

Short Conference Report 15

The Conference ECOpole'15 was held in 14-17.X.2015 in Hotel Ziemowit in Jarnoltowek, PL. It was the twenty fourth ecological conference of the series of meetings organised by the Society of Ecological Chemistry and Engineering, Opole, PL. It was held under the honorary patronage of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Environment. 122 participants, including delegates representing following countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, and United States of America took part in the event and presented 29 oral contributions and 111 posters.

The Abstracts of the Conference contributions were and are available on the Conference website

<http://ecopole.uni.opole.pl>

The Conference Agenda was divided into 4 sections:

- SI Ecological Chemistry and Engineering
- SII Environment Friendly Production and Use of Energy
- SIII Forum of Young Scientists and Environmental Education
- SIV Health, Ecology and Agriculture.

The Conference issue of the quarterly *Ecological Chemistry and Engineering S* containing among others Keynote Speakers papers, was distributed at the Conference Reception desk together with a CD-ROM (containing short info on Keynote Speakers, Abstracts of the Conference presentations as well as ECOpole'15 Conference Programme).

On Wednesday (14th October 2015) at 19.00 a brief Opening Ceremony was performed by prof. Maria Waclawek, (Chairperson of the Organising Committee) and prof. Witold Waclawek, (Chairman of the Conference Scientific Board and President of the Society of Ecological Chemistry and Engineering). Just afterwards the Conference participants attentively listened to the Opening Lecture:

The Climate Change Crisis?

by the **Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry 2006 Professor Sir Harold Walter KROTO** (*The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA*).

After the lecture **video conference with Professor H.W. Kroto** was organised and a number of issues were raised and discussed e.g. what is :

- the most dangerous contamination generated by the humankind;
- the progress and rate in sustainable development;
- the way for future improvements in environmental education and how to stop global warming.

During the conference the plenary lectures were also delivered by other invited lecturers: **Marina V. FRONTASYEVA** (*Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, RU*): *Monitoring long-term and large-scale deposition of pollutants based on moss analyses*, **Bogusław BUSZEWSKI** (*Faculty of Chemistry and Center for Modern Interdisciplinary Technologies – BioSep, Toruń, PL*): *A new approach in identification of biomarkers for early cancer detection*, **Josef JAMPÍLEK** (*University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, CZ*): *Applications of nanoformulations in agricultural production and their potential impact on food and human health*, **Eiliv STEINNES** (*Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, NO*): *Influence of precipitation chemistry on the mobility of trace substances in boreal forest soils: radiocaesium as an example* and **Piotr P. WIECZOREK** (*Opole University, Opole, PL*): *Estrogens and xenoestrogens as emerging environmental contaminants*.

There were also presented very interesting lectures, eg by **Z.A. Szydło** (*Highgate School, London, UK*): *The life and work of professor Jan Czochralski (1885-1953)*, **Á. Bálint** (*Óbuda University, Institute of Environmental Engineering, Budapest, Hungary*): *The effect*

of heavy metals to be found in the environment on the human body, **A.I. Stoica** (*University of Bucharest, Bucharest, RO*): *The influence of gold mining industry on the pollution of Rosia Montana District*, **S. Fränze** (*Zittau International School, part of Dresden Tech (TUD) [central scientific unit], Zittau, FR, D*): *Chitin as a novel polymeric vector for biomonitoring – understanding the basic chemical features of adsorption and the ecosystems-observation features simultaneously*, **J. Kříž** (*University of Hradec Králové, Hradec Králové, CZ*): *Examples of continuous monitoring in health care: bed exit alarm and intracranial pressure*, **D. Panasiuk** (*Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Warszawa, PL*): *Substance flow analysis for mercury in Poland for year 2013* and **A. Zaremba** (*Czestochowa University of Technology, Czestochowa, PL*): *On the efficiency of working Renewable Energy Sources installations*. With the last lecture is closely connected an excursion in Hotel Ziemowit - to visit working Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Installations (solar cells, collectors and heat pumps) – it was organized as the last point of the scientific program for Thursday (it started at 6.30 p.m.).

Thursday, it was Conference day of hard work. It also included the second Poster Session with 31 presentations. Many of the discussions started at the posters, lasted until the evening hours.

As usually during the ECOpole Conferences, the second day included the Session of the Young Scientists (a forum of young scientists that present and discuss local ecological problems of their countries). During the Young Scientists' and Environmental Education Poster Session 34 posters were presented.

The Scientific Board: **Grzegorz Wielgoński** (*Lodz University of Technology, Łódź, PL*), **Marina V. Frontasyeva** (*Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, RU*), **Daniela Szaniawska** (*Maritime University of Szczecin, Szczecin, PL*) and **Eiliv Steinnes** (*Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, NO*) granted awards (sponsored by the Society of Ecological Chemistry and Engineering) for the best presentations. The awards for oral presentations were given to: **dr inż. Anna Kwiecińska** (*Institute for Chemical Processing of Coal, Zabrze, PL*) for the lecture: **A. Kwiecińska, T. Iluk, S. Stelmach**: *The application of membrane processes in the utilization of wastewater generated during biomass gasification*, **Krzysztof Rajczykowski** M. Sc., Eng. (*Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, PL*) for the presentation: **K. Rajczykowski, O. Salasińska, K. Loska**: *Chemical modification of biosorbents as a method of increasing the efficiency of selected metals biosorption processes from aqueous solutions* and **Monika Janas** M. Sc., Eng. (*Lodz University of Technology, Łódź, PL*) for the lecture: **M. Janas, A. Zawadzka**: *Energy willow from experimental plantation as potentially clean energy source*.

The awards for poster presentations were given to: **Edyta Kudlek** M. Sc., Eng. (*Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, PL*) for the poster: **E. Kudlek, J. Bohdziewicz, M. Dudziak**: *Influence of water matrix on the retention of selected pharmaceutical compounds by high-pressure membrane filtration*, **Paulina Rdzanek** M. Sc., Eng. (*Lodz University of Technology, Łódź, PL*) for the poster **P. Rdzanek, J. Marszałek, W. Kamiński**: *The butanol-ethanol-acetone-water recovery by pervaporation using commercial membranes* and **Urszula Wydro** M. Sc., Eng. (*Bialystok University of Technology, Bialystok, PL*) for the poster: **U. Wydro, E. Wolejko, B. Pawluśkiewicz, T. Łoboda**: *The influence of fertilization with sewage sludge on growth and grasses biodiversity in urban areas*

On Saturday morning an excursion was organised to the **Museum in Zlate Hory**.

Closing the conference, prof., prof. Maria and Witold Waclawek made short

recapitulation. In general, ECOpole'15 was focused on monitoring of the quality of natural environment, its effects on human life, environmental education as well as application of renewable sources of energy.

They expressed gratitude to all participants for coming and taking active part in the Conference and thanked Sponsor (*Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Warszawa, PL*) as well as all Chairpersons of Sessions.

The organizers informed that the electronic version of the presented contributions (lecture or poster) could be published on the Conference website. They announced, that full texts of the presented papers will be published (after obtaining reviewers' positive opinions) in the successive issues of the journals *Ecological Chemistry and Engineering A* and *S* and they will be distributed to all participants. The Extended Abstracts of the presentations will be published in two subsequent issues of semi-annual *Proceedings of the ECOpole*.

At the end they invited all Colleagues to attend the ECOpole'16 Conference, which will be held in Hotel Antałówka in Zakopane, PL in the next October.

Maria Waclawek