

Conference Call



Prof. Hennie van de Coevering (Netherlands) addresses the audience.

was organized by the AGROPHOS Scientific Research Center of Chemistry, Agrochemistry, and Environment Protection, Wrocław, Poland, and the Czech-Pol-Trade Company, Jeseník, Czech Republic, on behalf of Wrocław University of Technology; Institute of Mineral Fertilizers, Pulawy, Poland; Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Gliwice, Poland; and the University of Agriculture, Wrocław, Poland.

Evening social events, such as dances and a gala dinner, provided opportunities for attendees to talk about scientific issues with

new acquaintances. On one evening, participants were enchanted by the recital of the famous opera singer Anna Bernacka.

The next XXXII conference will be held at Priessnitz in December 2006.

Adam Pawelczyk <adam.pawelczyk@pwr.wroc.pl> has been the chairman of the organizing committee since 1998. He is an academic teacher at the Wrocław University of Technology.

Photodynamics

by Jesus Rubayo Soneira

The **Fourth International Meeting on Photodynamics** was held in Havana from 6–10 February 2006. Approximately 100 scientists from 19 countries met to discuss a range of experimental and theoretical viewpoints on the physical and chemical processes related to environmental and biological systems.

The conference was sponsored by the Cuban Ministry of Science and Technology, the Cuban Physical Society, IUPAC,* and the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics.

The international scientific committee consisted of Vincenzo Aquilanti (Italy), Majed Chergui (Switzerland), Gerardo Delgado-Barrio (Spain), Antonio Varandas (Portugal), Julian Echave (Argentina), Annick Suzor-

Weiner (France), and Jesús Rubayo-Soneira (Cuba, chairman).

Prior to the conference, a seminar was held from 1–4 February 2006 that focused on a new generation of young researchers from Cuba and Latin American countries, as well as the rest of the world. Fifty students attended the following short courses, which were given by professors with excellence in both teaching and research:

- “Some Elements on Theoretical and Statistical Approaches of Elementary Reactions” (Jean Claude Rayez)
- “Van der Waals Clusters” (Gerardo Delgado Barrio)
- “Wavepacket Dynamics, Photochemistry, and Coherent Control” (David J. Tannor)
- “Molecular Science at the Nanoscale” (Vincenzo Aquilanti)
- “Lepton Chemistry: Molecular Processes and Reactions Induced by Low-Energy Electrons and Positrons” (Franco A. Gianturco)

The meeting, which featured 30 plenary lectures, 12 oral communications, and 43 poster presentations, covered the following topics: structure and energetics of molecular systems, dynamics and reactivity of isolated molecular species, dynamics of molecular species embedded in small and large clusters, dynamics of molecules in the condensed phase (liquid, solid) and at surfaces, control of chemical reactions, and collisions with surfaces.

The purpose of the meeting was to stimulate discussion about the structure and dynamics of molecular systems among scientists working in the chemical-physics. Keynote lectures were given by Peter Hering (Düsseldorf, Germany), Gustav Gerber (Wuerzburg, Germany), Osman Atabek (Paris, France), Reinhard Nesper (Zurich, Switzerland), and William Jackson (California, USA), among others.

In particular the conference provided a timely opportunity for scientific exchange among outstanding scientists and young researchers from all over the world. Based on the scientific success and interest in the Havana meeting, the participants agreed that this kind of meeting should be held again in the near future.

The seminar and meeting took place at the National Capitol, the main building of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, which is located in the heart of Old Havana.

Jesús Rubayo Soneira <jrs@fctn.isctn.edu.cu> served as the conference organizer and is currently a professor at the Instituto Superior de Tecnologías y Ciencias Aplicadas in Havana, Cuba.

Editor's note: this event also benefited from IUPAC's financial support via the program for Conferences in Scientifically Emerging Regions. For more information, see <www.iupac.org/symposia/support.html>.