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Cover story

In the period of 24th-28th November 2008 in Porto de Galinhas – PE in Pernambuco State in Brazil the 18th Congress Brazilian Congress of Materials Engineering and Science – Congresso Brasileiro de Engenharia e Ciência dos Materiais – CBECiMat took place. The seat of the Congress was the fabulous localisation in Summerville Resort Hotel in Porto de Galinhas – PE, Brasil, on the Atlantic Ocean shore, in the heart of Pernambuco State. The picture of this place is presented on the cover. It is famous for being one of the most beautiful beaches of the Brazilian coast, with warm clear water pools scattered around its coral reefs, estuaries, mangroves, coconut trees and a number of other samples of abundant nature richness. The proximity of the Equator guarantees an entire year of sun, with average temperatures of 26°C.

Pernambuco State has the 5th highest sugarcane Brazilian production today. The gentle hills covered with great stretches of light green sugarcane, which can be seen in the first small picture on the cover, in some places prepared already for harvest, in others just after harvest, and in others else yet beginning vegetation, make a great impression for a stranger travelling by car to Porto de Galinhas – PE from a modern Recife/Guararapes – Gilberto Freyre International Airport.

Such an important event as the 18th CBECiMat Congress could not have taken place without the presentation of the folklore from Olinda. Both the ceremony of the Opening of the Congress and the social meeting upon the Atlantic Ocean were accompanied by the full of temper performances of young people, presenting the frevo and maracatu with small multi-colour umbrellas and can be seen in the central small picture on the cover. Olinda is a historic city, located on the country's north-eastern Atlantic Ocean coast, just north of Recife. It is one of the best-preserved colonial cities in Brazil. The city's name can be interpreted as an exclamation regarding the beauty of its setting ("Ó, linda!" is Portuguese for "Oh, beautiful!"). Olinda features a number of major tourist attractions, such as a historic downtown area (World Heritage Site) and churches. In the last small picture on the cover the historical buildings of Olinda and at a distance the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and the panorama of Recife are presented.

