

29th International Conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering, 27—31 May 2002, Tatranské Matliare

The traditional annual conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering was held this time at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the education of chemical engineering in Slovakia, 40th anniversary of the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering of the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of the Slovak University of Technology, and 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Professional Group for Chemical Engineering at the Slovak Scientific and Technical Society. For that reason, the opening lecture of the conference was given by the Head of the Department, Associate Professor *Ľudovít Jelemenský*, about the history, presence, and future perspectives of the education and research in chemical engineering at the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology. During the 50 years, chemical engineering became an indispensable subject of the curricula of chemical engineering and technical chemistry, it influenced the professional standard of thousands of chemical engineers in the industry and the research in this field took a firm position among other chemical sciences. It was really nice at this occasion that the most influential person at all this development, Professor *Ľemír Kossaczký*, continued his regular attendance of our conference and could share his pioneering experiences with younger generations of chemical engineers.

The conference was held again in the premises of Hotel Hutník in Tatranské Matliare in the beautiful environment of eastern part of the High Tatras. We were really delighted that the interest in the conference abroad further increased. Besides the traditional amount of close to 200 participants from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, we were glad that the conference was attended by further 80 participants from Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland, and the U.S.A.

The active participants presented 3 plenary lectures, 84 lectures, and 130 posters in eleven sessions. The plenary lectures were presented at the beginning of each daily program. The first plenary lecture was entitled “Perspectives of chemical engineering” and was read by Professor *Vladimír Báleš* from the Slovak University of Technology. He demonstrated clearly that the future development of chemical engineering science has been defined by societal needs and problems such as the reduction of energy and raw materials consumption, a move to renewable resources, development of safe and clean processes. Solutions of these problems require approaches which are often at the frontiers of chemistry with life sciences, information science, and micro- or nanotechnology sciences. The contribution of chemical engineering is expected in the increase of productivity and selectivity through intelligent operation and multiscale control of processes; in the design of novel equipment; in the application of the formulation and product-oriented engineering; in the multiscale application of computational chemical engineering; and in the investigation of chemical engineering aspects of processes at nanoscale.

The other two plenary lectures were presented by the scientists from the Institute of Process Engineering of ETH Zürich. Dr. *Philipp Rudolf von Rohr* presented the lecture with the title “Surface modification with plasma-enhanced chemical vapour deposition”. Besides reviewing the recent new applications of the technology, he focused on the systems of particle coating developed in their laboratory. These included the use of circulated fluidized bed to obtain the good quality and yield; the application of pulsed or steady-state mode of coupled plasma source.

“Aggregation phenomena in polymer latexes” was the subject of the lecture of Professor *Massimo Morbidelli*. The core of his lecture was the presentation of modelling and experimental techniques which are used to investigate and interpret the aggregation processes. He showed that the experimental results based on the static and dynamic light scattering were in a good agreement with the modelling results obtained using the population balance equation of the aggregate sizes.

The regular lectures were held in two parallel sessions and during the three and half days the following topics of the sessions could be heard: Ecology, Separation Processes, Heat and Mass Transfer, Gas-Liquid-Solid Reactors, Bioprocess Engineering, Mixing Processes, Industrial Equipment and Processes, Reaction Engineering, Membrane Processes, and Safety Engineering. The same topics were divided into three evening poster sessions.

The abstracts of conference contributions were published in the printed form and the submitted full texts were recorded on CD-ROMs. The loans are available through the library of the Faculty of the Chemical and Food Technology (*Proceedings of the 29th International Conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering, Tatranské Matliare, May 27—31, 2002* (Markoš, J. and Štefuca, V., Editors), Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, 2002, ISBN 1 80-227-1690-1).

As in previous years, we offered the participants the opportunity to publish their contributions after being peer-reviewed in the designated issues of *Chemical Papers*. The issues 6/2002 and 1/2003 were selected for this purpose as last year. Due to the size limitation of the issues, we could satisfy only 50 % of interested participants. On the other hand, we believe that this will be beneficial for the readers of *Chemical Papers* and that the papers from our conference will further contribute to the increasing quality of the Journal.

Bratislava, December 16, 2002

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