

Conference Call

Federation Institute of Technology, Switzerland); and Polymer Nanofibres Produced by Electrospinning, by D. Reneker (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA).

Twenty-three posters were selected for the two-hour poster session, the standard of which was very good. In conclusion, refreshments donated by the local KWV (Pty) Ltd. and Distell (Pty) Ltd. companies were enjoyed by all.

The overseas plenary and invited speakers stressed the importance to the African economy of postgraduate training in polymer science and chemistry. A virtual teaching encyclopaedia, CD-ROM 2003 (PolymerED), is being created that will consist of all abstracts as well as conference talks. This encyclopaedia, which will provide an excellent tool for teaching and expanding course notes, will be made available to all speakers who attended the conference. It will be available for USD \$50 per copy through the UNESCO Associated Centre's Web site. It will be placed in an abridged form on the Web site after approval by each of the contributors.

The 7th Annual UNESCO Introductory Course (3–4 April 2004) and UNESCO/IUPAC Conference (5–8 April 2004) will take place in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

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www.sun.ac.za/unesco/Conferences/Homepage.htm

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Macromolecule-Metal Complexes

by Edward Karakhanov and Anton Maksimov

The Xth IUPAC International Symposium on Macromolecule-Metal Complexes (MMC-X) took place 18–23 May 2003 in a boat that departed from Moscow and travelled along the Volga River. It was held under the auspices of the Russian Academy of Sciences; The Ministry of Industry, Science, and Technologies of the Russian Federation; and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. It was organized by the Moscow State University's Department of Chemistry.

The first International Symposium on Macromolecule-Metal Complexes (MMC) was organized in 1985 in Beijing. The MMC symposia have been held every two years in locations all over the world (Italy, Germany, China, Netherlands, Japan, USA). The main goal of the meetings is to bring together scientists and technologists (polymer chemists, coordination chemists, biochemists, catalytic chemists, and others) to intensify the dialogue among young scientists, academia, and industry; to encourage newcomers to the field; and to motivate future research.

One hundred twenty participants from 15 countries listened to 6 plenary, 18 invited, and 18 oral lectures. During the symposium 64 posters were also presented.

The scientific program of the 10th symposium was centered around a number of fundamental and applied topics such as fundamental aspects (synthesis, structure, properties), electron and photonic transfer, catalysis and separation processes, supramolecules, dendrimers, molecular recognition, metal ion conductive polymers, and environmental application of MMC. Plenary and invited lecturers covered each topic of the symposium, providing an excellent foundation for discussions and providing ideas for further developments in the field.

Manuscripts from plenary and invited lectures will be published in *Macromolecular Symposia*. The 11th International Symposium on Macromolecule-Metal Complexes will be held in 2005 in Pisa, Italy

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