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To the President of INZA

Dear Alessio, esteemed Officers and Councilors, dear INZA Members, dear Aleksandra and dear Dave,

I am sincerely touched for the great honor I had as being awarded with the Mumpton Prize 2014. I accept it with much gratitude but I think I must share it with all my young colleagues with which I collaborated for many years, most of them dedicated to the study of natural zeolites. I cannot disregard Alessio, who was the first to start this common path about 30 years ago and always committed with diligence and scientific rigor to these researches, as well as time after time Piergiulio, Abner, Bruno, Roberto, Mariano, Marco and Sossio Fabio. They were all aware of the difficult task they had to face, accepting the premise that mineralogy is the base discipline for a wider and mostly interesting sector: the science of natural geological materials. Due to the great efforts of these persons is due the fact that today, the Italian zeolitized materials are not any longer considered a simple dimension stone for building industry but they have a market also as industrial products: today as additive in the agricultural and zootechnical sectors but possibly tomorrow in more niche sectors having a higher added value. The many presentations at the successful Congress in Belgrade is a proof of this. To the growth of "my boys" definitely contributed the important collaborations started several years ago with Dave and, more recently, with the late Robert and Aleksandra.

I do apologize that I could not have been present in Belgrade due to some personal problems.

I conclude confirming what I already said to Alessio: I know that the Mumpton Award also consist in a money prize. I intend to renounce to this sum that I leave at disposal of the forthcoming President Aleksandra Dakovic, possibly to be used to provide a little contribution to young researchers studying applications of natural zeolites.

sincerely

Maurizio de Gennaro