



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Power Sources

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jpowsour

Preface

The CONAPPICE congress series is dedicated to fostering fuel cell technology activities and related processes, like the hydrogen production, storage and use. Latest advances are shown by groups from universities, research centres, technology centres, companies and administration. CONAPPICE is organised every two years by the Spanish Fuel Cells Association (APPICE) as one of the main activities within its education and dissemination program. The third edition, CONAPPICE 2008, took place in the Spanish city of Zaragoza, from 24 to 26 September. Zaragoza was, during 2008, a reference for renewable energies, sustainable development and environment protection, and hosted an international exposition dedicated to these concepts. Fuel cells, with their demonstrated clean and secure behaviour, are one of the central concepts to bring the desired energy paradigm based on hydrogen conversion, so the presence of CONAPPICE 2008 in Zaragoza this year was more than justified.

This edition of the congress followed similar format as the previous one. Presentations were distributed in 13 oral and 4 poster sessions, and there was a demonstration area for companies to show developments and pilot projects. The congress was divided into five different topics: high and low temperature fuel cells, hydrogen production, applications and industry. Within the sessions, basic and applied research results were shown in an atmosphere where researchers, technicians, industry and other interested people had the opportunity to share their points of view. Three invited lectures were given this time by Carmen Rangel (INETI, Portugal), Luz García (ESIT-SEPI, México), and Juan Antonio Rubio (CIEMAT, Spain).

The first president of 'Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas' (CSIC), and prestigious researcher, José María Albareda,

wrote once that '*Scientific work and study may well be carried out with the same enthusiasm as other activities based on caprice, game or hobby. Many scientists are still able to work with passion, and many do not follow just payment for their work, but, exceeding daily obligations, to satisfy an activity that grows and flourish without an economic motive*'. The satisfaction of knowledge increases when it is shared, giving rise to collaborations based on discussion and the exchange of ideas. We hope that this congress has been an opportunity for discussion, and for establishing fruitful collaborations.

This issue of Journal of Power Sources shows some of the papers presented in CONAPPICE 2008. The organising committee thanks the participants for their renewed interest, as well as to the sponsors and collaborating organizations. As a conclusion, CONAPPICE 2008 has shown that fuel cell activities in Spain are well consolidated at a scientific level, with a community composed of a good number of groups and technology centres, and with important international collaborations, which should foster in next years the growing interest of the industry.

L. Daza*

A.M. Chaparro

Spanish Fuel Cells Association (APPICE), C/Marie Curie 2, Campus Cantoblanco, 20049 Madrid, Spain

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +34 915855477; fax: +34 915854760.

E-mail address: presidente@appice.es (L. Daza)

Available online 14 February 2009