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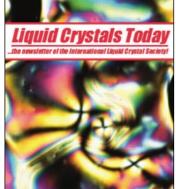
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Meeting report - the 22nd International Liquid Crystal Conference

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Meeting report – the 22nd International Liquid Crystal Conference

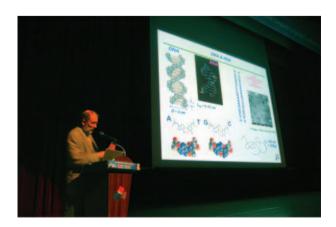
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From 29 June to the 4 July 2008, the 22nd International Liquid Crystal Conference was held on Jeju Island, a volcanic island located in the southeast of the Korean peninsula. It was organised by the Liquid Crystal Division of the Korean Information Display Society (KIDS) and the International Liquid Crystal Society. This year's conference was aimed at a theme of 'Molecular Engines of Creation' to open a new arena for liquid crystals and related fields including nano- and biosciences. The conference venue, the International Convention Center Jeju, was located in a resort area along the seacoast of the Pacific Ocean.

This year, about 870 participants from 43 countries gathered to share their experiences and accomplishments with fellow colleagues and experts. The program consisted of two keynote speeches, five plenary lectures, five contemporary topic lectures, 43 invited lectures, four Glenn H. Brown prize presentations, 105 oral presentations, and 845 poster presentations over five days; Korea (226), Japan (205), USA (111), India (71), Taiwan (63), UK (41), Russia (34), Germany (29), Poland (29), and France (28). Among 16 sections, 'Photonics and display applications' (18%), 'Molecular Design, Synthesis, and New Materials' (14%), 'Liquid Crystal Phases' (11%), and 'Surfaces and Confined Systems' (8%) received half of the total contributions.

The scientific program was started with two keynote addresses. Prof. Noel Clark (University of Colorado, USA) gave a stimulating result on liquid crystals and the origin of life. The special recognition given to Dr. Michi Nakata, who died unexpectedly



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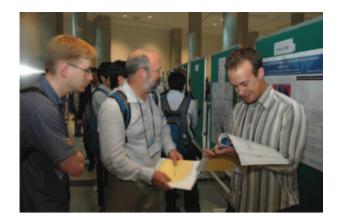
after the last International Liquid Crystal Conference (ILCC), was mentioned during his speech. Dr. Jun Souk (Samsung Electronics Co., Korea) began his keynote speech by reminding the audience that Korea is leading the liquid crystal device (LCD) industry, presenting a historical overview of LCDs along with the technological advancement achieved, and forecasting the future of LCDs in the competing future display world.

On the second day, Prof. John Goodby (University of York, UK) and Prof. David Weitz (Harvard University, USA) presented plenary talks about supermolecular and supramolecular liquid crystals, and liquid crystal shells, amusing the audience with the fascinating beauty of liquid crystals. Two more plenary talks were presented, the first by Dr. Hiroshi Yokoyama Nanotechnology Research Institute, Tsukuba, Japan on molecular architecture and the nano-craft of liquid crystal surface alignment, and the second by Prof. Steve Granick (University of Illinois, USA) on phospholipids, nanoparticles, and self-assembly. On Friday, Prof. Hoi Kwok (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) reported the development of photoalignment technologies.

In addition to the plenary talks, five contemporary topic lectures were presented on Wednesday and Friday by Dick Broer (Philips, The Netherlands), J. Prost (ESPCI, France), I.-J. Chung (LG Display, Korea), S.-T. Wu (University of Central Florida, USA), and A. Manabe (Merck KGaA, Germany). The lecture topics ranged from tissue dynamics and materials to display technologies and nanostructures. Seven poster sessions in four days also attracted the attention of the liquid crystal researchers and students depicting some new results on various aspects of liquid crystalline materials and their properties.

During the conference, four young researchers (Loren Hough, Yi-Hsin Lin, Akihisa Yamaguchi and Giuliano Zanchetta) were awarded the Glenn H. Brown prize for their work in the liquid crystal field.

After a series of successful conferences held in the USA, Slovenia and the UK, it was not easy for us to prepare a better conference. The traditional Wednesday excursions were slightly disturbed by the seasonal rain. As a matter of fact, July is in the rainy season in Korea, so we did an extensive simulation



based on a collected weather database covering past decades to minimise the possibility of rain, but it did not work out well for the last two days.

In conclusion, we believe that the 22nd ILCC has added many new ingredients to the liquid crystal field with great success. All the members of KIDS are



grateful to all the participants from all over the world and generous financial support from Jeju Province, Merck, Chisso, Nissan Chemical, Dongwoo Fine-Chem, LG Chem, and LMS.

We look forward to the next ILCC in Krakow, Poland in 2010.