EPSC Abstracts Vol. 9, EPSC2014-475-1, 2014 European Planetary Science Congress 2014 © Author(s) 2014



Report of the 2013 CNES Analogues Workshop

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Abstract

A workshop dedicated to analogue samples and simulators was organized in December 2013 in Paris by the CNES. The aim of this presentation is to present a short summary of this event.

1. Introduction

The aim of this EPSC session dedicated to analogue samples is to bring together researchers from various disciplines in order to explore the concept of analogues in its entirety, and the subject of analogue samples and simulators for space exploration. A similar event was organized in December 2013 in Paris by the CNES. The report is available via the following link: www.isar.cnrs-orleans.fr/isar/content/page/workshop_analogues_report.pdf, in French, [1]). The aim of this presentation is to present a short summary of the CNES event.

2. Planetary analogue samples and environmental simulators

Analogue samples and environmental simulators are used in the framework of space exploration to prepare future missions or to understand extraterrestrial phenomena.

A very large range of scientific disciplines are involved:

- Geology, with analogue sites and rocks collections;
- Chemistry, with the study of the physico-chemical processes taking place in the solar system in dust, meteorites, comets or natural satellites, using simulation chambers and sample materials from specific terrestrial environments;
- Astrobiology, with the study of organisms living in extreme environmental conditions similar to those existing on some bodies of the solar system, of their preservation and fossilization, and performing laboratory experiments to understand the limits of life.

The French workshop organized in December 2013 in

Paris by the CNES was very fruitful. This presentation thus summarizes the conclusions of the event. The final objective emerging from the CNES meeting was to enlarge the discussion to the European and international community.

References

[1] Compte rendu du Workshop Analogues, 3 December 2013, CNES, Paris, France.