

Editorial



CIMTEC 2010 – 12th International Conference on Modern Materials and Technologies took place in Montecatini Terme, Tuscany, Italy, on 6th to 18th June 2010. CIMTEC 2010 consisted of the 12th International Ceramics Congress (6th-11th June) and of the 5th Forum on New Materials (13th-18th June), each of them including a number of Symposia, Focused Sessions, and Conferences. As a major long standing event for the international materials community, CIMTEC will again gather together a large and qualified audience of materials scientists, physicists, chemists and engineers as well as experts of a wide range of the most demanding application areas of modern materials, from information technology to biological systems. CIMTEC 2010 devoted special attention to most relevant directions for materials research based on a new theory and refined modelling strategies and on the ever increasing opportunities offered by the continuous remarkable progress in nanoscience and nanotechnology. Outstanding areas of the subject were covered, from the molecular and nanoscales to large complex integrated systems. Special focus of the Forum on New Materials applied the new research findings to the development of a number of sustainable energy technologies from advanced fossil fuel energy cycles including CO₂ sequestration, to nuclear energy, to photovoltaic power generation. A General Chair CIMTEC Conferences was Pietro Vincenzini – Chairman of the World Academy of Ceramics, and Co-Chairs of CIMTEC 2010 – Akio Makishima, the President of the International Ceramic Federation and Robert P.H. Chang, the General Secretary of the International Union of Materials Research Societies. In the Plenary Sessions of the 12th International Ceramics Congress Richard Catlow, UK, Yet-Ming Chiang, USA and Sumio Iijima, Japan gave invited lectures. In turn in the Plenary Sessions of the 5th Forum on New Materials invited lectures were given by Andre Geim, UK, Takuzo Aida, Japan and William A. Goddard III, USA. According to the relations of the delegates the Conference was very successful and it was regarded as a scientific and organisational success. The Editorial Team of JAMME made a note of that fact with the satisfaction and in that way congratulates the Organisers. Of course, as usual we present a useful information about the place in which the Conference was organised. Montecatini Terme is a spa-town in Tuscany, Italy, situated in a direct neighbourhood of Florence, Lucca and Pisa, being famous monuments of architecture and culture. Montecatini Terme is an Italian district of ca. 21,000 inhabitants within the province of Pistoia in Tuscany. It is the most important centre in Valdinievole. The town is located at the eastern end of Piana di Lucca and has a strong vocation for tourism, as well as industrial and commercial industries based around the spa, which in turn has increased the interest for hotel accommodation in the region. Here tourism is the main activity: every year 200 hotels sell 2 million overnight-stays for travellers who want to see the city amenities and to take short trips to the nearby art-cities. Many entertainments such as concerts, fairs, ballrooms, art exhibitions and other festivals attracts the local and the tourist in a well organised and pleasant agenda. The city developed under the pressure of the Grand Duke Leopold, built channels for the disposal of water and the land was reclaimed, where baths were constructed to facilitate the use of the popular hot springs: Bagno Regio in 1773, the Terme Leopoldine in 1775 and Tettuccio in 1779. After the



belle-époque growth, now the spas offer not only the well-known healing waters but also all the modern relax treatments and new swimming pools. This charming town

reconfirms its role as the capital of thermal treatments and spas, where a vacation can be spent in total relaxation to recover one's full well-being. Flourishing green parks, thermal establishments fully equipped with state-of-the-art technological facilities, a long-dated hotel tradition: a whole set of win-win solutions able to guarantee visitors a most pleasant stay. Those who are keen on the magical atmosphere of the belle époque can visit historical socialite locales, such as the Caffè delle Terme, the Locanda Maggiore, the Gambrinus arcades, and the thermal establishments frescoed and decorated after the Art Nouveau style. Those who wish to 'take a break' can turn to the several sports facilities, the hippodrome, the many elegant boutiques, premises devoted to leisure time and amusement, special events and festivals where high quality music plays a key role, in accordance with the tradition of a town that hosted the great composer Giuseppe Verdi. And then, an array of excursions around the neighbourhood, such as Montecatini Alto, where the town hall had its seat until 1905. Just reaching this historic old town aboard the oldest funicular in the world is a thrilling experience not to be missed. Likewise, each can astonish himself once reaching the top as a spectacular view of downtown and the entire Valdinievole valley opens up before his eyes.

I am convinced that the delegates of CIMTEC 2010 International Conference noticed the beauty enchanted in this city which certainly bewitched both them and me. In their spare time they could admire the beauty of Italian Tuscany. Recalling the important world event in the field of materials engineering and materials processing technology, we pass the double regular issue of the Journal AMME to the Readers with hope that they evaluate positively the papers published there, and we encourage PT Authors to submit their works for the publication in the next issue JAMME.

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