

Geoanalysis 2006 Beijing China

Geoanalysis 2006 was held from 18 to 21 September 2006 in the splendid surroundings of the Minzu Hotel, Beijing. In attendance were over 160 delegates from 19 countries, including at least 60 from the host nation, making it the best attended Geoanalysis conference yet. The event was organized by the National Research Center for Geoanalysis, Beijing and was sponsored by the China Geological Survey (CGS) and the International Association of Geoanalysis (IAG). For many delegates this represented their first visit to China; others were able to make comparisons with previous visits and the changes that were evident.



Delegates at Geoanalysis 2006 outside the Minzu Hotel, Beijing

Prior to the conference, delegates were invited to visit the IGGE laboratories at Langfang, where they were warmly welcomed by Prof Xie. He and his colleagues provided an insight into vast scale of the geochemical mapping programme undertaken by these laboratories and their supporting reference material collection. On returning to Beijing, the afternoon was spent at the National Research Center for Geoanalysis with a tour of the facilities followed by a series of talks. The considerable investment in modern analytical equipment evident at both locations was a clear indication of the continuing importance of geoanalysis in China. The day finished with an impressive welcome reception and banquet at the Minzu Hotel, which was the first of many delicious meals.

Plenary lectures covered a wide range of subjects and provided a stimulating backdrop to the parallel sessions. These included: *Xie Xuejin* (Geoanalysis and geochemical mapping); *Phil Potts* (Geoanalytical techniques – past triumphs, future goals); *Li Jiayi* (Geoanalysis in China); *Liu Dunyi* (The application of SHRIMP in geochronology) and *Michael Wiedenbeck* (In situ microanalysis – What's going on at the nano scale). Dr Liu's account of how he provides remote access to the SHRIMP facility to enable it to be utilised efficiently was fascinating and there may be some lessons to be learnt here! Dr Wiedenbeck's graphical simulation of what happens at the nm-scale when materials are subjected to microbeam techniques was the more impressive because it had necessitated spending half the previous night endeavouring to render German video clips compatible with the conference computer projection facilities.

The contribution of the IAG to the planning and execution of Geoanalysis 2006 was generously acknowledged by the organisers throughout the meeting. Doug Miles' editing of over 150 abstracts was particularly appreciated. Members of the IAG Council took the responsibility of responding to our hosts at the formal functions to speak on behalf of all delegates as well as the IAG.



Doug Miles presenting Madame Wu with a gift on behalf of the IAG at the closing ceremony of Geoanalysis 2006

Madame Wu and her enthusiastic team from the National Research Centre for Geoanalysis are to be congratulated for organising a splendid conference. Everyone was provided with a copy of the conference photograph, which was a lovely souvenir of the whole proceedings. Old friendships were renewed and new ones forged across different cultures. Thanks to Mike Ramsey, our very talented pianist, an abiding memory will be the traditional Geoanalysis singalong after the conference dinner when English, Russian and Chinese melodies and voices were heard in turn, and then in unison, culminating in a lively rendition of Auld Lang Syne.



The traditional Geoanalysis singalong in many languages!

Papers from the conference appeared in a special issue of *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* in 2007. This collection of nine original articles and a guest editorial can be found most easily under the [Geoanalysis 2006 Virtual Special Issue](#).