



Another year of achievement:

FEMS Highlights of 2008

FEMS Junior EUROMAT 2008

This popular biennial poster conference for young materials scientists and engineers, took place at the University of Lausanne on 14-17 July.

Almost 300 youngsters from 33 different countries took part in the event. While most were from Europe, some had come from as far afield as Algeria, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Mexico and USA.

The programme listed 239 contributions covering fourteen different topic areas. Each presenter was allowed three minutes to provide an oral introduction to their poster in the lecture hall,



A winning poster at Junior EUROMAT 2008

illustrated by up to three slides. With as many as 70 presentations scheduled for each of the afternoon sessions, strict chairmanship was essential.

Following the oral presentations there were poster sessions during which the speakers had more time to

discuss their work. At the end of the conference, prizes of 100 and 50 Euros were presented for the best posters in each half-day session.

Junior EUROMAT always features lectures by people from industry. They provide insight about careers and markets. This time, the first

one was presented by Dr. Frank Heinrich, Chairman of W. C. Heraeus, the precious metals and technology group based in Hanau, which has a turnover of € 3 billion pa. Born in Berlin in 1962, he studied Physics at Berlin Technical University, obtaining a Ph.D. for work on Laser-induced Fast Phase Transitions in 1990. After working for TEMIC Semiconductors, a subsidiary of Daimler Chrysler, he joined Heraeus in 2003.

Dr. Heinrich ended his talk by listing what he considers to have been key factors in the success of his career: a good understanding of his personal goals; having won the Carl Ramsauer Award for phys-



Dr. Frank Heinrich, Chairman of W. C. Heraeus

ics acted as a door opener; his high affinity for financial and key performance indicators; his personality, which enables him to listen, persuade and motivate; he is a good mentor, performs well, and does not force things; and, last but not least, – Good Luck!

After 7 years of outstanding service FEMS marks:

The Retirement of Professor Dr. Wilfried Kurz

The FEMS Executive Committee organised a special dinner in Lausanne on 30 March to mark the retirement of its Past-President, Wilfried Kurz, Professor emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL).

Throughout his involvement with FEMS, Wilfried Kurz played a pivotal role in its resurgence, being an extremely effective and dip-

lomatic manager. This was acknowledged by Robert Singer when presenting him with a commemorative plaque. After graciously accepting this gift, Wilfried Kurz asked permission to make two wishes:

His first wish was that the countries of Europe should retain the positive aspects of their differences but without using their different points of view to block the whole system. He stressed that in order to succeed in the long

term, Europeans must understand each other and cooperate, moving more quickly and more efficiently.

His second wish related to what he sees as the greatest threat for the immediate future of mankind — Horizon 2040: the climate change due to rising CO₂ levels which could cause a 4 °C temperature increase by 2040. This has become a fact now; an average car produces 20 kg of CO₂ per 100 km!! There

are also other sources of CO₂ and this is a pretty stable gas, meaning that we will live with our exhaust gas for the next 1000-2000 years.

Therefore, his second wish was that FEMS, which is designed for large scale action should do everything to help solve this number one problem facing mankind, i.e. to help to reduce the production of CO₂. Materials play a crucial role for most solutions — especially for clean



Robert Singer (left) making the presentation to Wilfried Kurz

energy, such as solar energy. He was confident that FEMS can make a substantial contribution to the fulfilment of his wishes if it engages in this endeavour, having two excellent tools at its disposal: FEMS EUROMAT and the European Materials Forum (EMF).

FEMS HAS WELCOMED FOUR NEW MEMBERS IN 2008

FEMS is proud to announce that four European Materials Societies joined the Federation in 2008, bringing the total membership to 27 societies in 22 different countries (see below).



AIMAT, the Italian Association of Materials Engineering has Professor Teodoro Valente of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Rome as its president. It organises biennial national conferences, the first of which, AIMAT'92, took place in Rome on 23-24 April 1992. The most recent event, the ninth in the series, took place in Piano di Sorrento on 29 June - 2 July 2008. Its five main sessions featured 40 oral presentations, with topics ranging from corrosion and stress corrosion cracking to ceramics, polymers and

nano-materials. AIMAT also organises training courses for materials engineers. The latest one, entitled "Innovative Materials and Nanotechnologies for the 'Made in Italy'" was held in Ischia Porto on 26-30 July 2008. Further information about AIMAT and its activities is available on its website (www.aimat.it).



The Italian Association of Composites, ASSOCOMPOSITI, has both individual and corporate members. It was established in 2004 with the aim of promoting information about composite materials and their industrial applications in Italy. Its president is Prof. Roberto Frassine of Politecnico di Milano.

Composite production raises particular problems regarding design, environmental impact, manufacture, and recycling and the Association

is keen to counter these by promoting action on an international level. It is encouraging information flow between industry, research centres and universities at both national and international levels. It publishes *Compositi*, the first Italian quarterly magazine on composites, and organises seminars and technical demonstrations at exhibitions in Italy and beyond. ASSOCOMPOSITI will be participating in "PLAST'09", the next in the international series of triennial shows for the plastics and rubber industries. This will take place at the Fiera Milano showground on 24-28 March 2009 (www.assocompositi.it).



HMS, the Hellenic Metallurgical Society, was established in 2000 with the mission of

promoting science and engineering concerned with metallic materials in Greece. Since then three triennial National Conferences have been organised, at the Universities of Thessaly (2001), Athens (2004) and Patras (2007). HMS has also organised a number of Workshops. It also publishes a Newsletter and has its own website (www.met.gr). Prof. Dr.-Ing. Spiros Pantelakis of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Patras is the HMS President.

MRS – SERBIA

MRS-Serbia, the Materials Research Society of Serbia, is one of the two successor societies to the Yugoslav Materials Research Society (Yu-MRS). It was formed in 2007 following the political separation between Serbia and Montenegro and is the official successor to Yu-MRS. Prof. Dr. Dragan Uskokovic of the Institute of Techni-

cal Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts is its president.

Yu-MRS was conceived at the first Yugoslav Conference on Advanced Materials for High Temperature Applications (Yucomat 95), in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, and was founded two years later. Its mission was to promote multidisciplinary goal-oriented research in materials science and engineering. Its main objective was to encourage creativity in materials research and engineering and create access to international projects. Conferences in the Yucomat series were held biennially until 2003 since when they have been annual events.

MRS-Serbia is continuing to organise the Yucomat conferences and Yucomat 2009, will take place in Herceg Novi on 31 August - 4 September 2009. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 May (www.yu-mrs.org.yu).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEMS will be holding EUROMAT 2009 in Glasgow, Scotland on 7-10 September 2009. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 January 2009. For further details visit the Conference Website: www.euromat2009.fems.eu.

MRS-Serbia will be holding YUCOMAT 2009 in Herceg Novi, Montenegro on 31 August - 4 September 2009. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 May 2009. For further information visit the Serbia-MRS Website: www.yu-mrs.org.yu.

Back Issues of FEMS News and much more information about the Federation, as well as forthcoming events and job opportunities, can be downloaded from the FEMS website at: www.FEMS.org.

FEMS news

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is available at the FEMS website (www.FEMS.org). It can be downloaded as a PDF file in screen resolution or as a ready-to-print PDF file. Thus FEMS news can be inserted in national materials science magazines.

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