

Preface

The International Conference "Giornate Mediterranee di Calorimetria ed Analisi Termica" (G.Med.CAT'95) was held in the impressive spot of Chia Laguna, Cagliari (Italy) from 12 to 16 September, 1995.

The G.Med.CAT Conference was organized as a joint meeting of AICAT, Associazione Italiana di Calorimetria ed Analisi Termica GECAT, Grupo Especializado de Calorimetria y Analisis Termico and GICAT, Gruppo Interdivisionale di Calorimetria ed Analisi Termica della Societa' Chimica Italiana. A local Organizing Committee was set up to coordinate the organizing work.

It has been a great privilege for me to have been the President of this Committee, and to have an opportunity to work together with a large number of dedicated people, who individually and collectively made possible, with their unseen work behind the scenes, to proceed through the different phases of the event: from the original mailing of circulars and call for papers, through the intricacies of the bureaucratic and economical difficulties, to the post congress job of editing the end product, the proceedings.

I wish to thank the members of the Organizing Committee for their contribution before, during and after the Conference and for the enthusiasm and efficiency demonstrated.

I also want to express the gratitude of the Organizing Committee to the University of Cagliari, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Regione Autonoma della Sardegna, Banco di Sardegna, Societa' Finanziaria Industriale Rinascita Sardegna and Comett Mediterraneo'90 for their generous support which contributed greatly to the success of this Conference.

Over 160 scientists registered from 15 countries, mainly of the Mediterranean basin, in accordance with the denomination of the Conference. A large number of young researchers attended the Conference, with financial support from AICAT and the Organizing Committee.

The abstracts of 160 presentations, including 20 plenary and invited lectures, 50 oral communications and 90 poster presentations were collected in the Conference Abstract Book.

The scope of the presentations ranged from the experimental to the theoretical aspects of calorimetry and thermal analysis, with emphasis on several rapidly expanding areas: advanced materials, new polymeric materials, molecular fluids, mixtures, aqueous solutions, interfaces, polydispersed systems, colloids, environment, energy, industry, biothermodynamics, health, new techniques, data bases, data bank.

Workshops were also organized on cultural Heritage Conservation, on Food and Agriculture and on Calorimetry and Industrial Plant Safety. Held in the framework of the G.Med.CAT, the annual Meditherm meeting was devoted to the thermodynamics of non-electrolyte solutions. An exhibition of commercially available instrumentation completed the event; with the participation of Fisons X, Perkin-Elmer, Mettler-Toledo, TA-Instrument and ATS FAAR.

But the G.Med.CAT Conference represented more than formal presentation of research results: encouraged by a friendly atmosphere, experts of thermal analysis, thermodynamics and calorimetry had an opportunity to exchange experience and ideas and discuss common problems.

This special issue is a collection of selected papers presented at Chia Laguna and concerns the sections 1 (Materials), 4 (Environment and Industry), 5 (Biothermodynamics), 6 (Methodologies) and the Workshops

I would like to thank all the authors for providing their manuscripts. My thanks are also due to Prof. J. Simon as Editor whose assistance was essential in ensuring that papers attain the required quality and scientific standard for publication.



Professor Bruno Marongiu
Conference Chairman
The Guest Editor

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