

# OPENING ADDRESS TO THE XVII<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE ON CLAY MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends and guests,

on behalf of the Czech National Clay Group and Organizing Committee of the XVIIth Conference on Clay Mineralogy and Petrology I would like to welcome you warmly at this meeting which is prepared by the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics and the Institute of Geology – both the institutions belonging to Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

We are happy to welcome here scientists from European countries and also overseas participants. All of us together form a fairly large family that thanks the activity of the International Association for the Study of Clays and European Clay Groups Association, maintains permanent relations among the members of our branch. In our country from the year 1958 we have our own tradition in organizing meetings of clay investigators.

Till now, we organized 16 conferences, the last one in Karlovy Vary. To attract people from Czech enterprises, the Organizing Committee of the XVIIth Conference decided to arrange Seminar lectures oriented especially at Clay Sorbents and Argillaceous Barriers the first day, delivered in the Czech language. Foreign participants obtain printed materials in English and are welcome to participate in discussions. It was very great effort of Prof. Konta, that he personally gave to the preparation of this Seminar.

Other days, the lectures will be delivered in English language. The topic of the first day is one of the sections of the second day as a part of original contributions. Themes of original contributions are concentrated on ecology, properties of clays, problems in mineralogy and geology of clays, soils etc. and on the utilization of clays in industrial applications. These are also the subjects of the poster exhibition.

Two excursions are prepared. Weathering effects on stones of buildings and statues in the city will be demonstrated within the first excursion. The second one is the geological excursion into the quarry, the stone from which was used for many constructions in Prague.

Each participant will get the following printed materials that were prepared before the conference: Book of Abstracts, Printed Seminar lectures and two Guidebooks (the first one: Weathering of stones in buildings and statues of Prague's historical city core; the second one: Geological excursion to Přední Kopanina).

Author's contributions will be published in the Proceedings volume edited after the Conference and distributed to all participants.

I hope that you will find some topics discussed at the sessions interesting for you. I believe that the Czech capital will enchant you thanks its indescribable richness and a variety of historical attractions in your free time.

Thank you.

Prague, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2004

**Karel MELKA**  
chairman of the  
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