Dear colleagues,

With great pleasure and honour the Organizing Committee would like to welcome you at the

9th International Conference Mineralogy and Museums
(MM9 – Sofia, July 5th-7th, 2020).

MM9 will deal with mineralogy, museums and related fields of science, with a special focus on archaeological mineralogy and minerals in cultural heritage. The Conference intends to bring together both professionally oriented scientists and museum curators, providing them with an opportunity to share ideas and strengthen international links.

**Organizing Committee**

Ruslan I. Kostov (University of Mining and Geology, Sofia); Chair
Radostina Atanassova (Geological Institute, BAS, Sofia)
Kamen Bogdanov (Sofia University, Sofia)
Alexander Dikov (Intergeoresource Ltd., Sofia)
Chavdar Nachev (National Museum “Earth and Man”, Sofia)
Larisa Nesheva (National Museum “Earth and Man”, Sofia)
Rositsa Nikolova (Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography, BAS, Sofia)
Nikolai Spassov (National Natural History Museum, Sofia)
Ognyan Todorov (Regional Natural History Museum, Plovdiv)
Rossitsa Vassileva (Geological Institute, BAS, Sofia)

**International Advisory Committee (IMA-CM)**

Mike Rumsey (Natural History Museum, London, UK); Chair
Stuart Mills (Victoria Museum, Melbourne, Australia)
Kim Tait (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada)

**National Scientific Committee**

Kamen Bogdanov (Chair)
Thomas Kerestedjian, Vassilka Mladenova, Dobrinka Stavrakeva

**Venue**

National Museum “Earth and Man”
Blvd. Cherni Vrah 4; Sofia 1421; BULGARIA

**Time**

July 3-4, 2020 (pre-conference field trips)
July 5-7, 2020 (conference)
July 8-10, 2020 (post-conference field trip)

**Registration**

Starting January 1, 2020

**Contact**

Website: https://www.bgminsoc.bg
E-mail: MM9@bgminsoc.bg

**Patronage and Sponsorships**

**International Partners:**

- International Mineralogical Association

**National Partners:**

- Geological Institute “Strashimir Dimitrov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography “Acad. Ivan Kostov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Sofia
- University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, Sofia
- National Natural History Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Regional Natural History Museum, Plovdiv
- Intergeoresource Ltd., Sofia

**Journals and Media partners:**

- Geology and Mineral Resources
Scientific Program (oral and poster presentations will be organized in four sessions)

Session 1: Mineralogical research and museums
Systematic and regional mineralogy; nomenclature and classification; new minerals; symmetry and crystallography; crystal morphology; meteorites; gem minerals and aggregates; cave minerals; analytical techniques and methods.

Session 2: Archaeomineralogy and cultural heritage
Archaeological mineralogy; archaeogemmology; archaeometry.

Session 3: Collection management and development
Trends in mineralogical or complex geological and natural history museums; acquisition; conservation; unique samples; databases; computer and video applications.

Session 4: Museums, environment and society
History of mineralogical collections and museums; education; specific exhibits (archaeomineralogy; ecomineralogy; ethnomineralogy; biominerals and medical mineralogy; technical mineralogy); minerals and the arts; public relations; geoheritage and geotourism.

Field Trips
A. Pre-conference one day trip (4 July 2020 Saturday; Stara Planina Mountain): Elatsite porphyry copper-gold deposit (the largest open pit mine in Bulgaria)

B. Pre-conference trip (3-4 July 2020 Friday-Saturday; 2 days; Southern Bulgaria – Eastern Rhodopes): Sofia – Plovdiv (European town of culture 2019; Regional Natural History Museum with largest mineral collection in Southern Bulgaria) – Haskovo (Alexandrovo Thracian tomb – Museum Center “Thracian Art of Eastern Rhodopes”) – Kardzhali (Regional Historical Museum including artifacts from the earliest Balkan nephrite culture, Natural Sciences Department; visit of a zeolite geosite; “Perperekon” rock-cut geoarchaeological site) – Sofia
C. Post-conference trip (8-10 July 2020 Wednesday-Friday; 3 days; Central and North-East Bulgaria): Sofia – Stara Zagora (Museum “Neolithic Dwellings” and first copper for Europe; Regional Historical Museum) – Kazanluk (Thracian Museum of History “Iskra”) – Varna (Archaeological Museum with the “Oldest Gold of Mankind” from the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis including first complex faceted carnelian beads; Aladzha Rock Monastery) – Madara (rock-hewn “Madara Rider” UNESCO site and museum) – Veliki Preslav (Second Bulgarian capital; Archaeological museum with the Medieval jewellery treasure) – Sofia. Accommodation at the

The “Madara Rider” UNESCO site.

Gold and mineral artefacts from the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis.

Emeralds and pears from the Medieval Preslav gold treasure (Veliki Preslav).

Nephrite zoomorphic amulet from the Early Neolithic (early 6th mill. BC) Kardzhali site (Balkan nephrite culture); Regional History Museum, Kardzhali
One can use this trip as an opportunity for a Summer holiday at the famous Black Sea resorts “Sunny Beach”, “Golden Sands” and “Albena”.

A field trip can be canceled if less than 8 persons are registered.

**Business meetings of IMA Council and IMA Commissions** (to be announced)

**Exhibition and company promotion**
- Intergeoresource Ltd., Sofia

**Cultural Program**
- **Ice-breaker Party.** The welcoming party will be held in the on Sunday 5th at the *National Museum “Earth and Man”*. The event is free of charge for conference participants.
- **Conference Dinner.** Conference dinner will be held on July 6th. This event is for conference participants who have booked it in their registration (50 EUR).
- **Special Exhibits in the National Museum “Earth and Man”:** minerals and poetry; minerals and prose; first Bulgarian geologists and mineralogists; mineralogy and education in Bulgaria; Bulgarian minerals photo exhibit.
- **Excursion to mineralogical museums in Sofia (by choice; 6th July, afternoon).** The mineralogical collection of the National Natural History Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is the oldest in Sofia. Rich collections with minerals from Bulgaria and abroad are on display in both university museums (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”).

*National Natural History Museum*

*Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”*

*Museum of Unique Crystals “Ilia Deleff”*

*University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”*
Visiting Sofia and Vitosha

- **Sofia sightseeing and visit of other museums**
  National Museum of History; Boyana Church (UNESCO site); St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral Crypt Icon Museum; National Institute of Archaeology with Museum; Kvadrat 500 (International and National Art Museum); Sofia History Museum; National Museum of Military History; National Polytechnical Museum; National Anthropological Museum; Museum of Socialist Art; Sofia Arsenal Museum for Contemporary Art; Art Galleries.

- **Vitosha Mountain National Park**

**Conference language**

The official conference language will be English.
Important deadlines

- June 15, 2019 MM9 website; *First Circular*
- October 15, 2019 *Second Circular*; Call for abstracts
- January 1, 2020 Open online conference and field trip registration and submission of abstracts
- April 1, 2020 Deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration
- July 3-4, 2020 Pre-conference field trips
- July 5-7, 2020 Opening of conference; conference sessions
- July 8-10, 2020 Post-conference field trip

General information

*Presentation type.* One or two abstracts (each 2 pages with references) by a single author and/or first co-author may be submitted as oral and/or poster presentations. Please note that the review committee also reserves the right to offer the opportunity for either a poster or an oral type presentation. All oral presentations (30 min. plenary; 15 min. sessions) will be made using computers provided by the organizers. For your poster presentations, please print your posters in max. size A0 (ca. 119 x 84 cm; portrait orientation) or smaller. Poster tables and fixing material will be provided. Your abstract(s) will not be published until your registration and full payment have been received. By submitting an abstract, the author(s) attest that the abstract submitted has not been previously published elsewhere and transfers, assigns, or otherwise conveys the copyright for its publication. Both a printed and an online (in colour) version of the abstracts will be available for the participants of the conference. Full texts of presentations are intended to be published in the journal of the Bulgarian Mineralogical Society: *Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology (Sofia)*.

Registration fees (conference fees and prices for field trips will be listed in the *Second Circular*)

The conference fee includes admission to the scientific programme of the conference, refreshments during the official program, one first-author abstract in the book of abstracts (fee for the next abstract is 20 EUR), welcome reception (July 5, 2020). The registration fee does not include any insurance for personal injuries sustained, or for loss or damage to property belonging to conference participants (or persons accompanying them) during the conference. Student registrations are required to upload a copy of student card or a scan of confirmation of student status from corresponding academic institution.

Conference venue

The MM9 conference will take place at the National Museum “Earth and Man”.

- Address: Sofia 1421; Blvd. Cherni Vrah 4;
- E-mail: earth.and.man@gmail.com; office@earlandman.org
- Phone: +359-28656639
- www.earlandman.org/?page_id=4349&lang=en

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Earth+and+People+National+Museum/@42.680115,23.320811,16z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xadad6d110dec3cf4!8m2!3d42.6801148!4d23.3208106?hl=en-US
Visiting Bulgaria

**Money.** The local currency is the Bulgarian Lev (1 Lev ~ 0.5 EUR). Credit/debit cards (VISA, MasterCard, Maestro) are frequently accepted in hotels and larger shops throughout the country, and some shops might accept Euro. However, you should have some cash when travelling (to buy a metro ticket at the airport station or to take a taxi). Getting some cash from an ATM might be more convenient than using exchange offices.

**Electricity.** We use a 230-V/50-Hz electricity network. Make sure your appliances are compatible (or get a travel adapter).

**Emergency numbers.** If you need assistance from an ambulance or the police, call 112 from any phone (including your mobile phone while roaming).

**Visa.** For some non-European Union countries – please check at the embassy or consulate.

**Transport**

Taxis operate throughout the city (~0.80 Leva/km in day hours; from Sofia International Airport Terminal 2 to the conference venue it should cost you ~10 Leva or 5 Euros; if you use taxi at the airport, inside the airport hall turn to the right exit, where there is an official taxi stop). From the Sofia International Airport metro station (turn to the left and go to the end in the airport hall) to the conference venue it should cost you only 1.60 Leva (=0.8 Euro): ~50-60 minutes travel – you must transfer from the red metro line at the central Serdica Station to the blue metro line for two stops in direction Vitosha, to station **European Union** which is just in front of the National Museum “Earth and Man”. At the airport there is a bus N84 (or N284) to downtown (tickets can be bought at the kiosk outside the airport or from the driver; 1.60 Leva). If you arrive at Sofia International Airport Terminal 1 (low cost flights), you can take a bus to Terminal 2 to the metro station (~5 minutes travel), or you can take a bus or a taxi downtown. If you arrive by train or by bus at Sofia Central Railway Station or at the International Bus Station, you can find your way to the metro station and you are can travel 4 stops on the blue metro line to the **European Union** station without any transfer (~15 minutes travel; 1.60 Leva).
Accommodation (optional near-by hotels)

- **Hemus Hotel (3 stars)** 31 Cherni Vrah Blvd., Sofia 1421
  phone: +359 2 816 5000; +359 2 816 5002; +359 2 816 5001; +359 885 466 778
  fax: +359 2 866 1318; e-mail: info@hemushotels.com
  230 rooms, price from 40 EUR/night; 200 m from the conference venue!

- **Hotel Hilton (5 stars)** 1 Bulgaria Blvd., Sofia 1421
  phone: +359-2-933-5000; fax: +359-2-933-5111; 200 m from the conference venue!

- **Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia (4 stars)** Blvd.Vitosha 106, Sofia 1463
  phone: +359 2 805 8181; 78 rooms, price from 52 EUR/night;
  600 m from the conference venue!

- **Hotel Downtown (3 stars)** 27 Vassil Levski Blvd., Sofia 1040
  phone: +359 2 930 5200; reservations@hotel-downtown.net
  700 m from the conference venue!

- **Hotel Marinela (5 stars)** 100 James Bourchier Boulevard, Sofia 1407
  phone: +359 2 969 2222, fax: +359 2 969 2223; e-mail: reservations@hotel-marinela.com
  442 rooms; one metro stop from the conference venue!

A number of other small hotels can be found in the central part of Sofia.

Contacts

- Conference website: https://www.bgminsoc.bg
- E-mail MM9: MM9@bgminsoc.bg

In case of specific queries please contact corresponding team member of the MM9 National Organizing Committee:

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