

600 attend world conference

Approximately 600 persons from more than 50 nations traveled to Cannes, France, to participate in the World Conference on Emerging Technologies in the Fats and Oils Industries.

What they heard in 75 plenary lectures, approximately 20 poster presentations and nine informal discussion sessions foretold changes in raw materials, how those materials are processed and, in some cases, uses for end products. "The subjects discussed will influence the future of [our] companies

and the products they will make for the next 20 years," said R. Faugère, honorary president of the conference and head of the French Institute for Fat Research and the French National Federation of Fats and Oils Industries.

While the oil processing industry is considered a mature one, speakers described many potential changes. Although biotechnology was the last subject covered at the conference, it has implications for modifying nature's traditional oil-bearing materials to produce herbicide-resistant plants, or ones with customized fatty acid content, as well as vastly speeding development of desirable commercial plant varieties.

Processors continued to discuss ways to reduce energy consumption, including improved heat exchanger systems. One regular participant in AOCS world conferences said he noticed an increasing awareness of the importance of proper oil handling early in processing on the end products. Thus, reports on modifications in preparation techniques contained data on shelf-life of the finished oils. A report on hydrocarbon emission treatment noted that the best treatment is to reduce losses and provided specific suggestions as to how and where such losses can be



Attendees at the plenary sessions listened intently to talks translated simultaneously into French and English.

controlled. There also was more emphasis on the use of automation and computers to provide better process control and better data on plant operations. A summary of the plenary lectures is published in this issue of *JAOCs*; the hard-bound conference proceedings, including plenary lectures and most poster presentations, will be published soon by the AOCS; cost will be \$75 for AOCS members, \$95 for non-members. All technical registrants at the conference will receive a copy at no additional cost.

Poster sessions on Tuesday and Thursday attracted good audiences. Most poster authors found themselves discussing their papers with registrants steadily from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Topics ranged from basic work to applied technologies.

The accompanying exposition provided an opportunity for suppliers of equipment and services to the industry to display the latest technology and services available. A distinctive feature of this year's exposition was a display of oil paintings and watercolors by conference program cochairman Jean-Paul Helme, a part-time artist who has had several individual exhibits. Helme's artwork was a cultural oasis in the exhibit area which provided a focal point of conversa-

tion during the opening reception.

Social activities, besides the opening reception, included a municipally sponsored reception, with Cannes Mayor A. M. Dupuy extending greetings. There was an afternoon bus trip to Monaco and the Monte Carlo casino. One of the main shopping streets in Monaco is named for the ancient olive oil mill that used to be there; from the francs left behind at the casino by conference registrants, it is obvious that Monaco is still profiting off the fats and oils industry.

For Aldo Uzzan, who served as local arrangements chairman for the conference, the meeting had special meaning. First, he was pleased that through his cooperation France was able to serve as host for the world conference. Second, during the opening ceremonies he received the Chevreul Medal, the highest award of the Association Française pour l'Étude des Corps Gras. Two Chevreul Medals are presented annually, one to a French researcher and the second to a non-French resident. Timothy L. Mounts, program cochairman for the conference, received the other medal. And, for Uzzan, the conference was the occasion at which he announced his retirement as director general of ITERG. He will continue as editor of the internationally known *Revue Française de Corps Gras* and as general secretary for the Groupe d'Étude des Protéines Végétales.

Registrants' evaluations of the conference had yet to be tabulated at deadline time. Some registrants who have attended previous edible oil world conferences commented that certain processing papers were too general, but that the biotechnology papers at the end of the conference were too detailed. Informal discussion sessions held each afternoon were generally well

Meetings

attended, with 60 to 200 participants each. Questions typically sought more details from speakers, but there also were comments offering alternative viewpoints, or disputing points that a listener interpreted as too self-serving.

The opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world and for face-to-face discussions of common problems and potential solutions was cited by many registrants as one of the major benefits of attending the meeting. Conference organizers provided adequate time for coffee breaks, lunches and free evenings to encourage such contacts.

The weather cooperated as well. Whereas the previous week in Cannes had been rainy, the week of the conference provided generally clear weather—light showers one evening—and relatively warm temperatures.

AOCS members in Europe had arranged a postconference session on oilseed preparation, hosted by Buhler Brothers in Switzerland. Nearly 50 persons participated in that event, originally planned for a maximum of 40 persons.

The next AOCS world conference involving edible oil applications will be the World Conference on Biotechnology to be held Sept. 27-Oct. 2, 1987, in Hamburg, West Germany. The German Society for Fat Research (DGF) is cooperating in organizing that meeting.



Conyers Baker (left) of Electrolyser Corp. Ltd., Canada, talked with other participants in the informal eating area of the exhibit hall.



A gallery of paintings by Jean-Paul Helme served as a colorful meeting spot in the exhibit hall.



Cal Zehnder (at right) helped answer questions at the Alfa-Laval booth during the opening reception in the exhibit hall.

Erich Jonkanski and Hermann Stage compared notes at the ATT-Verfahrenstechnik GmbH exhibit booth.

Janis Swan of the Meat Industry Research Institute of New Zealand explained her research findings during the poster sessions.

