Assembly Focuses on Volcanism and Societal Impacts

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About another 30% of the abstracts, concentrated in six symposia, considered relationships of water and magma in some way, from explosive eruptions to magma-ice interaction to ore deposits related to magmatism. The most prominent topics were volatile fluxes and the role of magma degassing. A separate session on explosive mafic volcanism reflected growing appreciation for the frequency and importance of such eruptions. Volcano-ice interactions drew widening interest, as evident from the eponymous session as well as the recent approval of a new IAVCEI commission on the topic.

The scope of the commission is to foster the study of terrestrial and extraterrestrial volcano-ice interaction and to provide an internationally recognized point of contact for issues relevant to volcano-ice interactions. Formation of the commission was motivated by the abundance of volcanoes that have been affected by ice owing to high latitude, high altitude, or eruption in glacial periods.

Volcanic petrology made up 20% of the abstracts, and the importance of volatiles in magmas was echoed. Calderas and ignimbrites captured attention through about 60 abstracts. Geophysical techniques and models were woven through many symposia, but were also the focus of discrete sessions ranging from quantitative seismology to constraints on crustal rheology.

Imaging the insides of volcanoes was a theme with emphasis on conduit processes, which, coupled with quantitative modeling, showcased advances in how volcanoes work. Additional symposia were about remote sensing, timescales of magmatic processes, and tephrochronology, as well as several considering structural, tectonic, and geodynamic controls of volcanism.

During the mid-conference plenary session, three outstanding volcanologists were acknowledged with new IAVCEI honorary memberships. One membership had been awarded at Sapporo in 2003 to Shigeo Aramaki (Japan); the other two memberships were awarded in Pucón to Hans-Ulrich Schmincke (Germany) and Robert Tilling (United States). The Thorarinsson medal was awarded to Wes Hildreth (United States), and two Wager medals were awarded to Andy Harris (United States) and Oleg Melnik (Russia). Two new awards were given for the first time in 2004: the Kraft medal, to Tom Simkin (United States), and the Young Scientist award, to Costanza Bonadonna (United States).

The meeting was organized by representatives of the Geological Survey of Chile (Servageomin: Servicio Nacional de Geologia y Minería), spearheaded by Jorge Clavero, and many others, including faculty and students of the University of Chile, IAVCEI, and representatives of several mining companies. The meeting was sponsored by the Sociedad Geológica de Chile, the Instituto Geografico Militar (Chile), Codelco (Chile), the Geological Survey of Canada, and Columbia Sportswear. Travel grants were sponsored by IAVCEI and AGU.

The meeting was set on the shores of Lake Pucón, in a high-risk zone for lahars from snow-clad Volcano Villarica. During the meeting, Pucón school children displayed costumes and traditional dances, and the folk music group Inti-Illimani provided entertainment after a grand Chilean "asado," or barbeque. The meeting has been commemorated by a wooden sculpture entitled "Magma," erected on the flank of Volcano Villarica.

The nonprofit IAVCEI is an association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). The next IUGG meeting will be in Perugia, Italy, in 2007, celebrating the 50th International Year of Geophysics.

The IAVCEI General Assembly is held every four years. With the next one scheduled for 2008, proposals are under consideration for Iceland and France. Over the next few years, IAVCEI will also focus efforts on several smaller meetings, including the IAVCEI-sponsored workshop, "Caldera Volcanism: Analysis, Modeling, and Response," in Tenerife, Spain, 15–21 October 2005, and the "Cities on Volcanoes IV" conference in Quito, Ecuador, 23–27 January 2006. To join the next conference or learn more about IAVCEI, visit the Web site: www.iaavcei.org.

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