

Report on the 63rd Annual ISE Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, August 19th-24th 2012.

The 63rd Annual meeting of ISE, held in the Clarion Congress Hotel Prague was attended by 1704 participants, representing 62 countries, and including 570 students.

Prague has been a natural economic and cultural center of the region spanning along the Vltava river for more than one millennium, where virtually every step exposes you to the course of the history, rich with architecture and artistry. For years Prague mixed intellectual influences originating in Slavic, German and Jewish cultural backgrounds and legacy of Kafka, Dvorak or Mucha can still be felt today. The spirit of past and architectural uniqueness are not the only attractions Prague offers to today's visitors. Prague is also bustling industrial, governmental, scientific and educational center of the whole country.

The main theme of the Meeting – “ Electrochemistry for Advanced Materials, Technologies and Instrumentation” was chosen to outline challenges to electrochemical science and technology directed at tackling the societal needs in the 21st century. Detailed understanding and consequent control of charge-transfer related processes is essential in the development of novel processes and materials in diverse fields of science and technology ranging from energy conversion to biological sciences. The meeting in this manner emphasized the multidisciplinary nature and impact of today's electrochemistry.

At the Opening Ceremony, the participants were welcomed by Jiří Drahoš, president of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ivan Wilhelm, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Mark Orazem, ISE President and Petr Krtil, Co-Chair of the OC. The 2011 ISE Award winners were announced by Manuela Rueda, ISE Secretary General. An eulogy of the untimely departed 2011 Frumkin Medal winner Dieter Kolb was delivered by Robert Hillmann, ISE immediate past president.

The scientific contributions from the participants were extensive and excellent in quality. The four plenary lectures were presented by Jens Nørskov (USA), Kazunari Domen (Japan), Katharina Krischer (Germany), and Mark Meyerhoff (USA).

The other award winners included Wolfgang Schmickler (A. Kuznetsov prize for Theoretical Electrochemistry), Kingo Itaya (Prix Jacques Tacussel), Wolfgang Schuhmann (Katsumi Niki Prize for Bioelectrochemistry), Hogan Yu (Tajima Prize), Jamil Elias (Hans-Jürgen Engell Prize), Cristina Saez (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Environmental Electrochemistry), Frederic Maillard (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Prize of ISE on Applied Electrochemistry), Meng Li (Oronzio and Niccolò De Nora Foundation Young Author Prize).

In total the program included 4 plenary lectures, 58 keynote lectures, 595 oral communications and 1058 poster presentations, distributed among 15 Symposia. The poster presentations were separated into two sessions. For each of them a reception was organized in the poster and exhibition area with food and drinks.

Three tutorial courses were offered to delegates on Sunday afternoon: “X-ray absorption spectroscopy in electrochemical research” with lectures by David Ramaker and Sanjeev

Mukerjee; “Modelling and simulation of complex chemical systems: challenges and strategies” by Oleksiy Klymenko and “The pH concept in the 21st century” by Robert de Levie. All tutorials were successful, with more than 140 attendees in each.

The conference delegates could also enjoy 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 attracting a huge participation. A conference concert with attendance of 1200 was organized in Dvorak Hall of the Prague Rudofinum on Thursday night featuring Prague Philhamonia orchestra playing works of Mozart, Voříšek, Dvořák and Smetana. The concert was immediately followed by the conference gala dinner in representative halls of Rudolfinum attracting 450 participants. The delegates were also offered a wide selection of excursions including guided tours to Prague Castle, Prague Jewish Town, Karlštejn Castle and medieval mining city of Kutná Hora.

During the conference, ISE held meetings pertaining to the organization of the Society: Regional Representatives’ Meeting, Division Officers’ Meeting, Council Meeting and General Assembly. Each of the seven Divisions of ISE held a luncheon meeting giving the members a platform to provide input and guidance 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 contributing to a high scientific quality of the meeting. In particular we would like to appreciate the student helpers, coming from Prague, Ulm and Helsinki based Universities, for their dedication and enthusiastic help with the conference organization. Thanks are also due to the members of the Organizing Committee and to the Symposia Organizers for their efforts to make the meeting successful. The organization of the meeting is in great debt to the staff of the ISE Office – namely to Kathleen Vionnet and Thierry Lenzin, whose effort was essential for the conference preparation.

We also want to appreciate the help of all who contributed in any way to the organization, sponsorship and success of the Meeting.

Best wishes,

Zdeněk Samec and Petr Krtíl
Co-chairs of the 63rd Annual ISE Meeting