

Report on the 6th ISE Spring Meeting – Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, March 16-19, 2008

The 6th Spring Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry, which was held at the Mabu Thermas & Resort, attracted 203 participants from 37 countries. The regions of the world with most participants were the Americas (59 %) and Europe (32 %) – see list by country at the end of this report. The venue was located near the Iguassu National Park, where the magnificent Iguassu Falls (shared between Brazil and Argentina) are located, as well as near the grand Itaipu Dam (shared between Brazil and Paraguay).

The theme of the meeting was “Electrochemistry for a Healthy Planet”. Thus, concepts, developments, and applications of electrochemistry (detection, prevention and remediation of environmental pollution) that can contribute to keep Planet Earth healthy were explored in depth. Highlights of some of the latest contributions were presented in 4 keynote lectures, 9 invited lectures, 58 oral and more than 140 poster presentations.

During the Opening Ceremony, on the evening of March 20, a cooperation agreement between ISE and the Electrochemistry and Electroanalytical Division (DEE) of the Brazilian Chemical Society (SBQ) was signed by Christopher Brett, ISE president, Vanderlan da Silva Bolzani, SBQ acting president, and Artur J. de Motheo, DEE director. A Choro recital, by three young musicians from the Curitiba Choro Club, led by Daniel Migliavacca on the mandolin, closed the ceremony; they played the Choro masterpieces “Brasileirinho”, “Carinhoso”, and “Tico-Tico no Fubá”. Immediately after, the meeting’s welcome lecture (“The importance of electrode material in environmental electrochemistry”) was delivered by Christos Comninellis (Switzerland). After, the participants were able to enjoy more Choro during the welcome reception.

The activities of each of the next three days were started by 50-min keynote lectures. On March 17, Krishnan Rajeshwar (USA): “Electrodeposition and combustion synthesis of oxide semiconductors for solar photocatalysis applications”; on March 18, Derek Pletcher (UK): “Electrochemical technologies for a healthy planet – Promises or achievement?”; on March 19, Christopher Brett (Portugal): “Advances in electrochemical sensors and biosensors for monitoring environmental pollution”. Each of these days, after the keynote lecture, two sessions were run in parallel, in most cases started by a 25-min invited lecture. The invited speakers included Guohua Chen (China), Edson A. Ticianelli (Brazil), Pawel Kulesza (Poland), Sibel Pamucku (USA), Jiri Barek (Czech Republic), Onofrio Scialdone (Italy), Damien Arrigan (Ireland), Rodnei Bertazzoli (Brazil), and Enric Brillas (Spain). In the 12 sessions, 58 oral presentations were made. In the three two-hour poster sessions, with an open bar in their final hour, 146 presentations were programmed.

Considering that Foz do Iguaçu is one of the cities in Brazil with a large concentration of people of Arabic descent, a special dinner was held on Tuesday, with serving of Arabic food and entertainment by belly dancers. The meeting was closed on Wednesday evening with a farewell barbecue, with live music entertainment, which invited many participants to dancing. On Thursday morning, the tour to the Iguassu Falls had 42 participants and the one to the Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Plant, 28.

Before closing, I wish to thank all the participants, whose excellent oral and poster presentations contributed to the high scientific quality of the Meeting. A special thank you to my colleagues of the Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, as well as to Thierry Lenzin, who contributed very much to the organization and success of the Meeting. Sponsorship by Elsevier, Metrohm Pensalab, and by Brazilian funding agencies CNPq, CAPES and Araucária is gratefully acknowledged.

Romeu C. Rocha-Filho
Chairman, 6th ISE Spring Meeting

Number of participants in the 6th ISE Spring Meeting per country:

Argentina – 19, Brazil – 74, Canada – 2, Chile – 6, China – 2, Colombia – 1, Croatia – 1,
Czech Republic – 9, Denmark – 2, Estonia – 2, Finland – 1, France – 3, Germany – 4, Hungary – 1,
Iran (Islamic Republic of) – 1, Ireland – 7, Israel – 1, Italy – 4, Japan – 9, Korea - Republic of – 1,
Mexico – 11, Netherlands – 1, Norway – 2, Poland – 2, Portugal – 4, Romania – 5, Russia – 3,
Russian Federation – 1, Serbia – 1, South Africa – 5, Spain – 3, Sweden – 4, Switzerland – 2, Turkey – 2,
United Kingdom – 1, USA – 5, Venezuela – 1.