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"

risk assessment, including good modelling practices, scenario development, and local requirements. In addition, they were able to network with the experts present, and each participant received copies of the presentations. As with the previous workshops, the participants agreed that much useful information was given which enabled them to understand better the complexities of ecological risk assessment. Thanks are due to IUPAC, ACS-AGRO and CropLife International for supporting the Workshop.

For further information contact Task Group Chair J.B. Unsworth, <unsworjo@aol.com. > www.iupac.org/project/2016-025-1-600

IUPAC 2017 - World Chemistry Congress and IUPAC General Assembly

by Bipul Behari Saha

The 46th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC 2017) was held in São Paulo, Brazil, 9-14 July 2017. The 49th General Assembly was also held in the same venue on 7-13 July. The program was organized by the Brazilian Chemical Society. More than 3500 delegates from 66 countries attended the Congress, the theme of which was "Sustainability & Diversity through Chemistry."

The joint opening ceremony of General Assembly and Congress was held in the Golden Hall on 9 July. The opening address was delivered by Prof. Adriano Andricopulo of Brazilian Chemical Society. It was followed by a musical program directed by Prof. Ramos, and then Prof. Aldo J. G. Zarbin declared the opening of IUPAC 2017. The IUPAC President's address was delivered by Prof. Natalia Tarasova. The 2016 and 2017 IUPAC–Solvay International Awards for Young Chemists were presented by Prof. Richard Hartshorn, Secretary General of IUPAC, and Prof. Natalia Tarasova. It was followed by the presentation of the "Distinguished Women Awards" by Dr. Carolyn Ribes and Prof. Angela Wilson.

Congress Scientific Programme

The World Congress had an excellent scientific programme, with symposia covering 12 major areas:

- Analytical and Food Chemistry
- Chemistry Education

Golden Hall or Multiverse?

Everyone who attended the Congress had something to say about their experience in attending or presenting a lecture in the Golden Hall. The Golden Hall is a multipurpose arena that was set with a central circular stage that can accommodate up to 8 speakers simultaneously while the surrounding audiences are not delineated in space and can fl w around simply by tuning in a specific audio channel on their individual headset. Raychelle Burks, a Young Observer from USA, tweeted about it several times and referred to it as the "multiverse"!

CI asked Angela Wilson to share her experience:

Angela Wilson: I found the presentation opportunity in the Golden Room to be empowering and convenient, while also being quite unusual. I moderated a panel in the room, and then had my talk in another technical section right after that. It was very simple to move from one to another in the same room.

An aspect that was empowering was the large audience. The opening ceremony was exciting in that venue, having an audience surrounding nearly all sides of the stage.

The room was also interesting in terms of the technical presentations. I enjoy challenges and competitions, so not knowing exactly who was listening to you, nor who may turn their channel to listen to your presentation from the nearby sections, was interesting and invigorating. I viewed this as an opportunity to show others who might not necessarily go to my talk about my work. In fact, there were a number of people who were in the sections next to where I was presenting talk to me about my work afterwards. These individuals were not theoretical/computational chemists, and they thanked me for introducing them to some areas of theoretical/computational chemistry—they said that some of my slides caught their attention, so they had switched channels to listen to my presentation.

What was somewhat off-putting, however, was that even with the headset on, I could hear the other speakers talking. Hearing my own voice through the headset during my talk was also a bit odd. So, it took a great deal more focus than in a typical room to give a talk and answer questions without getting distracted. As the talks did not start and end at the same time, when there was applause, the speakers at the sections near to that part of the room needed to