

The Society for Organic Petrology

NEWSLETTER

September 2025 | Volume 42 / 3 | ISSN 0743-3816

The 42th Annual TSOP Meeting, September 3rd – 10th 2026, Beijing, China



The Great Wall in Autumn

From <https://govt.chinadaily.com.cn/s/202112/20/WS61c042ad498e6a12c121b6c1/beijing-ming-dynasty-great-wall-badaling-mutianyu-juyongguan.html>

TOP NEWS

- Report of the 41st Annual TSOP meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2025 TSOP Field Trip: Exploring Indonesia's Geologic Treasures
- Three Castaño's
- Call for participation for 42nd TSOP meeting

TSOP PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear TSOP Members,

As I wrap up my two-year term as TSOP president, I'm writing my last letter. Our annual meeting in Indonesia in September was, by any measure, a success, as reflected in strong attendance, engaged discussions, and smooth logistics. My sincere thanks to Prof. Ferian Anggara and the organizing committee for their tireless work during planning and throughout the meeting. We began with three insightful short courses and an engaging pre-conference cultural trip, followed by the technical sessions with high-quality research. We closed with a five-day post-conference field trip visiting the Mahakam Delta, Semayang Lake, and Miocene coal-bearing outcrops. I believe this created lasting memories for many participants.

It was a privilege to present the awards at the business lunch to colleagues whose contributions were recognized. In particular, congratulations to Prof. Jen O'Keefe of Morehead State University, who received the 2025 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, the Society's highest honor. Warm congratulations to all recipients on their well-deserved recognition.

I'm also delighted to welcome our new Council members, Grzegorz Lis (Vice President) and Marvin Moroeng (Councilor), who have now taken up their roles. They bring fresh energy and invaluable expertise, and I am confident that TSOP will thrive under their leadership and with the continued support of the full Council and committees. My sincere thanks as well to outgoing councilor Sherry Zheng for her outstanding contributions during her term of service.

Over the past year, the TSOP Council has discussed launching a new virtual, student-focused conference to run alongside the Annual Meeting each year. The initiative was announced at this year's Annual Meeting in Indonesia, and an organizing committee chaired by Tushar is now at work. The organizing committee includes early-career members and students from several countries, and we're actively looking for more volunteers to join the team. For more information, please contact Tushar Adsul at tpadsul@gmail.com.

The past two years have been deeply meaningful, and it has been an honor to serve in this role. Thank you for your trust and support across the membership. I am especially grateful to the Council and to the members of our committees for their steady work and generous volunteer service. I look forward to contributing as a regular member of this community. I extend my very best wishes to you all for continued success in research and good health and wellbeing.

Best wishes,
Lei Zhao, TSOP President 2023-2025



Dr. Lei Zhao
TSOP President

Report of the 41st Annual TSOP meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia



41ST THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY ANNUAL MEETING 2025

“Critical Minerals and Unconventional Hydrocarbon Resources in Future Energy”

FINAL REPORT The 41st Society for Organic Petrology Annual Meeting 2025 Indonesia



HOST AND VENUE

The Host Organization was the Unconventional Geo-resources Research Group (UGRG), Faculty of Engineering, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

The main venue was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Ferian Anggara (Chair)	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Tim A. Moore (Advisor)	Cipher Consulting Pty Ltd, Australia
Agung Setianto (Advisor)	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Salahuddin Husein	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Donatus Hendra Amijaya	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Haryo Edi Wibowo	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Esti Handini	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Rahmadi Hidayat	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Aulia Agus Patria	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Diana Rahmawati	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Wita Dyaswati	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Maya Kristine	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Aldian Fahrialam	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Atifa Maritza Giwangkara	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Alfu Afkar Anniffari	Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Fajar Alam	Universitas Muhammadiyah Kalimantan Timur, Indonesia

PRESENTATION AND ATTENDANCE

Presentations

Submitted	: 67
To present	: 57
Oral Presentations	: 39
Poster Presentations	: 18
Professional Presentations	: 31
Student Presentations	: 26
Professional Attendance	: 63
Student Attendance	: 29
Accompanying Person	: 3
Total Participants	: 95

Countries of presenters (12):

Australia, China, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, South Africa, United States of America

SCHEDULE

Details of the presentations and poster sessions are available in the latest website update.

The documentation can be accessed via the following link:

<https://tsop.ugm.ac.id/about-conference/documentation>

Report of the 41st Annual TSOP meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

1. Pre-Conference Fieldtrip

There were 56 participants for the pre-conference cultural fieldtrip with three destinations Merapi Volcano, Ullen Sentalu Museum and Borobudur Temple. All went to plan and there were no incidents.



2. Workshop

Workshop1:

101 Organic Petrology by Prof. Joan Esterle. There were 48 participants who signed up for this session.



Workshop 2: Critical Minerals in Coal by Prof. Shifeng Dai. There were 26 participants who signed up for this session.



Workshop 3: Unconventional Hydrocarbon by John Hattner. There were 11 participants who signed up for this session.



Report of the 41st Annual TSOP meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

3. Technical Session

The third and fourth days of the 41st Society for Organic Petrology Annual Meeting, held from September 9 to 10, 2025, included a Technical Session where participants presented their research findings orally and in poster form, as scheduled. Additionally, a Panel Session featured several speakers on key topics, including Critical Raw Materials, Unconventional Hydrocarbons, and Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS).

Further information can be accessed through <https://tsop.ugm.ac.id/>.



Group photo of participants and panel session



Oral presentation by participants

Poster presentation and coffee break session

ENDORSEMENTS

This meeting supported and endorsed by:

1. Unconventional Geo-resources Research Group (UGRG)
2. PT. Pertamina Hulu Mahakam
3. PT. Multi Harapan Utama (MHU)
4. Indonesian Association of Geologist (IAGI)
5. PT. Datamine Software Indonesia
6. PT. Geoservices
7. PT. Fatiha Buana Semesta

PROFIT

The meeting was able to return to TSOP a modest profit of \$US5,000

SPONSORS

The sponsors were:

1. PT. PAM Mineral Tbk
2. PT. Pertamina Hulu Rokan
3. Netherland, Sewell & Associates Inc (NSAI)
4. PT. Bukit Asam Tbk
5. Cipher Consulting Pty Ltd
6. PT. Berau Coal
7. PT. Adaro Indonesia

SPECIAL VOLUME

In contact with the editor of the
International Journal of Coal Geology

2025 TSOP Field Trip: Exploring Indonesia's Geological Treasures

Post-Conference Fieldtrip

There were 28 participants for the post-conference fieldtrip with four destinations, Pertamina Hulu Mahakam Core Workshop, Delta Mahakam, Semayang Lake and MHU Coal Mine. All went to plan and there were no incidents. Moreover, this was an amazing field trip where we really got the idea that the present is the key to the past.

Following a safety briefing that included crocodiles and snakes, we all received our field trip packages with an excellent Guidebook, reef shoes, a first aid kit and a bucket hat. The next morning, we flew from Yogyakarta to Balikpapan and proceeded to the Pertamina facility where we had a pack lunch, safety briefing and overview of the geology, exploration and production history from staff. After lunch we were guided by Thomas Yoga through slabbed exploration cores from the paleo-Mahakam fluvial-deltaic sediments that infilled the Kutai Basin and form the reservoirs produced today. Juicy sedimentology and lots of discussion.

That evening we were treated to an amazing dinner of grilled fish and other delicacies locally sourced from the Mahakam River and surrounds before being accommodated in the Aston Hotel Samarinda.

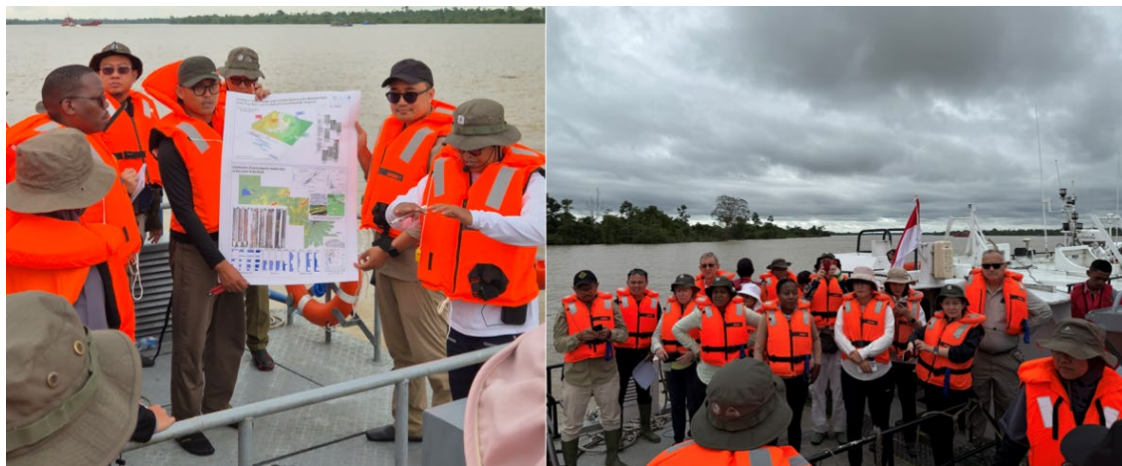


Dr Yoga from Pertamina explains the sedimentary features and facies of the Kutai Basin sequences to TSOP field trip participants.

On **Day 2** we were again hosted by the Pertamina team and led by Salahuddin Husein, Ferian Anggarra and Aulia Agus Patria on a boat excursion through the modern Mahakam Delta system. We travelled the main river past its first bifurcation and down a main Mahakam channel. Along the way, we could observe riparian vegetation changing as the salinity of the distributary changes. Following a quick stop to pull a core through some detrital peat, the boats went out to the river mouth, where an adventurous group dropped into the sea at low tide and visited an exposed mouth bar. They pulled some small cores to share with all. What a great day, with happy, tired and (some) wet geologists.

2025 TSOP Field Trip: Exploring Indonesia's Geological Treasures

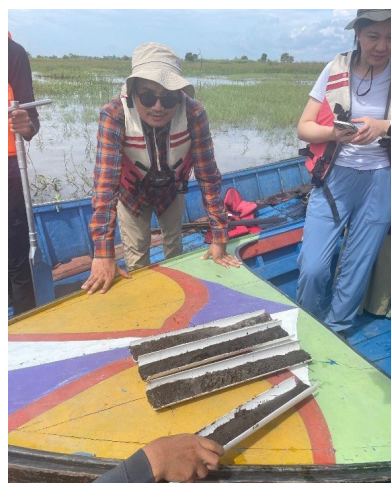
Day 3 continued the adventure. We travelled by car to Kota Bangun where we boarded longboats to travel upriver to the fresh water peats of the Kuai Lakes. We had lunch at Pela Village where we had a sobering lecture by Dr Budiono on the conservation efforts for freshwater dolphins that are endangered in this area (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLot7Qqlxos>). Following a locally sourced feast, we had a lecture from Dr Husein setting the scene of the tectonics of the Kutei Basin, and the lakes before heading out to watch Ferian's students pull some cores through the peats



Dr Husein explains the development of facies in the modern Mahakam Delta aided by Prof Anggarra and Dr Patria

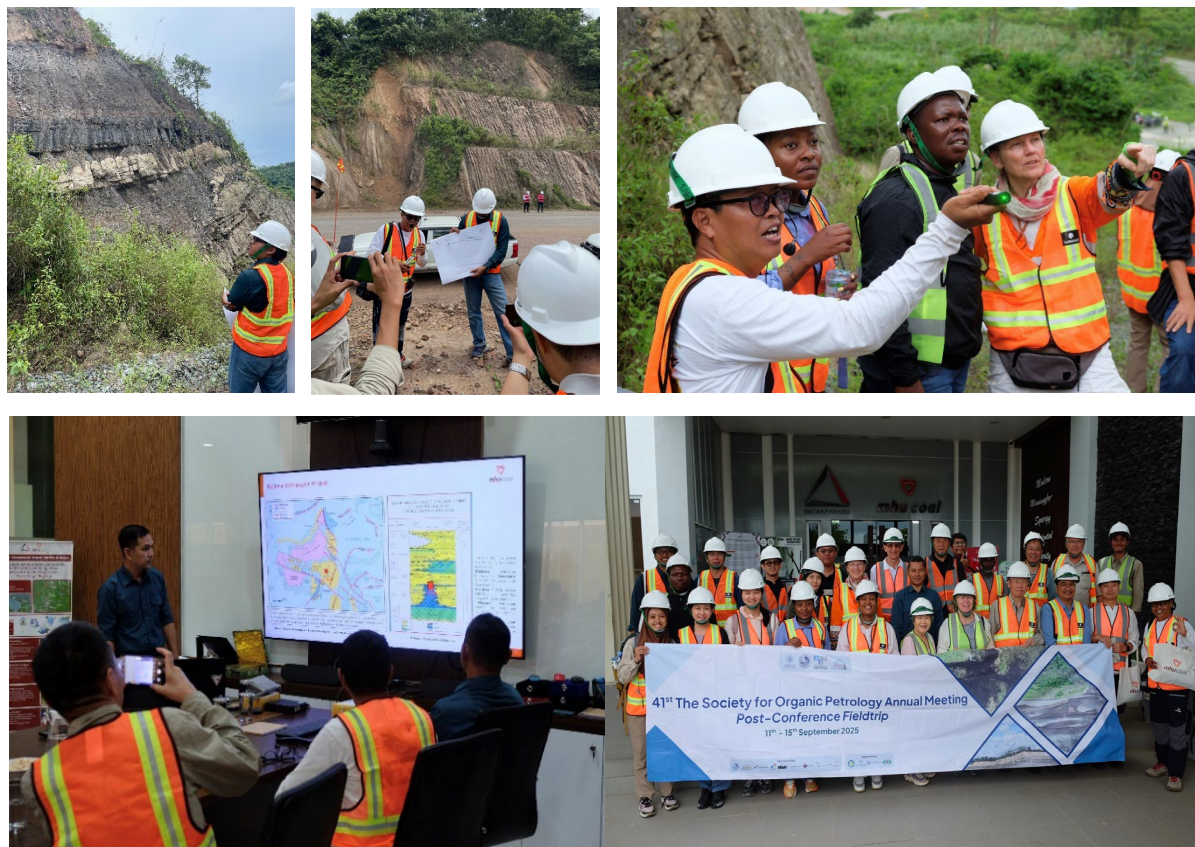


A happy TSOP group heading to look at some cores through the wetland peats taken using a D-type auger



Day 4 went back in time to the Miocene coal measures extracted and exposed at the Multi Harapan Utama (MHU) Mine. Following a safety induction and overview of the geology and engineering aspects of the mine, complete with an excellent local style of Turkish coffee (Kopi Tubruk, red) and chocolates, we put on our PPE and went to some amazing exposures of coal seams associated with paleochannels formed in distributary to fluvial settings. We travelled up through the section and across to the basin margin where everything went a little bit vertical. At each stop we had lots of discussions.

2025 TSOP Field Trip: Exploring Indonesia's Geological Treasures



Some snapshots of the field trip and happy TSOP participants at the MHU Mine.

On **Day 5** we returned to Yogyakarta and our various homelands and day jobs. What a unique adventure we had moving from modern to ancient environments, being guided by expert geologists, experiencing local culture and food. We also have to thank Ferian's team of students, each researchers in their own right but tasked with shepherding the participants and making sure that the trip ran smoothly. And it did. Thank you, the University of Gadjah Mada, for your warm welcome and expertise.

Input from Professor **Joan Esterle**

2025 THE JOHN CASTAÑO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Jen O'Keefe

Morehead State University, USA

The highest honor of The Society for Organic Petrology, provided for in its Bylaws, is Honorary Membership. It is awarded to persons distinguished in a scientific discipline of significance to the Society, recognizing their contributions to research, service to TSOP, or education.

2025 THE RALPH GRAY AWARD - Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Organic Petrology

Occurrence of Differences between Alkali and Alkaline Earth Metals (AAEMs), Including Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, and Magnesium, in the Maceral Groups of the Xiheishan Coal, Zhundong Coalfield, Xinjiang, China by K. Che, J. Li, Q. Lu, F. Shao, W. Wang, W. Wang, X. He, *Minerals* 2024, <https://doi.org/10.3390/min14050525>

2025 THE DAL SWAINE AWARD

Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Hydrocarbon Source Rock Geochemistry

Inertinite in coal and its geoenvironmental significance: Insights from AI and big data analysis by L. Shao, Z. Jiamin, T.P. Jones, F. Hua, X. Xu, Z. Yan, H. Hou, D. Wang, and J. Lu., *Science China Earth Sciences* 67 (6), 1779-1801.

2025 STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

To support student attendance at the 41st TSOP Annual Meeting in Indonesia

ZHENGHUI QI (\$US 1,000)

China University of Mining & Technology, CHINA

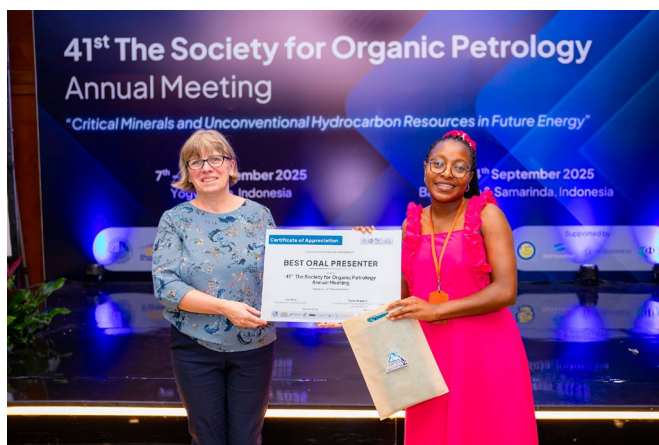
FATIMA ZONKE CHITLANGO (\$US 1,000)

University of Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA

ZHOU FANG (\$US 1,000)

China University of Petroleum (Beijing)

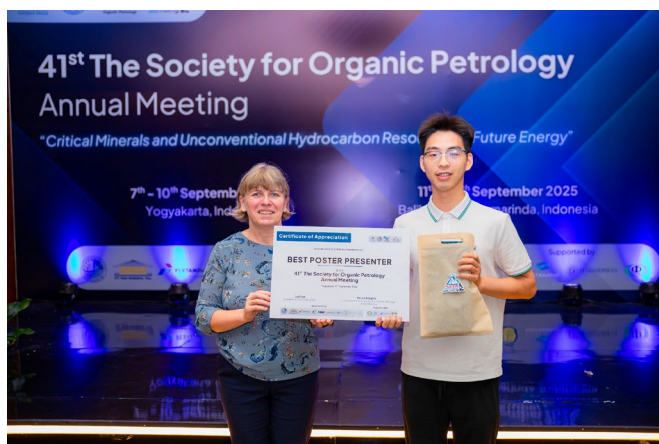
2025 DANIELLE KONDLA OUTSTANDING STUDENT PRESENTATION



BEST ORAL PRESENTATION (\$US 300)

Fatima Zonke Chitlango

University of Johannesburg, South Africa



BEST POSTER PRESENTATION (\$US 200)

Wei Zhu

China University of Mining and Technology-Beijing, China

Three Castaño's

On 2 October 2025, Jen O'Keefe, the most recent Castaño awardee, joined Cortland Eble (left; 2024 awardee) and Jim Hower (right; 2008 awardee) for lunch at Jalapeño's restaurant in Lexington, Kentucky. Jen was the seminar speaker in the University of Kentucky's Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences.



Call for participation for 42^{ed} TSOP meeting



2026	Beijing, CHINA – September 3rd - 10th
2027	Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA - TBA
2028	Sosnowiec, POLAND - TBA
2029	Reston, VA, UNITED STATES - TBA

Dear distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and dear friends,

It is a great honor and sincere pleasure to welcome you to the 42nd Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), held in the vibrant and historic city of Beijing, China, from September 3rd to 10th, 2026.

This year's meeting is jointly hosted by the China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing) and Taiyuan University of Technology, two universities renowned for their commitment to excellence in research and education in the fields of coal geology, coal mining, and environmental sciences.

Our conference sessions and accommodations will take place at the Xijiao Hotel, conveniently located near CUMTB, offering a comfortable and productive setting for all participants.

In addition to an inspiring scientific program, we are delighted to present a field trip to Shanxi Province, where participants will have the opportunity to explore China's rich geological heritage and coal resources.

We warmly encourage everyone to make the most of this gathering—to exchange ideas, strengthen collaborations, and experience the academic vitality and cultural richness that Beijing and this meeting have to offer.

Your presence and contributions are what make this conference truly meaningful. We wish you a rewarding, enjoyable, and memorable experience at TSOP 2026.

Welcome to China and thank you!

The Organizing Committee for 42nd TSOP Annual Meeting

ABOUT TSOP

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) is a non-profit organization for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry, and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, provides funding for students' research, and travels and sponsors research projects. TSOP is an AAPG-affiliated society. Please find us on [Facebook](#), join the [LinkedIn](#) group, and visit our [website](#) to learn about our history, bylaws, goals, events, and membership.



TSOP incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Virginia, USA, in 2008. Following application in June, 2009, the US Internal Revenue Service granted recognition of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status on February 9, 2010. Classified as a public charity, TSOP is exempt from U.S. Federal income tax, and U.S. contributions to TSOP are tax deductible (section 170 of the Code). TSOP is also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts (sections 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code).

TSOP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

TSOP publishes a quarterly newsletter that is available free of charge. Articles, reports on meetings, photos, events, or job postings are welcome. Items for the newsletter may be submitted to the TSOP Editor [Biao Fu](#).

TSOP Newsletter Submission Deadlines:

December Issue: December 5th,
March Issue: March 5th
June Issue: June 5th
September Issue: September 5th

TSOP MEMBERSHIP DUES

TSOP dues payments are due on **December 31st each year**. Please use the quick links below to check your membership status and make your payment. Please direct your questions to TSOP Treasurer [Agnieszka Drobnia](#).

Professionals:

- \$25 per year or
- \$100 for 5 years (5 years for the price of 4!)

Students: \$15 per year

Institutional/Corporate: \$75 per year

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