

Geoanalysis 2012 – Búzios, Brazil

Geoanalysis 2012, the flagship meeting of the International Association of Geoanalysts, took place in Búzios, Brazil, on 16–20 September 2012. This was the eighth triennial conference, and it marked the beginning of yet another three-year cycle for our association. This year's gathering was a major success, attracting 167 delegates from 24 countries, making it one of the most successful Geoanalysis meetings yet held. The four days of presentations covered a broad spectrum of topics that are key to achieving reliable results from the analysis of geological and environmental materials. The presentations touched on topics such as the production of the highest-quality reference materials, sampling strategies from the kilometre to the micrometre scale, and advanced strategies for determining “non-traditional” isotope ratios. The Organizing Committee for Geoanalysis 2012 developed a new format for the conference, eliminating parallel sessions and placing emphasis on poster presentations. The event began with four one-day short courses devoted to a selection of themes that are of core importance in analytical geochemistry. During the subsequent four days, the number of oral presentations was consciously limited, and sessions were focused on a kick-off invited talk that highlighted current key issues for the analyst, thus setting the tone for the given session's theme. Thanks to detailed planning by the conference organisers, the poster sessions were especially well attended, with delegates staying beyond the scheduled times to continue discussion with both poster presenters and corporate sponsors.



The Organising Committee of Geoanalysis 2012. Left to right: Mauro Cesar Geraldés (State University of Rio de Janeiro), Jacinta Enzweiler (University of Campinas, chair of the Organizing Committee), Marly Babinski (University of São Paulo), Ana Maria Graciano Figueiredo (Nuclear and Energy Research Institute, São Paulo), and Renata da Silva Schmitt (University of Rio de Janeiro)

As one expects from Geoanalysis conferences, the social aspects of this meeting were also a major highlight. Extended lunch breaks gave delegates excellent opportunities to discuss ongoing research and to plan future collaborations. Despite being at the end of the Brazilian winter, evenings offered the chance for very pleasant gatherings in the old town of Búzios, where many small shops catered to the needs of the visitor and the temperature remained warm throughout the evenings. Wednesday's conference meal was a grand social event: the drumming, dancing and samba will long be remembered by all. Efficient organisation, an excellent scientific programme, and wonderful Brazilian hospitality – exactly what the many delegates from near and far had anticipated!



Delegates gathered around the pool outside the conference venue just before lunch break