

# SOCIETE MAROCAINE DES ARGILES - SMA (MOROCCAN SOCIETY OF CLAYS)

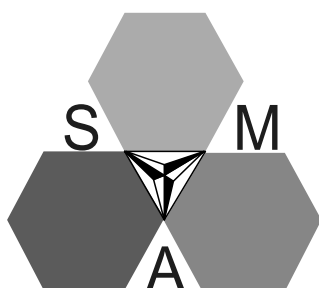
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*Logo of the group*

## Brief presentation

During these two last decades, clay minerals have been the subject of many research domains in Morocco; they are used in many industrial applications. Following the example of the international groups of clays, the Moroccan Society of Clays (Société Marocaine de Argiles; SMA), is created with an aim of promoting the sector of clays, by the reinforcement of the bonds between the various actors on the one hand and of the development of the partnership between the University and industrial circle, on the other hand.

## Objectives of the Group

The principal objectives of the group are:

- To contribute to the promotion of scientific research, as well fundamental as applied, having milked with clays.
- To create a synergy between the various actors in this field, in the aim for the valorization of this natural resource.
- To contribute to the diffusion of the research tasks at the national and international level by the publishing of a scientific review.
- To organize scientific demonstrations.

- To tie relations of co-operation with other national and international associations, specially with the international groups of clays.
- To organize continuous trainings and all other activities allowing to develop this natural resource.

## General description

During these two last decades, a particular interest was granted to the study of moroccan clays. In geology they are used as indicators of environment conditions. In petroleum geology their study provides good ideas about thermal conditions of oil reservoir and specially maturation gradient. Clay minerals have also been used in many industrial applications like building materials; in soil science in front of their absorption properties they are very useful in the conception and production of fertilizers for soils. They are widely used in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products.

With an aim of developing a synergy between the various national actors having milked with these materials, two scientific meetings were organised in Morocco by academics. The First Moroccan Symposium of Clays (SMA1) was held in Marrakech (Cadi Ayyad University) December the 11, and 12 - 2003, with more than one hundred participants. The website of this symposium is ([www.ucam.ac.ma/fssm/sma1](http://www.ucam.ac.ma/fssm/sma1)). The Second Maghrebien Symposium of Clays (SMA2) was held in Meknes (Moulay Ismail University) April the 22, and 23 - 2006, with also about one hundred participants. The website of this symposium is ([www.fsmek.ac.ma/sma2](http://www.fsmek.ac.ma/sma2)). On proposal of the Steering Committee of SMA1, it was adopted, during the meeting of closure first symposium, to create the Moroccan group of study of clays. Thus, a committee was constituted to work out a project of statute. As been appropriate, the statute is written, and then dispatched with the participants for amendment. The organization of SMA2 constituted in fact an opportunity for the outcome of this work.

The emanating committee of the meeting of closure second symposium undertook to call with a meeting to form the Moroccan Company of Clays (SMA). Indeed, a full session was held in Meknes, December the 12 - 2006 at the "Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers". During this session, the present unanimously adopted the statute and the creation of SMA, and elected a board of directors.

#### Board of directors

S. Sefrioui, president, director of Société Ghassoul et ses Dérivés – Fès.

A. Bellamlih, vice president, director of Poterie Bellamlih – Meknès.

A. Dekayir, secretary, professor, Faculté des Sciences – Meknès.

M. Hajjaji, vice secretary, professor, Faculté des Sciences – Marrakech.

M. el Maataoui, treasurer, professor, Faculté des Sciences – Meknès.

L. Badra, consilor, professor, Faculté des Sciences – Meknès.

B. Rhouta, consilor, professor, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques – Marrakech.

L. Daoudi, consilor, professor, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques - Marrakech.

N. Tijani, consilor, professor, Faculté des Sciences – Meknès.

#### Thematics of the group

– Clay Chemistry in weathering and soils.

– Environment.

– Diagnosis and Hydrothermal alteration.

– Archaeomaterials.

– Industrial Applications.

– Advanced Analytical Technique for Clay Characterization.

– Geomechanics.



*Photo of the group after the full session (Meknes, December the 12 – 2006)*

