

WEEM-2015 - International Workshop on Electrochemistry of Electroactive Materials

Bad Herrenalb, Germany, May 31 - June 5, 2015



The participants of WEEM-2015 in front of the Conference Center in Bad Herrenalb (Germany)

The WEEM-2015 was a very successful conference that brought together experienced researchers and young scientists. The conference took place in Bad Herrenalb (Germany) in the beautiful surroundings of the Black Forest. The number of participants was more than 120, which is the highest in the history of the WEEM series. Previous WEEM meetings were organized in Russia (Moscow, 1995), France (Dourdan, 1997), Poland (Poraj, 2000), Germany (Bad Herrenalb, 2003), Russia (Repino, 2006), Poland (Szczyrk, 2009) and Hungary (Hódmezővásárhely, 2012).

The participants came from 26 countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. The country with the largest number of national representations was Russia (32), followed by Poland (15), Germany (13) and Italy (11). Statistics indicate that 38% of the participants were women, a saluting fact for gender equality in technical research areas, 34% were young scientists (undergraduates and PhD students), while 66% were experienced researchers including numerous team leaders from many countries.

WEEM-2015 featured five days with 48 oral presentations of high scientific level followed by intensive and very fruitful discussions. In order to promote this the organizers had chosen a format that allotted plenty of time for questions and discussion after each talk. It turned out that this concept was highly appreciated by all participants. Furthermore, the time during coffee breaks and after dinner was actively used for intensifying and establishing scientific contacts. Another focal point of stimulating discussions were the poster sessions in the evenings. There were 75 posters on display during the whole workshop.

Besides conducting polymers, electroactive inorganic and composite materials, focus topics of this workshop were challenges with electroactive materials in general, their characterization with novel experimental techniques, their application in biosensors, batteries and supercapacitors or in photosensitive devices, as well as simulation and modelling of the properties of electroactive

materials. The full program of the conference, including the keynote and invited lectures, as well as the list of posters is available on the conference home page: www.tu-ilmeneu.de/weem2015.

One highlight of the workshop was the evening session headed by Prof. Jürgen Heinze (Germany) on June 4. He made accent on several key points in the area of electroactive materials that are still approached controversially in the community. It goes without saying that this also stimulated intense discussions and the chairs sometimes had a hard time to handle all the raised hands and to finish the evening session in due time, i.e. around 10 pm.

On June 3, the participants could choose between an excursion to the beautiful city of Baden-Baden or two hiking tours in the surroundings of Bad Herrenalb. At the same day a conference dinner was organized where the participants could enjoy delicious typical German dishes.

A social highlight of WEEM-2015 were the musical presentations (vocal and piano) of some very gifted participants during the conference dinner and after the poster sessions. This created a rather relaxing and family-like atmosphere after a long day of scientific work.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the International Society of Electrochemistry gave valuable financial support for WEEM-2015, for which the organizers and all participants are very grateful. Part of the funds was used to award travel grants to those with limited financial resources.

The success of the workshop was assured by the high quality of the presentations and the constructive discussions that took place during the entire time. The scientific committee of WEEM-2015 comprises renowned experts from the field of electrochemistry from eleven countries (D. Aurbach (Israel), V. Z. Barsukov (Ukraine), J. Heinze (Germany), A. R. Hillman (UK), G. Inzelt (Hungary), P. J. Kulesza (Poland), D. Mandler (Israel), V. M. Mirsky (Germany), O. A. Petrii (Russia), P. G. Pickup (Canada), R. Seeber (Italy), O. A. Semenikhin (Canada), M. Skompska (Poland), V. Tsakova (Bulgaria), C. Visy (Hungary), M. A. Vorotyntsev (France/Russia)). The members of the local organizing committee were A. Bund (chair), J. Heinze, A. Ispas, S. Ivanov and R. Peipmann.

The local organizing committee of WEEM-2015 would like to thank all participants and funding organizations for making this such a successful event.