

XXVI UNESCO-SEG-SGA Latin American Metallogeny Course Active and Fossil Hydrothermal Systems and Associated Mineralization Mexico City · June 25–July 7, 2007

Massimo Chiaradia (SEG 1998)
International Coordinator of the 2007 Course

The 2007 edition of the UNESCO-SEG-SGA Latin American Metallogeny course was held at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico City, from June 25 to July 7. The main aim of this itinerant course, which is held every year in a different Latin American country, is to bring up-to-date information on ore deposits to South American students and professionals. This was the first time that the course has been held in a Central American country, the past editions having been hosted by Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, and Chile. The course attracted 75 participants from 8 countries of Latin America (Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Colombia) from both industry and university, bringing the highest number to attend thus far. Of the 75 attendees, 17 were granted a scholarship thanks to the generous supports of the Swiss Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE), SEG, the Society of Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA), and UNESCO. As customary for this course, the 17 grant holders gave short (and all good quality!) presentations on their scientific or professional works.

Among the full-paying participants, the great majority consisted of represen-

tatives of the mining or geothermal industry (50 versus only 8 people from a purely academic environment). This shows that the course, in agreement with one of its main aims, raises the interest of mining companies in sending their (mostly young!) geologists for educational purposes.

As usual, the course was split into two parts: a theory part, which ran from June 25 to 30, and a field part, which ran from July 1 to 7. The theory part, centered on the theme "Active and fossil hydrothermal systems and associated mineralization," was covered by several lectures given both by international instructors (S. Simmons and P. Browne from Auckland University, New Zealand; Victor Valencia, University of Arizona, USA; Lluís Fontboté and myself, University of Geneva, Switzerland) and various Mexican instructors (R.-M. Prol-Ledesma, A. Camprubí, E. González-Partida, C. Canet). This year's meeting also featured, for the first time, workshops in which the participants could become acquainted with laboratory tools useful for the study of hydrothermal systems (e.g., thermodynamic modeling softwares, fluid inclusion equipment).

The field trip was attended by 41 participants and visited the Guanajuato

Ag-Au world-class low-sulfidation epithermal district, the active geothermal field of Los Azufres, one of the several Pleistocene silicic volcanic centers with active geothermal systems in the Mexican volcanic belt, and active mining at the early Tertiary Au-skarn deposit of Nukay.

Overall, the course was a great success, both for the high number of participants and the vivid interest that the participants showed both during the theoretical and field segments of the course.

I would like to thank all course sponsors (KFPE, SEG, SGA, and UNESCO), without whose support this course would not be possible, the local Mexican organizers (R.-M. Prol-Ledesma, A. Camprubi, and C. Canet in particular), and various Mexican institutions for the logistic organization of this course, as well as the management of the Nukay and Guanajuato mines and of Los Azufres geothermal field for their warm hospitality during the field trip.

The 2008 edition of the course will take place in Bolivia. Further information on this course and the past editions can be found at <http://www.unige.ch/sciences/terre/mineral/seminars/latino_metal.html>. SEG



A group of field trip participants prepare to enter a mine in the Guanajuato Ag-Au district.