

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – CLINKER SAMPLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The ICMA had for years, maintained a clinker sample exchange program. Great effort is being made to resurrect the program. The premise is simple: someone from a cement plant volunteers to provide a grab sample of their clinker (and raw meals, pending on further discussion) to as many ICMA members who will request a sample. Each person who requests a sample performs an evaluation based on the method they are most familiar with (polished section, Ono's, point count, etc.) and sends their results to the person who provided the clinker. This person in turn compiles the data and sends the overall results to each of the participants. XRD, SEM-EDX, and chemical analysis are also encouraged to be conducted at each participant's lab.

Now for the good parts. First, the person who provides the clinker gets their clinker evaluated by a group of people at no cost to them, other than postage to send out the clinker samples. Second, the evaluations are reported totally anonymously, so if you had a bad day and totally botched your evaluation, no one will ever know it was you! Third, you get to compare your technique and results with those of a number of others, so you can see how you're doing.

ICMA is looking for volunteers to provide clinker samples for microscopical evaluation. If you are able to provide samples, or wish to be added to the list of people who will evaluate the clinker samples, please contact Dr. Hugh (Xiaoqiang) Hou at [hhou@wje.com](mailto:hhou@wje.com) to volunteer. Hugh will send you the evaluation forms that you can forward with the clinker samples. Please check out the [guidelines](#) for criteria for samples. Once again, the evaluation of your clinker is at minimal cost to you, so what are you waiting for? Isn't it time to have your clinker looked at by some of the best microscopists in the field?