

40TH ICMA CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT EMBASSY SUITES
IN DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A., MAY 13-17, 2018

The Fortieth International Conference on Cement Microscopy co-sponsored by MAPEI Corporation was convened successfully by Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos, ICMA General Chairman in Deerfield Beach Resort, Florida, USA with delegates from 10 countries in attendance. Over 20 technical presentations were given on a diversity of topics on cement and concrete illustrating the value of microscopy techniques spearheaded and introduced by the Program Chairman, Dr. Herbert Poellmann. Topics included characterization and understanding of clinker phase composition and cement reactivity through a multidisciplinary approach, finish mill operations as the last opportunity to produce a cement with optimized cement chemistry, phase analyses of clinker through certification of Portland cement clinker and through improving precision and accuracy of Rietveld refinement method, comparison of methods for amorphous quantification using X-Ray diffraction, properties of ocean water on mortars and concrete containing supplementary cementitious materials, delayed ettringite formation and distress in grout, petrographic stage of ASR and associated compositional changes, microstructure and crack propagation in concrete containing reclaimed asphalt pavement aggregate, influence of different fluorine mineral portions on mineral composition of belite-fluoroaluminate cements, presence of formation waters on CO₂ and associated compounds on sandstone, wollastonite curing by carbonation a potential well cement and, impact of supercritical CO₂ and chloride rich brine on a CEM III cement. The program also hosted two panel sessions, conducted by Dr. Karen Luke, Workshop & Panel Discussion Coordinator. The first panel session was on today's admixtures and their impact on concrete performance, chemistry and microstructure. Panelists discussed the use of grinding aids on improving grinding of clinker and on how they impacted the hydration of cement, to addition of PCE superplasticizers and on how they could be engineered to give desired performance and, on a new class of composite material for accelerating hydration of SCM cements. The second panel session on nano-materials in concrete from nano-structure to application discussed the use of novel cellulosic fibers to a review of the current research and utilization of various nano-materials and how they impact properties of concrete. After the sessions, Dr. Karen Luke presented the panelists with "Certificate of Appreciation."

In addition to the technical sessions, Chuck Buchanan and Dr. Hugh Hou, presented the Clinker Exchange Program and asked for volunteers to both supply and test clinker samples. The Walter W. Rowe scholarship recipient, Rana Masoudi of the University of Toronto, was announced and an "In Memoriam" for William (Bill) Carruthers, the Second ICMA General Chairman and Co-Founder of ICMA was delivered by Tom Dealy. A small exhibition of equipment, Malvern Panalytical, Intechlab Inc. and Keyence

Corp. of America was set up inside the conference room with exhibitors providing informative question and answer discussions during the coffee break networking sessions. Proceedings of the Conference (USB Flash Drive) as well as a bounded and

printed Proceedings of Abstracts were prepared by the Program Chairman, Dr. Herbert Poellmann and were given to the attendees.

The final day of the conference consisted of a visit and tour of the MAPEI Americas Research & Development Centre in Deerfield Beach, and the production facility in Fort Lauderdale. Additional technical presentations were given by MAPEI personnel with Sam Biondo presenting an overview of their history, facility and products, Cris Bierschank on the impact of sustainability within the industry and Guido Sardi on the marine line of products, followed by a tour of the research center laboratories and then a BBQ lunch in their main entrance where various products and technologies were on display. After lunch the group were transported to the main production and storage facility for products for the US market and supplementing Canada and South America.

Social events organized by Tom Dealy, Financial Officer and Site Selection Coordinator, consisted of a bus trip to the Gumbo Limbo nature Center and Aquarium and the Society of the Four Arts, Botanical Garden, Sculpture Garden and Art Museum, a Welcome Reception hosted by ICMA and co-hosted by ROAN Industries, Inc. and an Awards and Appreciation Reception hosted by ICMA. Sights on the bus trip included the once beach home of Tiger Woods and President Trump's Mar-a-Lago Estate in Palm Beach. At the ICMA hosted Awards and Appreciation Reception, certificates prepared by Gwen Wang, Website Committee Chairman and Public Relations Committee Co-Chairman were presented to the speakers and members of the Executive Board in appreciation of the efforts that made the conference a success. In addition, ICMA Executive Board members were each presented with individual inscribed medallions coming from the ICMA General Chairman to mark the 40th year of the ICMA and along with other mementos provided by MAPEI. The General Chairman, Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos, received a plaque of appreciation signed by the Executive Board members.

Activities planned by the Spouse and Guest Committee chaired by Lourdes M. Nisperos and co-chaired by JoAnn Buchanan commenced on the Monday after their breakfast meeting. Plans were thwarted by the weather though spouses had the opportunity to join the delegates on the bus trip and tour of the MAPEI research laboratory and production and storage facility as well as the Awards and Appreciation Reception.

The success of this conference is through the efforts of the ICMA Executive Board under the leadership of the General Chairman, Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos and those of MAPEI, Dr. Giorgio Squinzi, Dr. Marco Squinzi and Dr. Arianna LoPresti (Milan, Italy) and Dr. Luigi Di Geso, Dr. David Sobransingh and Dr. Ruslan Liferovich (Deerfield Beach, Florida) along with Ms. Debra Funicello, Ms. Liliana Ramirez and Mr. Dan Marvin.