

Conference Call

Boron Chemistry (IMEBORON XVI)

by Michael A. Beckett

The 16th International meeting on Boron chemistry (IMEBORON XVI), was held over the period 9-13 July 2017 on the beautiful campus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Sha Tin, Hong Kong. This is close to the vibrant and cosmopolitan waterfront area and Hong Kong island. Previous meetings of this triennial conference have been held in various countries around the world, but this is the first time it has visited China. Topics addressed at IMEBORON XVI included organic and bioorganic boron chemistry, inorganic and cluster boron chemistry, boron in medicine, and materials. There were 222 registered participants who came from 19 different countries; the continents of Europe, North America, Asia and Australia were represented. The programme included 5 plenary lectures, 22 keynote lectures, 39 invited lectures, 51 contributed lectures and 61 poster presentations.

The conference started with a warm welcoming reception Sunday evening. The well-attended opening ceremony on Monday morning contained short presentations by the Dean of Science (Prof. H. N.-C. Wong, CUHK), the IUPAC Representative (Prof. M.A. Beckett) and the Conference Chair (Prof. Z. Xie). This was followed by the first plenary lecture by Prof. J. Michl who spoke on "Highly halogenated icosahedral CB11 carborane anions and radicals." Keynote, invited and contributed lectures were then run in parallel sessions, and a special parallel BNCT session on the Monday afternoon was dedicated to the memory of Dr Y. Mishima. There was plenty of time allocated in the

program for poster viewing and discussions on Monday evening. Further plenary lectures were delivered on the Tuesday morning (Prof. H. Braunschweig—Turning boron chemistry on its head: the unusual coordination chemistry of boron in low oxidation states, and Prof I. Manners—Catalytic, metal-mediated, and metal free routes to molecules and materials based on boron and other p-block elements) and Wednesday morning (Prof F. Teixidor—Boron clusters, not just one chemistry but also one opportunity) and the scientific part of the conference was concluded on Thursday lunchtime with the final plenary lecture by Prof. S. Wang who delivered a lecture on "Controlling molecular transformations of organoboron compounds." The plenary, keynote and invited lectures will be published in a special volume of *Pure and Applied Chemistry* in due course.

The social programme included the conference dinner which was an excellent Banquet held at ClubOne in Science Park on Wednesday evening and concluded after the final closing remarks. Guests were offered the options of a "City tour" or a "Culture and Heritage Tour" of Hong Kong island on the Thursday afternoon.

The conference concluded by closing remarks from the Conference Chair Prof Z. Xie and poster prize presentations. The poster prizes sponsored by *Dalton Transactions and Organometallics*, were presented to the six winners: Ruofei Cheng (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry), Anangsha De (Indian Institute of Technology, Madras), Delong Han (University of Rostock), Hsiu-Chen Tsai (National Taiwan University), Florian Rauch (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg), and Junwei Wang (Beijing Institute of Technology) by Associate Editor of *Dalton Transactions*



Prof. G.-X. Jin and Associate Editor of *Organometallics* Prof. F. Gabbai.

The Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. Z. Xie, was thanked and congratulated at the end of the conference on the wonderful job of producing a varied programme, comprising all aspects of boron chemistry and for a thoughtful social programme.

The next conference in this series will be held in Rennes, France, in early July 2020 with Prof. J.F. Halet and Prof G. Alcaraz (Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Rennes, Université de Rennes) as Honorary Co-Chairs.

Ecological Risk Assessment

by John B. Unsworth and Elizabeth Carazo

As part of the ongoing IUPAC project “A Global Framework for Implementing Consistent Ecological Risk Assessment for Pesticides for Sustainable Agriculture” (project 2016-025-1-600) a sixth Workshop was held in San José, Costa Rica on 13-14 May 2017, in conjunction with the 6th Latin American Pesticide Residue Workshop. Previous Ecological Risk Assessment Workshops were held in Beijing, China; Bogota, Colombia; Santiago, Chile; Nairobi, Kenya; and New Delhi, India. Pesticides are a necessary tool in increasing global food production in order to feed the growing population, however, with their use comes the need to ensure that their ecological impact is kept to a minimum. Many countries include an ecological risk assessment in their registration requirements but as risk assessment is an evolving science it is important, particularly in scientifically emerging regions, that the best practices are understood and implemented properly. The current interest in ecological risk assessment is witnessed by

the several different countries where Workshops have been held. As for previous Workshops the aim was, therefore, to present the current thinking on ecological risk assessment and to underline the pros and cons of various approaches. Presentations were made by 9 lecturers coming from industry, academia and government which covered:

- Principles of good regulation and regulatory risk assessment
- Protection goals and their implementation
- Principles of ecotoxicity testing and international test requirements
- Exposure assessments
- Risk characterization and uncertainties in risk estimation
- Risk perception, communication, and management
- Implementation and enforcement of risk mitigation measures
- Principles for developing regional exposure scenarios and integration of local conditions in risk assessment

At the end of the Workshop, a practical session allowed the participants to use for themselves a model entitled Tier 1 Tools for Ecological and Drinking Water Risk Assessment of Pesticides developed by CropLife International, the trade association for pesticide manufacturers. Simultaneous translation was provided by the University of Costa Rica and the Organizing Committee of the LAPRW 2017. The presentations were well-received by the 40 participants coming from 13 different countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, and the United States. After each presentation and during breaks in the programme, participants were able to discuss all aspects of ecological



Professor Solomon from Canada giving the presentation on “Ecological Test Requirements”