

2008 Quality Assurance Workshop, Berlin

A major initiative of the IAG over the past year has been the development of a workshop syllabus devoted to quality assurance in analytical geochemistry. The first such workshop organised by the IAG was held in September 2007 in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne. Its success encouraged the IAG to offer such courses at further venues. Similar workshops were held in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver in July 2008 and in advance of the German Mineralogical Society's annual meeting in Berlin in September 2008. In view of the lively discussions at both venues, we conclude that these courses were also well received.

The IAG is therefore planning to hold more workshops in 2009: in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference in Davos, Switzerland in June and in advance of the Geoanalysis 2009 Conference in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa in September 2009. Due to the large amount of material involved in providing a basic understanding of quality assurance, the IAG is discussing an expansion of future workshops from the current one-day format to a two-day short course format. Lengthening the course duration would have the important benefit of allowing more time for participants to work on examples of real-world data sets.

Contents of the IAG's Quality Assurance Workshop:

- Method Validation: How good is your analytical procedure?
- Measurement Uncertainty: How do you estimate uncertainty?
- Metrological Traceability: Principles and concepts.
- Reference Materials: What are they?
- Reference Materials: How are they used?
- Proficiency Testing: The key to quality assurance



Participants during the lunch break at the IAG's QA workshop held at the Freie Universität in Berlin. This event was led by IAG members Thomas Meisel from Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria (third from right) and Conny Kriete from the Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover, Germany (second from right).