NEWS FROM OUR AFFILIATES...

Joint Meeting of IAGC/IGCP "Laterites" Groups

The concept and definition of laterites, and plans for a research program on laterites in Brazil - these were the main topics of discussion at a joint meeting of the IAGC Working Group on Laterites and Laterization and members of IGCP Project 129 ("Lateritization Processes") held in Salvador, Brazil late last year.

The principal objectives of the IAGC Working Group are:

- critical evaluation of existing data in the countries concerned
- choice of research areas
- construction of a geological map of tropical alteration facies
- petrographic, geochemical, and mineralogical studies of laterite profiles
- determination of the evolution of major and trace elements in a laterite profile
- laboratory simulation
- training of local technicians.

At the Salvador meeting, a program of study of laterites in Brazil to complement the study in Upper Volta was delineated. It will include research on the development of oxide mineralogy and supergene alteration of a sulfide ore body in a tropical climate, and the study of one or two complete laterite profiles. The sulfide study will be carried out in cooperation with the staff at the Boquirá mine (Bahia) and the Brazilian Universities. A geological field trip was conducted to the "Chapada Diamantina" region of central Bahia to define target areas for geochemical research.

The joint meeting was supported by UNESCO and the Brazilian Universities. The next meeting of the IAGC working group will be held in India during the International Congress on Laterites in December of this year.

G.M. Anderson
Secretary, IAGC