

REPORT ON THE USE OF TRAVEL GRANT FROM AGC AND AAS TO ATTEND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS IN EUROPE

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1. Introduction

I am grateful to the Australian Geoscience Council (AGC) and Australian Academy of Science (AAS) for a travel grant for me to attend the 2025 Goldschmidt and International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) conferences in Prague and Geneva, respectively. The opportunity to participate in these scientific meetings is well appreciated, particularly in view of the recent and ongoing severe cuts to funding for education and research which has significantly limited the ability of many scientists to engage in scientific and research activities, both locally and globally.

The highlights from both conferences are highlighted below.

2 IAVCEI Scientific Assembly, Geneva (June 29 – July 4, 2025)

2.1 Poster presentation: At the IAVCEI conference in Geneva, I presented some results from my ongoing PhD research (Figure 1). My poster titled "*Cenozoic post-collision paleo lithospheric thinning of SE Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia: constraints from alkaline lamprophyre thermobarometry and geochemistry*" was well received. Many of the conference attendees who visited my poster stand asked questions relating to my research and gave me very useful feedback.

2.2 Pre-conference field trip (June 23 – 27, 2025): Prior to the commencement of the IAVCEI conference, I joined a pre-conference field trip to the Eifel volcanic field in Germany. During the field trip, we visited outcrops in east and west Laacher See where we observed pyroclastic deposits and basanites (Figures 2 and 3). The field trip had about 25 participants from different parts of the globe, including Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand cutting across broad spectrum of professional experiences – senior professors, mid- and early careers, postdoctoral candidates and PhD students.

3 Goldschmidt conference, Prague (July 5 – 11, 2025)

3.1 Scientific workshop: I participated in a scientific workshop (July 5 & 6) during the Goldschmidt conference (Figure 5). The workshop was on effective petrogenetic modelling of whole-rock geochemical data with focus on 2 open-source thermodynamic modelling applications, MAgEMin and Magma Chamber Simulator. About 15 persons participated in this workshop.

3.2 Oral presentation: I presented a talk, "*The higher the better: Accessing the role of laser ablation repetition rate and fluence on precision of LA-ICP-MS/MS analysis of Sr isotopes in apatite and silicate glasses*" at the Goldschmidt conference in Prague (Figure 4). Again, I got very useful feedback following this presentation.

4. Networking: during both conferences, I met and networked with different geoscientists from different parts of the globe and at different career levels. This was an important opportunity for me to gain useful insights from others on career development, including how to navigate the uncertainties (and opportunities) of transitioning from PhD studentship to gaining relevant geoscience job roles in a globally competitive environment.

5. Benefits of conference participation and concluding thoughts

The feedback I got from my presentations have given me additional perspectives on how to improve my ongoing research. By listening to others who presented their research findings, I have also gained insights on different studies being carried out by others, including new and emerging techniques and approaches. Similarly, interactions and networking from the Goldschmidt and IAVCEI conferences have also afforded me the opportunity of identifying mentors and potential collaborators for future projects. In addition, the field trip to Eifel volcanic field has given me better insights for interpreting the field geology my research study area – this is important given that outcrops and geological mapping in my study area are hampered by tropical weathering and dense vegetation cover.

Altogether, participating in the Goldschmidt and IAVCEI conferences have immense benefits for my ongoing PhD research and future career development. However, my participation in both conferences was made possible largely because of the travel grant provided by the AGC and AAS. Hence, whilst thanking the AGC and AAS for awarding me the travel grant, I wish to appeal that they sustain such grants and funding so that other postgraduate students and early career geoscientists may also benefit from similar scientific opportunities in the future. This is especially important given the limited and increasingly dwindling funding opportunities arising from recent and ongoing funding cuts being experienced by universities and research institutions in Australia and elsewhere. The Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) and Geological Society of Australia (GSA) are also appreciated for their professional support.

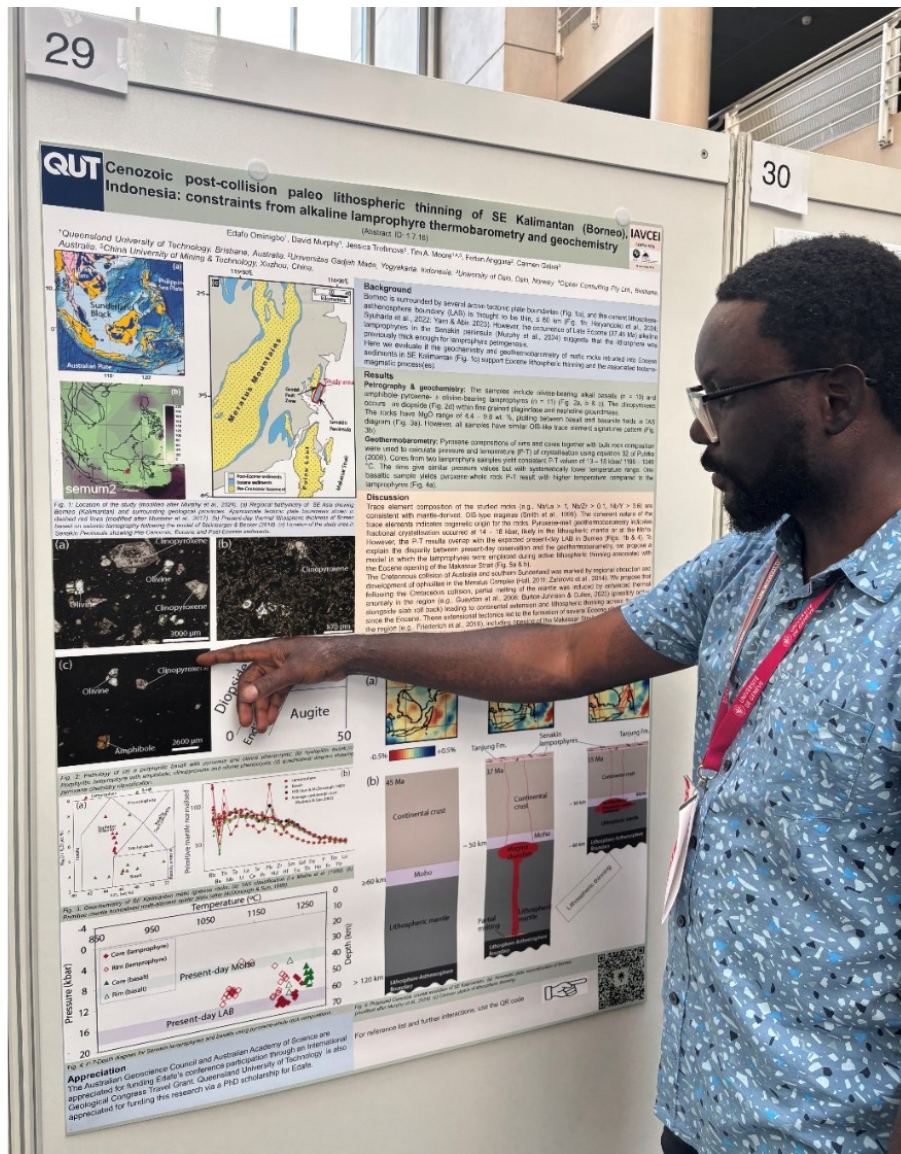


Figure 1: Edafe presenting his poster at the IAVCEI conference, Geneva



Figure 2: A cross section of pre-conference field participants (Edafe – 4th from right).

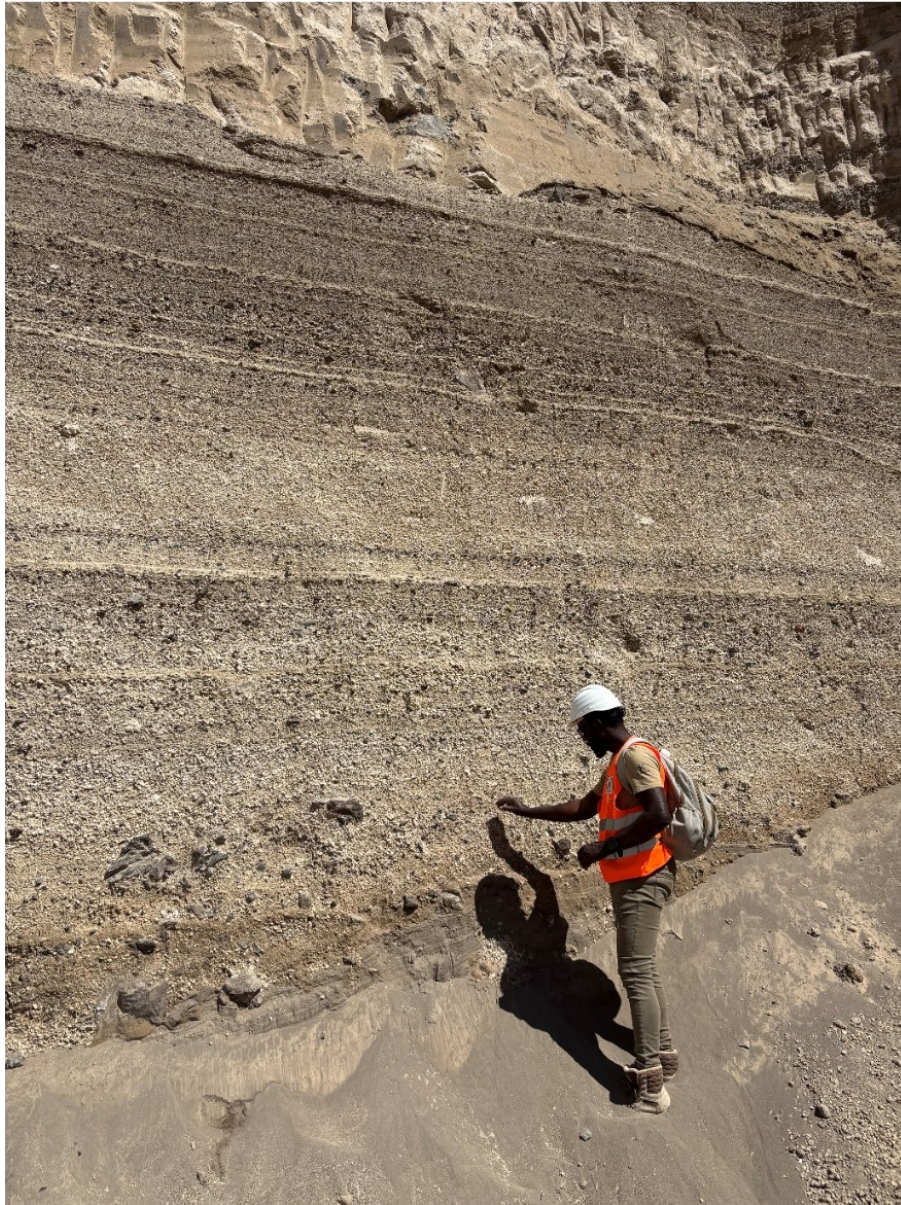


Figure 3: Edafe at an outcrop, East Laacher See, Eifel volcanic field.



Figure 4: Edafe presenting a talk at Goldschmidt conference, Prague



Figure 5: Thermodynamic modelling workshop, Goldschmidt conference, Prague.