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## International Mineralogical Association

### THE END OF CNMMN AND CCM —LONG LIVE THE CNMNC!

Two commissions of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA), the Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names (CNMMN) and the Commission on Classification of Minerals (CCM), jointly proposed to the IMA Council in 2005 to merge their activities into a single, new commission to be named the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC). The main reason for this proposal was the conflicting control over certain tasks in the field of mineralogical nomenclature.

In the early 1990s, the then-chairman of the CCM embarked on a plan for the CCM to develop an overall classification system for minerals, probably the scheme currently in use by the International Centre for Diffraction Data. This proposal sparked an immediate response from the then-chairman of the CNMMN who forcefully expressed the view that the proposal was in conflict with the jurisdiction of the CNMMN

over all matters affecting mineralogical nomenclature. Following some acrimonious debate, which culminated during the 1994 IMA general meeting in Pisa (Italy), the issue was ultimately resolved by the IMA deposing the then-chairman of the CCM.

In another area of possible conflict, the CCM has never played, surprisingly, an active part in developing or revising classification

schemes for specific mineral groups. This role has, instead, been assumed from the start of the IMA by the CNMMN, which established special subcommittees to review the classification and nomenclature of large mineral groups, such as amphiboles, micas, pyroxenes and zeolites.

In the early 2000s, some officers and members of CCM and CNMMN renewed efforts to arrive at a necessary standardisation of mineral groups and their nomenclature. A joint working paper was drafted for this purpose and submitted to both commissions. During the 2004 Paris (France) meetings of the two commissions (on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference on Mineralogy and Museums), it again became clear that classification of minerals is inseparable from mineral nomenclature and that CCM and CNMMN cannot function independently on this issue. Ernest H. Nickel, vice-chairman of the CCM and former vice-chairman of the CNMMN, then came up with the logical proposal to amalgamate the two commissions.

The proposal to merge the two commissions into a new commission was voted on in 2005 and was approved with overwhelming majorities by the members of both commissions. There were many suggestions for the name of the new commission. The name that was chosen – Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature

and Classification – was proposed by Gheorghe Udubasa, who represented Romania in both commissions. This name encompasses all fields of interest and activities of the new commission. And moreover, as pointed out Gheorghe, the acronym CNMNC is symmetric, as befits a mineralogical name.

The IMA council members expressed their agreement with the proposed merger in May 2006, and the final decision was made during the business meeting of the IMA in Kobe (Japan) in July 2006. A play on words was necessary to obtain this result because the IMA Statutes and By-Laws do not consider the possibility of a merger of two commissions, only 'termination' and 'initiation'. Closing down both commissions would have had a serious drawback: a new commission must be initiated as a working group, which does not have the same status as a commission. It was therefore decided to terminate one commission and to rename the other commission as the CNMNC.

In order to avoid a heavier workload for the officers of the new commission with its expanded duties, the CNMNC has decided to add an additional officer – a second vice-chairman who will specifically be responsible for classification matters.

**Ernst A.J. Burke**  
Chairman CNMNC



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