

Strengthening of synergy in the field of education of mineralogy

Thanks to increased interest of the humankind in the usage of mineral resources, implementation of new technologies, networking of fundamental studies and education, the role of mineralogy as a field of knowledge has risen significantly. Indeed, globalization of education and science and the mobility of students/young scientists challenge every university and favour joint actions between institutions, including those in the field of mineralogy. In order to meet these challenges, the Nordic Mineralogical Network was established.

The Nordic Mineralogical Network was created for enhancement of research and development in mineralogy, as well as application and teaching possibilities in the Nordic region of Europe. Since its foundation on the initiative of Dr Tonci Balic-Zunic in 2006 the network, sponsored by Nordforsk, has been acting as a coordinator of advanced study courses for post-graduate students, research contacts for scientists and integration of the community of mineralogists. The website of the network (<http://www oulu.fi/minnet/>) provides all needed details. So far 17 institutions of different universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom have united their efforts to improve our knowledge and skills in the field of mineralogy. A foremost action has been providing courses and practical training for students and academic staff. Besides, face-to-face contacts are still powerful factors, strengthening expressional and rational actions worldwide and regionally. So, every year the northern mineralogical community holds an annual meeting (2006 – Copenhagen, 2007 – Göteborg, 2008 – Oslo, 2009 – Helsinki, 2010 – Tallinn), in order to strengthen synergy in the field of mineralogical research, especially in advanced education because mineralogy is highly demanding adequate experience.

The 5th annual meeting of the Nordic Mineralogical Network was held in the Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology on 14–18 June 2010. Faculty members and students from eight universities (Århus, Copenhagen, Göteborg, Helsinki, Oulu, Riga, Turku and Tallinn University of Technology) had a scientific conference, a lecture session dedicated to improvement of teaching, a poster session and two field excursions. Scientific sessions as well as the poster session (Fig. 1) were dominated by serious science, however, the multinational mineralogical community had also an opportunity to relax and have a pleasant conversation in an unofficial atmosphere. The abstracts of presentations will be published in *Proceedings* of the University of Oulu (see www oulu.fi/minnet/). Field excursions visited the oil-shale region in NE Estonia and the klint area in NW Estonia

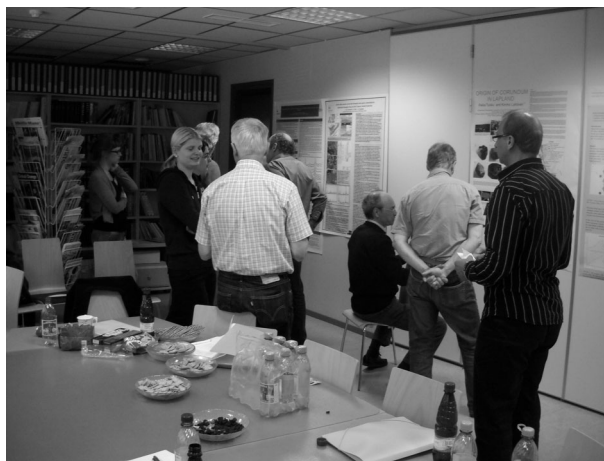


Fig. 1. Poster session in the lecture room of the Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology. Photo by J. Nemliher.



Fig. 2. Participants in the meeting in the Uuga outcrop, Pakri Peninsula, examining the Cambrian/Ordovician boundary beds. Photo by J. Nemliher.

(Fig. 2), where, respectively, Middle Ordovician and Cambrian–Ordovician sequences were studied. The quartz silt/sandstones, glauconite beds, lime- and dolostones, phosphorite beds as well as black- and oil shale beds were demonstrated and sampled.

The Nordic Mineralogical Network is an open organization. Any kind of co-operation (especially in the field of education) is welcome and the network waits for new contributors/participants. Mineralogy is fascinating!

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