

# Editorial



In the period of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 in Netanya in Israel the International Scientific Conference on "Contemporary achievements in science and education" organised by the Tel Aviv University in Israel and the Khmielnickiy National University in Ukraine took place. During that conference I gave two lectures on "Properties of sintered gradient tool WC/HS6-5-2 materials" and "Laser surface treatment of magnesium alloy with side injection of titanium carbide". The conference was the interesting scientific event and created to its participants from many countries, including those from Poland, the good possibility to familiarise with reach history of Israeli earth, with great national problems of that region and also allowed to familiarise with mutual-tolerant and multi-cultural region. Some of the papers of the mentioned conference after the detailed adjusting to the requirements of the Journal AMME can be published in it.

An approaching month – April, in which the given Issue of the Journal AMME will be delivered to PT Readers – is a month in which ca. 30% of Globe population celebrates one of the biggest Christian holidays – Easter. Because of obvious reasons many of those people go to the Holy Land in Israel, although others gather also around Rome and Vatican as a the Holy See – the seat of the Pope.

All pilgrimages to Israel go first of all to Jerusalem. Suitable information for such a journey can be usually gathered in Wikipedia. Jerusalem is located in the Judean Mountains, between the Mediterranean Sea and the northern tip of the Dead Sea. Jerusalem is 60 kilometres east of Tel Aviv and the Mediterranean Sea. On the opposite side of the city, approximately 35 kilometres away, is the Dead Sea, the lowest body of water on Earth. Neighbouring cities and towns include Bethlehem and Beit Jala to the south, Abu Dis and Ma'ale Adumim to the east, Mevaseret Zion to the west, and Ramallah and Giv'at Ze'ev to the north. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and its largest city in both population and area, if disputed East Jerusalem is included. Jerusalem is the seat of the Yad Vashem, which is Israel's national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. The complex contains a state-of-the-art museum that explores the personal stories of individuals and families killed in the Holocaust, an art gallery featuring the work of artists who perished and commemorates the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis, and honours the Righteous among the Nations. Modern Jerusalem has grown beyond the boundaries of the Old City. Today, Jerusalem is divided between Israel and Palestinians and Arab Palestinians foresee East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. The city has a history that goes back to the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. In the course of its history, Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times. The old walled city, a World Heritage site, has been traditionally divided in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century into four quarters, although the names used today – the Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Quarters. Despite having an area of only 0.9 square kilometre, the Old City is home to sites of key religious importance, among them the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Jerusalem has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual centre of the Jewish people since the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC, contains a number of significant ancient Christian sites, and is considered the third-holiest city in Islam. Jerusalem is mentioned in the Bible 632 times. Today, the Western Wall, a remnant of the wall surrounding the Second Temple, is a Jewish holy site second only to the Holy of Holies on the Temple Mount itself. Christianity reveres Jerusalem not only for its Old Testament history but also for its significance in the life of Jesus. According to the New Testament, Jesus was brought to Jerusalem soon after his birth and later in his life cleansed the Second Temple. The Cenacle, believed to be the site of Jesus' Last Supper, is located on Mount Zion in the same building that houses the Tomb of King David. The land currently occupied by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is treated as another prominent Christian site in Jerusalem known as Golgotha, the site of the crucifixion and thus has been a Christian pilgrimage site for the past two thousand years. Jerusalem is considered the third-holiest city in Islam. Muslims believe Muhammad was miraculously transported one night from Mecca to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, whereupon he ascended to Heaven to meet previous prophets of Islam. Today, the Temple Mount is topped by two Islamic landmarks intended to commemorate the event – al-Aqsa Mosque, derived from the name mentioned in the first verse in the Qur'an's Surat al-Isra, and the Dome of the Rock, which stands over the Foundation Stone, from which Muslims believe Muhammad ascended to Heaven.

The next most often visited place is Bethlehem, a Palestinian city in the central West

Bank, approximately 10 kilometres south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is believed by most Christians to be the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth. The town is inhabited by one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, though the size of the community has shrunk in recent years due to emigration. The city is the birthplace of David and the location where he was crowned as the king of Israel. The Christian go on pilgrimage to the Church of the Nativity. Silver star marking the place where Jesus was born according to Christian tradition. Two accounts in the New Testament describe Jesus as born in Bethlehem.

Nazareth is the capital and the largest city in the North District of Israel. It is the most important city for Israel's Arab citizens who make up the majority of Nazareth's population. In the New Testament, the city is described as the childhood home of Jesus, and as such is a centre of Christian pilgrimage, with many shrines commemorating biblical associations. St. Mary's Well – this shrine, commemorating the Virgin Mary, is a symbol of Nazareth located at an ancient spring dating from New Testament times. Nazareth was the home of Joseph and Mary and the site of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would have Jesus as her son. Nazareth is also where Jesus allegedly grew up from some point in his childhood. Joseph and Mary settle in Nazareth after returning to Israel from Egypt. That is way the most important place for the Christians in Nazareth is the Basilica of the Annunciation, the largest Christian church building in the Middle East. In Roman Catholic tradition, it marks the site where the Archangel Gabriel announced the future birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary.

The Dead Sea is a salt lake between Israel and the West Bank to the west, and Jordan to the east. It is 422 metres below sea level, and its shores are the lowest point on the surface of Earth on dry land. The Dead Sea is 378 m deep, the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. It is also one of the world's saltiest bodies of water, with 33.7% salinity. This salinity makes for a harsh environment where animals cannot flourish, hence its name. The Dead Sea is 67 kilometres long and 18 kilometres wide at its widest point. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary is the Jordan River.

The Sea of Galilee, also Lake of Gennesaret, Lake Kinneret or Sea of Tiberias is Israel's largest freshwater lake, being approximately 53 kilometres in circumference, about 21 kilometres long, and 13 kilometres wide. The lake has a total area of 166 square kilometres, and a maximum depth of approximately 43 metres. At 209 meters below sea level, it is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth and the second-lowest lake in the world (after the Dead Sea). The Kinneret is situated deep in the Jordan Great Rift Valley, the valley caused by the separation of the African and Arabian Plates and is fed partly by underground springs although its main source is the Jordan River which flows through it from north to south. A key attraction is the site where the Kinneret's water flows into the Jordan River to which thousands of pilgrims from all over the world come to be (re-)baptized every year. The warm waters of the Sea of Galilee allow a variety of flora and fauna to thrive, which have supported a significant commercial fishery for over two millennia. Local fauna includes a fish population which notably includes Tilapia, locally known as St. Peter's Fish.

I invite PT Readers to read the given Issue, and PT Authors to further cooperation.

Gliwice, in March 2009

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