

Preface

This issue of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry collects peer-reviewed papers which were presented at 'The 8th Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis - MEDICTA 2007' held in Palermo (Italy) in 25–29 September, 2007. This Conference was jointly organized with the Associations of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis operating in Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal and Spain. It was a very honourable task to organize MEDICTA 2007 in Palermo city which possesses all of the features to guest this prestigious Conference. Palermo has a University constituted in 1805. Palermo is a collection of art being an ancient city. It was founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century B.C., was dominated by Rome, Goths, Byzantine, Arabs and Normans. It became the 'Arab-Norman capital' of a powerful and rich reign where different cultures cohabited. Arabs enormously contributed to the architecture and to the urban layout of the city and the Normans made Palermo the capital city of the Kingdom of Sicily. Palermo offers a very comfortable weather and an excellent Mediterranean cuisine.

The Opening Ceremony was held at 'Palazzo Chiaramonte-Steri', built in 1307, actual residence of Rector of the University of Palermo. A warm welcome was provided by prof. S. Milioto, chair of the Conference, prof. G. Silvestri, Rector of University of Palermo, prof. F. M. Raimondo, dean of the Faculty of Science, prof. A. Bono, President of ERSU-Palermo, and by all the Presidents of the Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis Associations of the organizing countries. During this session, prof. J. E. Desnoyers (Canada) received the SETARAM-AICAT Award for the outstanding contribution to the Thermodynamics and Calorimetry of solutions, liquid mixtures and colloidal systems. He gave a lecture entitled 'Thermodynamics, a tool for research in the 21st century' in which he explained that thermodynamics is a mature science and generally is not considered a strategic research subject as such but it is still an essential accessory tool in many strategic themes such as life sciences, health, material sciences, environment, industrial processes and energy. An important issue for the new generation.

All of the work-sessions were held in the new building named 'Complesso Didattico' sighted in the University campus. Approximately 200 active scientists attended the Conference and the presence of people coming from 23 countries of the world conferred to this Mediterranean conference a character of world conference. Scientists introduced their research results and exchanged ideas and opinions on arguments of academic and/or industrial interests on the thermal properties of materials and the several thermal analysis and calorimetry techniques applied to emerging issues. Accordingly, several topics were treated (Life Science and Macromolecules, Organic and Inorganic Materials, Experimental and Computational Thermochemistry and Reaction Calorimetry). A workshop on 'Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry in Geoscience and Mineralogy' as well as a Round Table on 'Thermal Analysis Contribution to Cultural Heritage Assessment' was organized. In this meeting plenty of papers were presented (6 plenary lectures, 28 oral communications and 136 poster presentations).

We really pleased to promote the participation of several young scientists and, for this, a special thank-you is extended to the ERSU 'Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario' – University of Palermo – and to the Italian Association of Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis.

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Thanks for coming at the MEDICTA 2007.

Prof. Stefania Milioto
Chair of the Conference

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