

Editorial

International Symposium on Inorganic and Environmental Materials (ISIEM 2004)



The first ideas on organizing a combined Japanese–Dutch symposium on Inorganic Materials were born in 2003. It was a follow-up of a long running cooperation between the Sophia University, Tokyo (Kiyoshi Itatani) and the Eindhoven University of Technology (Bert Hintzen).

This symposium was intended to provide an opportunity for a discussion and a mutual understanding between people from Japan, The Netherlands and other European countries on recent developments and areas of growth in Advanced Inorganic Materials Science and Technology including environmental and energy related materials.

Topics in this symposium were on processing and properties in the interdisciplinary field of Inorganic Materials Science, which goes beyond specific scientific backgrounds and departments. Properties discussed were on environmental aspects, such as recycling, non-toxicity and sustainability, including energy conversion, storage and saving. Also subjects like biomaterials for hard-tissue replacement were treated.

This International Symposium on Inorganic and Environmental Materials 2004 (ISIEM 2004) had a secretariat in The Netherlands as well as in Japan. The intention of this construction was to show to participants that this symposium was really an initiative from both countries. The Dutch Ceramic Society was advertising ISIEM2004 in Europe, while the Society of Inorganic Materials, Japan did the same in Japan. The result of these efforts was that a total number of 245 contributions were submitted equally divided between “East” (mainly Japan) and “West” (The Netherlands and several other European countries).

From 18 till 21 October 2004 the Dorint Cocagne Hotel in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) was the venue of the ISIEM 2004 conference where we could welcome 235 participants. Beside the scientific programme and a conference dinner in Evoluon (the technology symbol of the city of Eindhoven) a half-day excursion was scheduled in Eindhoven, where the participants

could choose between Philips Research on Philips High-Tech Campus, a combined visit to TNO Institute of Applied Scientific Research and Eindhoven University of Technology or to the Philips Incandescent Lamp Factory of 1891 combined with the exhibition on Artificial Light in Art.

From the large variety of contributions we draw up an interesting scientific programme of 3 plenary lectures and 24 invited lectures, while all other contributions were scheduled as 89 regular oral contributions and 130 posters.

The three plenary lectures were:

- Seishi Goto, *Yamaguchi University, Japan* “Effects on components on the rate of heat liberation of the hydration in the system glass/gypsum/lime”
- Peter Notten, *Philips Research and Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands* “The versatility of hydride-forming materials”
- Andreas M. Glaeser, *University of California, Berkeley, USA* “Transient liquid phase and liquid-film-assisted joining of ceramics”

Further details on the programme as well as the book of abstracts of all 245 contributions can still be found on the ISIEM-2004 website: <http://www.ims.tnw.utwente.nl/isiem2004/>.

Several participants have submitted a paper for the proceedings to be published in this special edition of the Journal of the European Ceramic Society. After peer reviewing we could select 80 high-quality papers covering all topics of this symposium. We would like to thank all the referees for doing good work by critical judging the submitted papers.

It was the effort of several people that makes this symposium a success. First of all we like to thank our colleagues of the organizing committee: Eiichiro Sudo, (President of SIMJ; Society of Inorganic Materials, Japan), Zeger Vroon (TNO, Eindhoven),

André de Vries (Dutch Ceramic Society), Yusuke Moriyoshi (Hosei University, Tokyo), Toshinori Okura (Kogakuin University), Seiichi Suda (Japan Fine Ceramics Center), Michio Nishi (Yoshino Gypsum Co.Ltd.), Masanori Matsukawa (Okutama Kogyo Co. Ltd.), Osamu Yamaguchi (Taiheiyo Cement Corp.), Tamotsu Yasue (Nihon University), Shiro Ishii (Taiheiyo Materials Corp.).

We acknowledge our webmaster José Rietmann (University of Twente), and the enthusiastic contributions of the co-workers from the conference office SPRINT: Mirjam van Praag, Ingrid Geerbex, Annelies van den Aker and Karin van Bakel and from the office of the Society of Inorganic Materials, Japan: Yoshiko Tajiri.

Finally we like to mention our sponsors: Philips, the city of Eindhoven, Technex bv, Corus Ceramics Research Centre, Foundation of Cooperative Ceramic Organizations in The Netherlands (SKO) and the Dutch Society for Materials Science (BvM).

A long historical relation exists between Japan and The Netherlands, which is unique—for more than two centuries The Netherlands was the only western country with which Japan had contact. With this unique symposium a new era of cooperation has commenced between East and West.

Louis Winnubst (*President of the Dutch Ceramic Society*)*
*University of Twente, Inorganic Materials Science,
Enschede, The Netherlands*

Kiyoshi Itatani
Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

Bert Hintzen
*Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven,
The Netherlands*

Ruud Metselaar
*Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven,
The Netherlands*

Hiroyuki Sango
Nihon University, Chiba, Japan

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: a.j.a.winnubst@utwente.nl
(L. Winnubst)

Available online 26 September 2005