

Report on the 64th Annual ISE Meeting Queretaro, Mexico, September 8th to 13th, 2013

The 64th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry, held at the Queretaro Convention Center in Queretaro, was attended by 957 participants, representing 45 countries.

Queretaro was founded in 1510, and its beautiful historic center is exceptionally well preserved. The historic downtown was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for its rich history and unmatched collection of baroque-style mansions, houses, and churches. Mexico's independence from Spain began in the heart of downtown Queretaro, where conspirators held clandestine meetings to plan their rebellion. Today it is one of the fastest growing cities in Mexico, attracting a host of international companies to set up operations here.

The main theme of the Meeting – “Electrochemistry for a New Era” highlights the fact that many of today's challenges and opportunities can be addressed through electrochemistry. ISE plays an important role in this effort, emphasizing the links between fundamental understanding at the nanoscale and application at the industrial and societal level. The meeting gave the participants an opportunity to discuss common challenges and propose innovative solutions to the problems that face us as we enter this new era.

At the Opening Ceremony, the participants were welcomed by Marcelo Lopez, Secretary of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, representing José Calzada Rovirosa, Governor of the State of Queretaro, Luis Hernandez, representing Enrique Cabrero, General Director of the National Council of Science and Technology, Hasuck Kim, President of the International Society of Electrochemistry, Manuela Rueda, General Secretary of ISE, Ignacio Gonzalez and Yunny Meas, co-chairs of the 64th Annual Meeting of ISE.

The scientific contributions from the participants were extensive and excellent in quality. Five plenary lectures were presented by Michael Grätzel (Switzerland), Richard L. McCreery (Canada), Douglas R. MacFarlane (Australia), Fritz Scholz (Germany) and Masahiro Watanabe (Japan) who presented the Electrochimica Acta Gold Medal lecture.

In total, the program included 5 plenary lectures, 6 award lectures, 53 keynote lectures, 469 oral presentations and 446 poster presentations, distributed among 14 symposia. For the first time, a symposium on Education in Electrochemistry was held with 22 oral presentations, which were very well attended. There were three poster presentation sessions which took place in the late morning and afternoon in a large space, facilitating excellent interaction among the delegates. These sessions were followed by receptions in the conference center with food and drinks. Two tutorial courses were offered to the delegates on Sunday afternoon: Alejandro Franco and Michael Eikerling presented “Multiscale Modeling Methods for the Simulation of Electrochemical Devices for Energy Conversion and Storage”; and Korneel Rabaey and Xochitl Dominguez-Benetton presented “Microbial Electrocatalysis”. The tutorials were quite successful, with more than 70 attendees.

The conference delegates also enjoyed many social activities during the week. The Welcome Reception on Sunday evening and the two exhibitors' and posters receptions Monday and Tuesday

evening were greatly successful and well attended. On Wednesday, numerous excursions in and around Queretaro were offered to the participants, giving them an opportunity to sample some of the wonderful cultural heritage of Mexico. These included a walking tour and trolley tour of the city center as well as an “aromas and flavors” tour for those interested in Mexico’s culinary offerings. In addition, there were excursions to the neighboring “magic towns” of Bernal and Cadereyta de Montes. On Thursday evening there was a Gala Dinner with a theme of “Fiesta Mexicana” at one of Queretaro’s most beautiful buildings.

During the conference, ISE held several meetings related to the organization of the Society. These included: a Division Officers’ Meeting, a Regional Representatives’ Meeting, a Council Meeting, and the General Assembly. In addition, luncheon meetings were held by each of ISE’s seven divisions, where members had an opportunity to provide input and guidance for future activities.

We congratulate all the delegates for their excellent oral and poster presentations contributing to the high scientific quality of the meeting. We would also like to recognize the student helpers for their dedication and enthusiastic help during the conference. Thanks are also due to the members of the Organizing Committee and the Symposium Organizers for their efforts in making the meeting a success. The organization of the meeting is in great debt to the staff of the ISE Office whose efforts were essential in the conference preparation. We also appreciate the help of all who contributed in any way to the organization, sponsorship and success of the Meeting.

Ignacio Gonzalez and Yunny Meas

Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee, 64th ISE Annual Meeting