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International Conference on Advanced Polymeric Materials—APM 2006

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International Conference on Advanced Polymeric Materials—APM 2006

APM 2006 was the twentieth of the Bratislava meetings on macromolecules organized by the Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The series started in 1968 and the Conferences took place alternatively in the City of Bratislava, in the Smolenice castle, and in the High Tatras mountains. APM 2006 was held in the Conference Centre SUZA in Bratislava from 11 to 15 June of 2006. One-hundred and sixty-four experts from 34 countries of all continents took part in the Conference. Almost one third of the participants were young scientists; for several of them APM 2006 was an opportunity to give their very first podium presentation. The scientific program of APM 2006 included 9 plenary, 23 main, and 20 short lectures plus 93 poster presentations. An EU networking workshop “Nano-composites with Polymer Matrix” was organized during APM 2006. It attracted over 20 extra-participants.

The main themes of APM 2006 were

- advanced polymeric materials with emphasis on nanomaterials, thin layer technologies, composites, optically and electrically active systems;
- methods for molecular characterization of advanced polymers by chromatography and mass spectrometry;
- surfaces, interfaces, and confined systems;
- bulk methods for characterization of advanced polymers;
- modern processing and testing methods;
- biopolymers, biodegradable, and biocompatible polymers.

Emphasis was on the first two themes.

The scientific program of the Conference was complemented by a small exhibition of instruments and by the two company presentations. The social program included a concert and the open-air picnic on the Danube dam in Cunovo, where 35 of the most courageous

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participants enjoyed rafting on the water slalom track. The Organizing Committee of APM 2006 consisted of only four persons, without engagement of any Tourist Agency. This allowed keeping the Conference fee well below the usual level.

The author of this report would like to express his gratitude to Mrs. Jana Tarbajovska who took care for all technical matters, Mrs. Zuzana Hlouskova, our economic officer, and to Dr. Maria Omastova who helped with the scientific program.

Dusan Berek
Guest Editor