

Sohn International Symposium on Advance Processing of Metals and Materials Co-sponsored by ISIJ

Florian Kongoli, chair and organizer of the Sohn International Symposium
CEO of FLOGEN Technologies Inc.(Canada/USA)

The Sohn International Symposium on Advanced Processing of Metals and Materials was held in San Diego, California from August 27 to 31, 2006 at Catamaran Resort. It was organized to honor the very distinguished work and lifetime achievements of Prof. H.Y. Sohn, renowned for his impact in various fields, processing routes and investigation techniques.

The symposium was based on a new “Materials Life Capsule” conceptual philosophy developed by the chair of the symposium and the author of this article: it was structured around a triangle in which each of its corners represents principles, technologies and industrial practice. These equally important pillars that closely interact to each other in both directions serve as the supporting basis for various materials related fields, processing routes and investigation techniques that together would constitute the “Materials Life Capsule” which in itself, closely interacts with the real life.

The symposium was sponsored by TMS and cosponsored by ISIJ as well as a record number of 104 professional societies, organizations, independent publishers and professional journals from all over the world. The symposium was sponsored financially by Ausmelt, Flogen Technologies Inc., Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources, Korea Zinc Co. Ltd., LS-Nikko Copper, Outokumpu Technology, Posco, Umicore Precious Metals, Refining, Xstrata Technology.

The symposium drew an overwhelming response from the international professional community. 530 contributions received from authors and co-authors from more than 80 countries all over the world made this symposium the biggest ever held in its class. Papers by primary authors represented the following 52 countries: USA, Japan, China, Russia, Korea South, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Chile, India, Georgia, Mexico, Brazil, France, South Africa, Finland, Belgium, Germany, Argentina, Austria, Sweden, Great Britain, Norway, Albania, Egypt, Ukraine, Iran, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, England, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Taiwan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Holland, Hungary, Indonesia, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovakia Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Venezuela, Zambia.

The symposium covered a wide range of topics in depth. Based on the three pillars of the “Materials Life Capsule” triangle, Principles, Technologies and Industrial Practice, the papers were presented in a record of 55 sessions dealing with non-ferrous high temperature extraction and processing; iron and steel making; aqueous, electrochemical processing and molten salts; nano, composite, refractory and polymer materials; recycling, recovery and waste treatment. Of special note was the distinctive symposium on Legal, Management and Environmental Issues that contained full sessions of prominent lawyers that covered today’s hot topics on mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, patent, litigation and arbitration as well as renowned speakers on industrial management that covered management perspectives in today’s new reality of metals and materials world. This was the first time that full sessions on these issues were included in a technical program. Papers are published in a record of 9 separate volumes totaling more than 6,000 pages, classified according to the topical areas mentioned above.

A strong technical program was presented in a natural beauty: Mission Bay and Catamaran Resort of San Diego... After a hard day at work at the symposium the attendees enjoyed numerous social functions in the beach loan in front of the hotel and several entertaining activities in the beautiful bay or in greater San Diego. One of the highlights of the symposium was the banquet held on the other side of the Mission bay at the stylish hall of Bahia Hotel that offered nice atmosphere and excellent views. All the attendees were transported there on the board of William D. Evans ship where they also held the banquet reception. There they were surrounded by its magnificent historical and yet romantic ornaments inside in the 1st and 2nd deck and by the breathtaking views of Mission bay on the third open deck. The special events complemented the “Materials Life Capsule” and brought it closer to the real life.

As the chair and organizer of the symposium I would like to express my appreciation to TMS, ISIJ and all numerous co-

sponsors of the symposium. I would also like to thank the Directors and staff of FLOGEN Technologies Inc. that not only sponsored financially the symposium but did the majority of the work and Me. Migen Dibra for organizing a very interesting legal session. I wanted to thank the co-chairs and especially Dr. Asai, as well as members of the organizing committees, session chairs and above all authors and co-authors from 80+ countries that make this symposium the biggest ever in its class.

I have received hundreds and hundreds of excellent congratulation messages but I will highlight a couple of them that capture the entire spirit of the event: “It was about life, quality, communication, interaction, knowledge, feeling, location and people bonded together in excellence. Absolutely top...” and “... so many excellent papers to attend, so many things to do and so many beautiful places to explore... 3 days felt like one month...” So probably the relativism theory has a subjective “proof” here and this symposium was probably not only a “Materials Life Capsule” but also a real “Life Capsule” concentrated in 3 and a half days...

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