

Mineralogical Society Student Travel Bursary 2013 report:
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Meeting: IAVCEI 2013 (“Forecasting Volcanic Activity”), Kagoshima, Japan



I was awarded a travel grant by the Mineralogical Society, which allowed me to attend IAVCEI, in Kagoshima, Japan. This meeting is only occurs every 4-5 years, so attending really is a one-off opportunity during a PhD. I presented my PhD research on the origin of picrite and ferropicrite in Namibia, which is still a work in progress, so it was especially useful to gain feedback and ideas about where to take my project next.

This meeting was fantastic. I got the opportunity to discuss my research with a wide variety of people, met international scientists in my field, and even met some of my collaborators for the first time. The sessions were varied and interesting, with a large number of excellent talks, and I felt that I learnt a lot over the course of the week. I also learnt that Japan has an astonishing number of active volcanoes, most of which I had never heard of before. The meeting was a good one for inspiring enthusiasm in volcanology and geochemistry.

A great bonus in this conference was its setting at the foot of an almost continuously erupting volcano. A mid-conference field-trip took us to see Sakurajima properly, where it obediently erupted as we arrived. For the first time, I saw an explosive volcanic eruption, complete with minor gravity currents, noise, and lightning in the ash plume, which was a fairly inspiring experience and was a great social ice-breaker.



I would like to thank the MinSoc for this generous grant, without which I would definitely not have been able to attend this conference, or stay in Japan, which I thoroughly enjoyed.