

PPS 2003 EUROPE/AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2003 ATHENS, GREECE

The Europe/Africa Regional Meeting of the Polymer Processing Society (PPS-2003) took place in Athens, Greece. The meeting started with registration on Sunday afternoon, 14 September 2003 and ended on Wednesday afternoon, 17 September 2003, at the Hotel Armonia, in beautiful Vouliagmeni bay. The Conference was attended by 214 delegates from 32 countries, thus making it a truly international event. It included 2 plenary and 36 keynote lectures. The scientific papers were presented under 15 major themes. A total number of 264 papers were divided into two categories: 177 oral and 87 posters.

The Plenary lectures were given by: Prof. Zehev Tadmor of Technion (Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel) entitled "Touchstones of Polymer Processing - From Classical Polymer Processing to Macromolecular Engineering and Science and Molecular Engineering: a Novel Science-Engineering Discipline" and Dr. A.E. (Stathis) Zachariades (POLTECO Inc., California, USA) entitled "Engineering of Polymer Properties through Solid State Processing". The 15 major themes were:

1. Rheology and Rheometry
2. Mixing and Compounding
3. Polymer Composites
4. Reactive Processing
5. Polymer Blends and Alloys
6. Extrusion (Die Design, Single- or Twin-Screw)
7. Injection Molding
8. Modeling and Simulation
9. Structure Development during Processing
10. Fibers and Films
11. Rotational / Blow Molding and Thermoforming
12. Recycling / Reusing of Polymers
13. Packaging and Barrier Properties
14. Stabilization/Biodegradability
15. Molecular Rheology and Simulations

A highlight of PPS-2003 was the banquet, which took place on Tuesday night, 16 September 2003, in a beautiful Greek taverna, featuring Greek songs and dances and a wide and enthusiastic participation from the delegates.

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*Figure 1 (left):
Delegates
(including Professors and
their students) during the
poster session of PPS-2003.*

*Figure 2 (right above):
The opening ceremony of
PPS 2003 held in Athens,
Greece.*

*Left to right:
Prof. Andreas Andreopoulos,
Rector, National Technical
University of Athens, who
declared the Conference
open; Prof. Constantine
Papaspyrides, Chair of
PPS-2003,
Prof. Evan Mitsoulis,
Co-Chair of PPS-2003.*

*Figure 3 (right below):
Traditional Greek dances
during the banquet of
PPS-2003 in a Greek taverna.*

