

## **Report on the 59th Annual ISE Meeting, Seville, Spain, September 7-12, 2008**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ISE was held from 7 to 12 September 2008 at the Engineering School (ETSI), Seville University, Seville, Andalusia, Spain. A large number of participants, 1415 (including 391 students and 56 accompanying persons) were attracted, from 59 different countries. Seville, at present the capital of the Andalusian Region, in the South of Spain, is an old and artistic city, endowed with a wealth of remains from various ancient cultures and traditions and with a wonderful weather that could be enjoyed by all the delegates.

The main theme of the Meeting was “Electrochemistry down to the Molecular Level: Interfacial Science for Life and Technology” to emphasise the importance of the detailed knowledge of electrochemical systems to the improvement of human life through technological applications. The wide scope of all the ISE Divisions’ activities was excellently covered.

At the Opening Ceremony some images of typical streets and monuments of the city were projected and two guitar players performed Classical Spanish music. The participants were welcomed by the Vice-Rector responsible for Research at Seville University, the General Director of Universities of the Andalusian Government, Christopher Brett, ISE President, Sharon Roscoe, ISE General Secretary and myself, as Chair of the OC. The 2007 ISE Award winners were announced and received their certificates.

The scientific contributions were extensive and excellent in quality. Plenary lectures were presented by Jean Clavilier (France), winner of the Frumkin Memorial Medal 2007, Christian Amatore (France), Henry S. White (USA), Richard Compton (UK) and Zhong-Qun Tian (China). The other winners of 2007 ISE prizes who delivered award lectures included Chi-Chang Hu (Tajima Prize), Bruno Pettinger (Prix Jacques Tacussel), Hiroaki Tsuchiya (Hans-Jürgen Vetter Prize), Philip N. Bartlett (Katsumi Niki Prize for Bioelectrochemistry), Magdalena Hromadová (Klaus-Jürgen Vetter Prize for Electrochemical Kinetics) and Priscilla Reale (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Electrochemical Energy Conversion). In total the programme included the 5 plenary lectures, 67 keynote lectures, 423 oral presentations and 794 poster presentations, distributed among ten Symposia. The lectures of the symposia concerning Interfacial Electrochemistry, New Materials and Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage were split on some of the days in two rooms. A special session within the symposium about Interfacial Electrochemistry was dedicated to Professors Jan Sluyters and Margaretha Sluyters-Rehbach in recognition of their significant contributions to Physical and Interfacial Electrochemistry. The poster presentations were separated into two sessions, each running for half the conference, with two poster viewing and discussion periods per day. In addition, there were many opportunities to visit the posters during the week due to their suitable location and the organisation of coffee breaks of the oral program. The tradition was continued of offering some tutorial lectures to delegates, especially directed towards the younger ones, on Sunday. Two excellent sets of tutorial lectures were presented: “Impedance Spectroscopy”, by Martin Bojinov and Tamas Pajkossy, and “Scanning Probe Microscopy” by Vincent Vivier and Julie Macpherson. Both were extremely successful, each with more than 150 attendees.

The delegates could also enjoy many social activities during the week. The Welcome Reception at the Rector Hall of the Seville University on Sunday evening was a well-attended and successful event with nice Andalusian food, drinks and music. On Monday 8 September, after the scientific sessions the delegates were taken for a guided visit to the “*Reales Alcázares*” (the royal palace from the XII Century with its

beautiful gardens) and to the “*Barrio de Santa Cruz*” (the old and typical narrow streets neighbourhood in the city centre). “*Sangria*” drinks and snacks were offered at the Exhibitor Reception on Tuesday 9 September, once the scientific sessions were completed. A typical flamenco dinner was offered on Wednesday evening, after the traditional excursions.

For these excursions three options were offered: (i) a guided tour to the Roman ruins of Italica and a visit to a typical Andalusian village, Carmona; (ii) a bus trip to Córdoba, with guided tour of the city centre and of the most representative buildings, especially the mosque; (iii) a trip to Jerez, with a show of Andalusian horses in the “*Real Escuela Equestre*” and a visit to a “*Sherry Bodega*”, wine tasting included.

The banquet, on Thursday evening took place at a typical country house, just outside Seville, with the participation of 475 persons. It consisted of two parts: during the first part, delicious “*tapas*”, the typical Spanish snacks, and Sherry wines were served in the courtyard of the house, where musicians and dancers, dressed with the traditional Sevillian costumes created a typical Andalusian environment. After that, the second part of the dinner took place in the dining room where the main courses and the dessert were served.

During the conference, ISE held meetings pertaining to the organisation of the Society: Regional Representatives’ Meeting, Division Officers’ Meeting, Council Meeting and General Assembly. During the General Assembly the new ISE Fellows were inducted. Most of the Divisions of ISE held well-attended luncheon meetings in which the members were asked to provide input and suggestions for future activities, especially at the forthcoming Annual Meetings.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the delegates for their excellent oral and poster presentations, which created an enormously high-standard scientific event, to the student helpers, coming from many Iberian Universities, for their enthusiastic activities and efficiency, to the members of the Organising Committee and to the Symposium Organisers for their useful cooperation and to the staff of the ISE Office which has now completely developed the necessary infrastructure for the administration of the meeting. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we would also like to thank the sponsors and exhibitors for their financial contributions.

Best wishes

Manuela Rueda, Antonio Aldaz, Christopher Brett  
Co-chairs of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual ISE Meeting