

Geoanalysis 2009 – KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

In spite of the economic difficulties that challenged many professional societies over the previous year, the organising committee of Geoanalysis 2009 nonetheless achieved the goal of attracting 112 delegates. Over 100 scientists from outside the host country came to South Africa. The five-day format selected for the meeting had the wonderful advantage of almost eliminating the need for parallel sessions. Conference highlights included counterpoint perspectives on environmental sampling and uncertainty estimation, invited lectures on the chemical evolution of the Bushveld Complex and strategies for diamond exploration, and recent technical advances related to *in situ* isotope imaging. One major event of note was a half-day symposium devoted to the IAG's Materials Certification Programme, which commemorated Jean Kane's ten years of leadership of this important IAG initiative. African drumming, wine tasting, and an excursion into the beautiful Drakensberg Mountains were social highlights typical of Geoanalysis conferences and which contribute to the convivial atmosphere that brings a devoted following to these meetings. Highest praise goes to Maggi Loubser and her organising committee for hosting an excellent event.



Delegates to the Geoanalysis 2009 meeting held on 6–11 September 2009

A [Virtual Special Issue](#) of *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* (GGR) contains nine original articles and a guest editorial published in GGR stemming from Geoanalysis 2009.