

Sohn International Symposium on Advanced Processing of Metals and Materials 2006

Report by Florian Kongoli

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” philosophy developed by the symposium chair and author of this article. This philosophy is 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, closely interacting with the real life.

The symposium was sponsored by TMS and cosponsored by GDMD as well as a record number of 104 professional societies, organizations, independent publishers and professional journals from all over the world. The symposium drew an impressive 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 52 countries, including all five continents.

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. Papers are published in a record of nine separate volumes totaling more than 6000 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. The offered special events complemented the “Materials Life Capsule” and brought it closer to the real life.

As organizer of the symposium I would like to express my appreciation to TMS and its Executive Director Alex Scott, GDMB and its Managing Director Jürgen Zuchowski 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 my wife Migen Dibra that as a lawyer organized a very interesting legal session. I wanted to thank the co-chairs, members of the organizing committees, session chairs and above all authors and co-authors from more than 80 countries that made this symposium particularly successful.

I have received hundreds of congratulation messages but I will highlight one of them that captured the entire spirit of the event: “It was about life, quality, communication, interaction, knowledge, feeling, location and people bonded together in excellence”. So probably the relativism theory has a subjective “proof” in this symposium which was probably not only a “Materials Life Capsule” but also a real “Life Capsule” concentrated in three and a half days.

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