

26th Conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering

The annual conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering is a traditional meeting of Slovak chemical engineers strongly attended not only by researchers from universities and research institutions but also by practitioners from industrial enterprises, project and consulting companies. The 26th conference was held for the second time in series in the HOTEL SNP in Jasná – Demänovská dolina on May 24–28, 1999. It was also for the second time that the conference held an adjective of international. 20 foreign participants, of course without counting our Czech colleagues here, from Poland, Romania, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom, and South Africa took part in the scientific program of the conference.

In total 185 active participants presented 5 plenary lectures, 81 lectures and 74 posters in different sessions the abstracts of which in English were published in the printed form whereas the submitted full-texts in English, Slovak, and Czech languages were distributed for the participants on CD-ROMs. Using this form, no limitations on the size of contributions had to be given. The contributions covered a broad spectrum of problems of chemical, biochemical, and safety engineering, chemical equipment and machinery, and process control.

The following plenary lectures were given at the start of everyday scientific presentations:

L. Jelemenský (Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava): Safety engineering study programme at the DChBE of SUT.

M. Polakovič (Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava): Diffusion in liquid-solid (gel) systems related to biotechnology and medicine.

P. Krajník (Ciba Spezialitätenchemie GmbH, Grenzach, Germany): Structure analysis of the energy consumption and possibilities for the improvement in the industry of specialty chemicals.

M. Králik (Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava): Catalysis by metal nanoparticles supported on functionalized resins.

V. Fecková (Slovak Centre of Cleaner Production, Bratislava): Expected evolution of legislation and norms ISO 14000 and ISO 9000:2000 and expected impact on chemical companies.

The rest of the program consisted of two parallel, morning and afternoon lecture sessions and evening poster sessions. The topics of the individual lecture sessions were as follows: industrial equipment, heat and mass transfer, applied kinetics, safety engineering, reaction engineering, separation processes, bioengineering, physical chemistry, multiphase g-l-s reactors, hydrodynamics, and ecology.

From these topics, the strongest participation was in the field of reaction engineering and applied kinetics – 28 lectures in total. Seven lectures were presented in the session of multiphase gas-liquid-solid reactors which was organized as a mini-workshop of four collaborating institutions (Aston University, Birmingham, UK; Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal, Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Slovak University of Technology).

The credit for the success of the conference from the scientific and social point of view must be also given to the sponsors of the conference which were the companies Slovnaft, SCP, and Tauris. One session of the conference was devoted to the company presentation of SCP (The North-Slovakian Cellulose and Paper Works) which was aimed also at further improving of the cooperation of company with the scientific institutions. Slovnaft not only continued in printing the proceedings as in previous years but, this time, also supported the participation of graduate students so that they could get a reduced fee.

Finally, it would not be just if the excellent effort of the organizing committee, namely of Associate Professors *Jozef Markoš* and *Vladimír Štefuca* would not be mentioned. Together with natural beauty of the site, excellent weather, and rich social program, they made our stay in Jasná enjoyable. I do not dare to express on behalf of all participants a wish to meet on the next, the 27th conference which will be held in Tatranské Matliare on May 22–26, 2000. Those, who would be interested to take part in the conference or to be informed about the future conferences, please contact Associate Professor *Jozef Markoš*, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Slovak University of Technology, Radlinského 9, 812 37 Bratislava, Slovakia, e-mail: markos@cvt.stuba.sk, www-page: <http://sschi.chtf.stuba.sk>.

An innovation of this year conference was an attempt to publish selected contributions in a special issue of *Chemical Papers*. We wanted to achieve therewith that the whole society of Slovak chemists was better informed about our activities. We are grateful to the *Editorial Board* of *Chemical Papers* that they generously offered to fill a space of one issue with the contributions presented at the conference. Unfortunately, we were late with making final arrangements so we had to communicate with the authors about their interest after the conference. In spite of that, we were happy with the interest of participants that by far exceeded the capacity of an issue of the journal. Some very good papers will therefore appear in the forthcoming issues of *Chemical Papers*. I would mention at least the following ones:

Smejkal, Q., Hanika, J., and Kolena, J. (Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague): Simulation of the butyl acetate synthesis *via* catalytic distillation.

Khunová, V. and Liauw, Ch. (Faculty of Chemical Technology, Bratislava, The Manchester Metropolitan University): Advances in the reactive processing of polymer composites based on magnesium hydroxide.

Herdová, B., Bodík, I., and Kratochvíl, K. (Faculty of Chemical Technology, Bratislava): The application of anaerobic filter for municipal wastewater treatment.

Galíková, A. and Galík, A. (Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic): Gravimetric study of the dynamics of adsorption and desorption of ammonia on γ -alumina.

Hejtmánek, P., Šolcová, O., Čapek, P., and Schneider, P. (Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic): Permeation of gas in industrial porous catalysts.

I, as a *Guest Editor* of this issue, would like to express a wish that this issue would not be an episodic event but it would become a regular activity which would be to the satisfaction of both the participants of the Conference of the Slovak Society of Chemical Engineering and readers of *Chemical Papers*.

Bratislava, December 20, 1999

M. Polakovič