

Conference Call

Chemical Industry of Sustainable Development

by *Zaiku Xie*

The IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry (COCI) has held regional workshops in the past. The 5th and latest was held in Beijing on 12 September 2016. The workshop was planned and hosted by Dr. Zaiku Xie and members of his team. Dr. Xie is Director of the Science & Technology Department at SINOPEC and a Titular Member of COCI. COCI members are grateful to Dr. Xie and SINOPEC for hosting an excellent Workshop. The following is a summary of the meeting, which was well attended and praised by the attendees in the discussion session at the end of the meeting.

We were also honoured to have the Vice-President of IUPAC, Professor Qi-Feng Zhou of Peking University, to open the workshop. He participated throughout the day and entertained us at the Peking Duck banquet, which was kindly hosted by SINOPEC.



The COCI Regional Workshop in Beijing was the 5th such workshop organised by members of the committee and held in different global regions and with relevant topical agendas. This workshop brought together speakers from China, Korea, India, and Switzerland. The focus of the meeting was Sustainability and how industry is working towards this goal.

In addition to Prof. Qi-Feng Zhou, the Workshop was opened with welcoming remarks by Dr. Zaiku Xie, the host of the Workshop, and Dr. Bernard West, the Chair of COCI. There were also several local speakers, as well as members of COCI from Canada, USA/Netherlands, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland, Korea, and Russia.

The workshop was divided into three sessions, with Q&A, including the following presentations. A fourth open session was held to enable broader questions.

- Sustainable Development of Refining and Chemical Industry in China, by Dingyi Hong
- Process Intensification: Hige Technology as an Example, by Jian-Feng Chen
- Vehicle Fuel Upgrading Technologies in China, by Mingfeng Li
- Methanol to Olefins Technologies Developed by SINOPEC, by Jiawei Teng
- Development and Prospect of Biomass Energy, by Kai Qiao
- Status of Safety, Environment and Health in Indian Chemical Industry, by Dr. B. Saha
- Responsible Care in China, by Housheng Xu
- Safety Engineering Technology and Response Care for petrochemical industry, by Wei Xu

The agenda and summaries of the presentations, and discussion points are available from the COCI webpage.

www.iupac.org/body/022 or www.iupac.org/project/2016-020-1-022

Bioinspired and Biobased Chemistry & Materials

by *Frédéric Guittard*

The 3rd International Conference on Bioinspired and Biobased Chemistry & Materials (NICE-2016) took place in Nice, France, 16-19 October 2016 and was co-sponsored by IUPAC, MRS, and E-MRS. The meeting took stock of the current state of biobased and bioinspired chemistry and materials. This meeting was the third in the series, following successful meetings held on a similar topic in 2014 and 2012. This edition was also supported by most of the relevant organizations in the field of biomimetics, such as Biomimicry Germany, Biomimicry Switzerland, Biomimicry UK, Institut Biomimetisme Francophone, Biomimicry.be, and CEEBIOS. The acronym of the conference is N.I.C.E: "Nature Inspires, Chemistry Engineers" and the aim of the conference is to share new developments in the growing field of bioinspired chemistry and materials. Among the topics discussed were: green chemistry, nanomaterials, renewable energy, stimuli-responsive, adhesive/anti-adhesive, functional polymers, and biobased chemistry and materials, grouped in three



sessions: SmarTech, NanoTech and BioTech.

The opening session started on Sunday, 16 October at the Mediterranean University Center, a fascinating old structure on the Promenade des Anglais. The lecture hall, including theatre-style seating with a magnificent ceiling, hosted the plenary session. The conference opened with short welcoming remarks by the chairman of the conference, Prof. F. Guittard, who also presented an overview of IUPAC activities. The first part of the session focused on the theme, "Biomimetics and Innovation: how learning from nature can solve technological problems in a more sustainable way". This topic was illustrated by Dr. Kristina Wanieeck (Germany) and Dr. Prateep Beed (Germany). The session continued after the coffee break with three compelling plenary talks delivered by Prof. Bushan (USA) on superhydrophobic, self-cleaning and low drag surfaces; Prof. Messersmith (USA) on bioinspired coating from polyphenols; and Prof. Sanchez (France) on bioinspired approaches to advanced nanostructured materials.

The conference continued from 17-19 October at the Negresco Hotel, the legendary palace overlooking the Promenade des Anglais. The conference included 5 parallel sessions during 3 days, with over 55 keynote presentations (25 minutes), 164 oral presentations (15 minutes), and 106 poster presentations. The conference welcomed over 400 attendees, who came from 48 countries and from all continents. This edition also included two workshops on how to implement biomimetics in R&D strategies and opportunities for polymers and biobased materials. These workshops were organized in collaboration with the European Center of

Excellence in Biomimicry of Senlis (CEEBIOS) and the competitiveness clusters Industries & Agro-Resources (IAR) and TRIMATEC.

The conference social event consisted of a sightseeing tour of Monaco, the smallest country in the world after the Vatican State. We first visited the old town, with the Prince's Palace, the institutional building, the renowned Oceanographic Museum, the Cathedral, and more. We also strolled through the surroundings of the Casino, a mythical place with fabulous architecture, the Café de Paris, the gardens, and the fountains. The visit ended with a dinner at the A'Trego restaurant in Cap D'Ail, at the Monaco border, a trendy restaurant on the sea designed by Philippe Starck.

International Carbohydrate Symposium

by Al D. French

The 28th International Carbohydrate Symposium (ICS, www.ics-2016.org) was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 17-21 July 2016. The meeting followed a traditional format, starting on Sunday afternoon with the technical program closing on Thursday evening. The technical program was followed by a banquet at Mardi Gras World, a business that creates the floats used in Mardi Gras parades, that educates about this major event in New Orleans, and that provides a venue for receptions and banquets. With the excep-