

**41<sup>st</sup> ICMA CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT THE  
BAHIA RESORT HOTEL IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.,  
APRIL 14-17, 2019**

The Forty-First International Conference on Cement Microscopy was successfully convened by Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos, ICMA General Chairman in San Diego, California, U.S.A. with delegates from North America, Central America, Europe and Asia. Technical presentations were given on diversity of topics on cement, clinker, and concrete illustrating the value of microscopy techniques spearheaded and introduced by the General Chairman. The **Keynote Speaker** was Dr. Anol Mukhopadhyay, a Research Scientist and Graduate Faculty of Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, U.S.A. who talked on the *“Innovative Approach for Effective Utilization of Off-Specs Ashes to Prevent ASR.”* Topics included a better approach using QXRD for cement phase quantification, studies on 19<sup>th</sup> century binding materials from Tokyo Bay Seafort No. 1, and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Mortars from Railway Bridge and Tunnel in the Central Massif of France; Transmission Electron Microscopy Investigations of Fatigue-Induced Changes in the Cement Structure of Ultra-High Performance Concrete; Biogenic Sulfuric Acid Attack and Case Studies; and Current Status on the Microscopical Analysis of Crack-Filling Material Produced by Bacteria. The program also hosted two Panel Sessions, conducted by Dr. Anol Mukhopadhyay, Workshop & Panel Discussion Coordinator. The First Panel Session was on **“Chemistry & Clinker Microscopy.”** Panelists discussed the “Clinker Microscopy in the Plant” and “Comparative Study Between Limestone and Calcined Cement (LC<sup>3</sup>) Concrete and Regular Concrete by SEM and XRD. The Second Panel Session was on **“Alkali-Silica Reactivity (ASR) – A 2019 Perspective.”** Panelists discussed the “Developing Performance Engineered ASR Resistant Concrete Based on Emerging Rapid Aggregate & Concrete ASR Test Method,” and “What Made the Study of Alkali-Carbonate Reaction (ACR) so Difficult? – A History of Misidentification and Misconception.” After the sessions, Dr. Anol Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos presented the panelists with “Certificate of Appreciation.”

In addition to the technical sessions, Dr. Hugh Hou, Chairman of the Clinker Sample Exchange Committee, presented the **Clinker Sample Exchange Program** and asked the attendees to participate in the program. The test clinkers and raw

mills were supplied by Mr. Luis Velasquez of Centro de Investigacion y Desarrollo of Cementos Progreso (CEMPRO) S. A., Guatemala and were distributed to the attendees who volunteered to participate at the conference site.

A bounded and printed “***Proceedings of Abstracts,***” was prepared by the Program Chairman, Dr. Herbert Poellmann. A blue-colored tote bag printed with the ICMA Logo and the 41<sup>st</sup> ICMA Conference in San Diego, California as well as some brochures of the many interesting sites in Southern California were given to the attendees.

Social events were organized by the General Chairman, Secretary and Charles Buchanan III and his charming wife, Jo Ann of Roan Industries, Inc. At the ICMA Hosted Awards & Appreciation Luncheon Reception and Co-Hosted by Roan Industries, certificates prepared by Gwen Wang, Website Committee Chairman and Public Relation Committee Co-Chairman were presented to the speakers and members of the ICMA Executive Board (EB) in appreciation of the efforts that made the conference a success (*see many photographs posted in the ICMA website*). In addition, the speakers and the ICMA EB were presented mementoes with inscribed ICMA Logo. The General Chairman, Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos, received a “Plaque of Appreciation,” presented by Gwen Wang, on behalf of the ICMA EB.

Activities planned by the Spouse and Guest Committee chaired by Lourdes M. Nisperos and Co-Chaired by Jo Ann Buchanan commenced on the Monday after their meeting. Tours and visits of interesting sites in San Diego area and vicinity were presented to the attendees for their information.

The success of the 41<sup>st</sup> ICMA Conference is through the efforts of the ICMA Executive Board (EB) and the excellent leadership of the General Chairman, Dr. Arturo G. Nisperos. Special recognition was accorded to Mr. Charles Buchanan III of Roan Industries, Inc. who arranged the receptions and beverages served during

the breaks and Dr. Hugh Hou of Wiss, Janney & Elstner, Inc. (WJE) and the Secretary, Mrs. Lourdes M. Nisperos, who arranged the Audio Visuals (AV) used in the conference. Special recognition was also given to Gwen Wang, who prepared

the name tags and lanyards as well as certificates of appreciation and attendance to the speakers, panelists, and attendees.

The 2020 ICMA Conference site/venue was decided at the dinner-meeting of the ICMA Executive Board (EB). It will be held at the Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, U.S.A, to be spearheaded by Dr. Anol Mukhopadhyah. We welcome co-sponsors for the Forty-Second ICMA Conference. Details of the conference will be posted in the ICMA website ([www.cemmicro.org](http://www.cemmicro.org)). See you all in Southwestern Texas (Houston-Area) come 2020!