

## EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue of *Clay Minerals Journal of Fine Particle Science*, is devoted to papers which were presented at the Euroclay conference held at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, on 22–27 July 2007. The conference attracted a large number of scientists from Europe and around the world, representing a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines. The initial scope of this thematic issue was to include mainly manuscripts about the geology, mineralogy and geochemistry of clays and clay minerals, palaeoreconstruction, and soils and sediments. However, manuscripts devoted to more applied disciplines have also been submitted and so we have a wider coverage than initially envisioned. The manuscripts were subjected to the normal review procedure of the journal.

The following ten papers reflect the interdisciplinary nature of clays. Christidis discusses some of the questions relating to the formation of bentonites, concerning the formation of high-quality bentonites from acidic rocks, the role and nature of Fe during the formation of smectites and the influence of the chemistry of parent rocks on the chemistry of smectites present in bentonites. Mameli *et al.* describe the Fe concentration in palaeosoils and in clayey marine sediments: two case studies in the Variscan basement of Sardinia conclude that palaeoenvironmental differences which are not that dramatic can be reflected in the geochemical features of the chemical sediments. Nitzsche *et al.* describe the XRD and IR characterization of oxisols from central and southeastern Brazil. They examined the effect of Fe oxides, particularly those that are ferromagnetic, on microwave interaction with high-Fe soils. Sokalska *et al.* studied the clay minerals from Permo-Carboniferous very low-grade metamorphic rocks from the central part of the Fore Sudetic Monocline (western Poland), concluding that chlorite and illite crystallinities indicate conditions of upper anchizone to lower epizone (sub-greenschist to greenschist facies). Marantos *et al.* studied the geochemical characteristics of the alteration of volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks in the Feres Basin, Thrace, NE Greece. They examined the mobilization of major and trace chemical elements during the alteration of volcanic rocks to

zeolites and clay minerals in the Feres basin. Mobilization of chemical elements was studied in association with the formation of authigenic minerals, in order to establish its influence on the genesis of these alteration phases. Braga *et al.* presented data on the formation of clay minerals in a gem-bearing pegmatite from Madagascar. They emphasized the importance of textures and crystal chemistry of clay minerals and discussed the relationships between gemstones and late-stage secondary mineral paragenesis, mainly of clay minerals. Daoudi *et al.* studied the distribution and evolution of clay minerals in the Western High Atlas basin of Morocco at the Cenomanian–Turonian boundary. They examined the genetic mechanisms controlling the input of smectite in the margin basin of Morocco and their relationships with the evolution of the basin margins. Papoulis and Tsolis-Katagas studied the formation of alteration zones and kaolin genesis on Limnos Island, northeast Aegean Sea, Greece, aiming to specify the extent, origin and condition of the alteration, as well as the alteration processes which acted on the parent rocks and to determine the association of minerals in the alteration products derived. Ribeiro *et al.* studied the removal of Pb and Ni ions from aqueous media by filtration through clay-based beds. The materials examined included a clay consisting of kaolinite, illite and smectite, and collected fines/rejects from production of lightweight aggregates consisting of calcite, portlandite, anorthite and hercynite. Carvalho *et al.* studied the activation with NaOH of various mixtures of natural clay containing kaolinite and illite, a lightweight aggregate and glass cullet rejects. They constructed geopolymers which were tested for their mechanical strength and texture and tested parameters which control geopolymerization.

A number of other manuscripts was also submitted for publication in this issue but they were either rejected during the review process or were not ready for publication within the scheduled time. The latter will appear in forthcoming issues when the review/revision process is complete. The scope of some of the papers (e.g. Marantos *et al.*) is slightly beyond what is traditional for this journal.

The decision to include them reflects the desire to broaden the scope of the journal. We believe that the variety of topics covered in this issue reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the studies of clays presented at the conference.

GEORGE E. CHRISTIDIS  
F. ROCHA  
Guest Editors  
November 2008