

The subject of this editorial is a technically satisfying event. The event was one of those international materials gatherings in which metallurgical scientists and engineers from all over the world gathered to discuss topics of mutual interest. ASM has such a meeting in the United States every year called Materials Week. The subject of this editorial is a report on another such meeting, this one held in Pakistan.

**Report on the Third International Symposium  
on Advanced Materials  
Held in Islamabad, Pakistan,  
20-24 September 1993**

The Third International Symposium on Advanced Materials was held in the capital city of Pakistan, Islamabad, late in September 1993. Previous meetings on the same subject had been held in 1991 and 1989.

As was the case for the previous meetings, this symposium was organized by the Dr. A. Q. Khan Laboratories, Kahuta. The secretary of the organizing committee for this meeting was Dr. Anwar ul Haq.

This report summarizes the main points/features of the program. I will not attempt to summarize each of the 50 technical presentations or the 100 or so technical posters that were presented in the separate poster sessions. Suffice it to state at this point that they were all of world-class quality.

The Symposium Introduction was given by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Wasim Sajjid. That alone shows the high degree of importance that nation gives to the area of materials research and development. The President expressed several ideas originating from a deep sense of historical knowledge, pointing out that, in the past, utilization of materials often came before mankind had any understanding of those materials. In the future, he stated, progress will be different; progress will demand that utilization and understanding go hand in hand; that the materials scientist and materials engineer work hand-in-hand to develop materials for the betterment of mankind. He went on to describe legislative/governmental actions that have been and are being implemented to encourage the rapid industrialization of Pakistan.

It was truly amazing and pleasing to know that materials research and development held such a high and important position in the policy of a nation.

The Keynote address was by Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, for whom the large research laboratory near Islamabad was named. He received his Ph.D. from the Technical University, Delft, The Netherlands, under Professor Dr. M. J. Brabers and has been active in promoting the development of technology in Pakistan for many years. He spoke of the emerging phenomenon of global industrialization, emphasizing the fact that in the next century, industrialization will indeed be on an expanded global scale and with it will come the need for trained, educated, skilled personnel in all the different types of industrial operations.

The Welcome Address was given by Dr. Anwar ul Haq. Dr. Haq did his Ph.D. research at the Nuclear Research Center at Karlsruhe, Germany. He is a reviewer and frequent contributor to this journal. He welcomed the guests from 15 different countries who would be in the program that covered these topics:

- Advanced Materials—semiconductors, superconductors, shape-memory alloys, advanced ceramics, and composites
- Microstructures and Properties—the effects on creep, fracture, and fatigue
- Heat Treatment and Surface Modification
- Computational and Numerical Techniques—artificial intelligence and smart materials processing systems.

The technical level of the presentations was very high. The poster sessions were almost non-stop in some cases. The discussions continued for hours among the interested parties. It should be mentioned here that, in contrast to the prac-



tice at some shows, the poster presenters were at their respective posters at all times. As a result, many long and active discussions were held, which was a healthy situation.

The technical level was first class throughout the symposium. Also first class was the hospitality, for which the people in this area of the world are famous. They have several thousands of years of experience in practicing the art of greeting guests. This symposium was no exception. The visit to the historic Kyber Pass, through which Alexander the Great traveled over 2,000 years ago, was incredible.

Symposium Proceedings are being prepared in a hardcover volume. The proceedings of the previous two symposia are available from:

Dr. Anwar ul Haq, Chief Scientific Officer, Metallurgy  
Dr. A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories, Kahuta  
PO Box 502, Rawalpindi  
Pakistan

One last item needs to be mentioned, and I have saved it for last in the hope that anyone who has read thus far will understand the final message I wish to leave with you concerning the symposium. The message is simply this: the symposium had several presentations from professors in Pakistan who are doing world-class work under financially limiting conditions. Several absolutely ingenious laboratory techniques have been used to circumvent the absence of fancy equipment. However, to me, the lack of such equipment was not a shortcoming; the one thing that the researchers want the very most is contact with persons—with peers—in Europe and America, persons with whom they could communicate and exchange ideas, on a give-and-take basis on subjects of mutual interest in the area of materials science and engineering.

The Third International Symposium did much to open the channels of communication.

We hope this journal will keep the channels of communication open.



John R. Ogren