instrument music at the conference dinner. Thank you, CMG, for this invaluable opportunity.