

Dr Hideo Minato comes from the area of Eurasia geographically much more distant from the Czech Republic. He focused his research of clay and related minerals especially on the genetic processes of kaolinite and halloysite under weathering and hydrothermal conditions; on phase relations of common zeolites and albite; on kaolin deposits of Japan and neighbouring countries of East Asia; and on composite barriers containing expansible clay minerals, zeolites and some non-clay minerals applied for the isolation of deep-deposited radioactive waste. A part of his works, clay minerals formed by weathering with natural zeolites used as the treatment materials for polluted soils and water, explains the main adsorption reactions on the surface of the mixed natural materials. The technique elaborated by Professor Minato has been honored by INZA (International Natural Zeolite Association) and his research results on natural zeolites were published in two books edited by the Japanese Committee, JSPS, in Japanese and English: *Natural Zeolite and its Utilization*, 1994 and *Natural Zeolite, Qualification Guides and Data for Application*, 2006. We also highly appreciate Dr Minato's active participation in our clay conferences.