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Impressions of China. ...

W. Doane^a

^a Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent, Ohio, USA

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Impressions of China

from Prof W Doane, Director, Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent, Ohio 44242, USA

In connection with the IUPAC meeting on Liquid Polymers at Beijing, Dengke Yang and I were invited to visit Tsinghua University (THU); our host was Professor Xu Shouyi of the Beijing Engineering Research Centre of Liquid Crystal Technology. We were impressed by their STN flat-panel display pilot manufacturing line, the first I know of in any university. Display sizes ranged from segmented displays for wristwatches to high resolution half-page size for computer screens. The THU programme has a joint venture with a company in He Bei province to produce liquid crystal display materials (1993 production was 0.5 ton).

These programmes speak for the progressiveness and foresight of THU; the facilities are a major resource in China for creating a flat-panel display industry. The western world could benefit from this fine example of university/industry cooperation. After the meeting L-C Chien visited several institutions in Beijing, Wuchang and Shanghai and was very impressed by the activity in liquid crystal polymers and polymer physics.

. . . . and Impressions of Beijing

from Elaine Landry

We arrived in Beijing at noon and went from the airport to the Great Wall at Badaling. It was hot in Budapest in July as delegates to the ILCC will remember; it was hotter at the Great Wall in September! The Wall is vast and one 'climbs' it because of the height of the steps.

All the people that we met were delightful and made our visit memorable. The overwhelming impression from our visit to THU and the monuments in Beijing (Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square) was of the size of Beijing. The city is growing rapidly, and the millions of bicycles share the streets with horsedrawn carts and motor vehicles. Professor Xu remarked that now is an exciting time to live in China and we had to agree.

Liquid Crystals arrive in Malaysia

Report on a Workshop held in Kuala Lumpur 13/14 September 1994 from workshop organiser Dr Rauzah Hashim



Dato' Professor Ahmad Nawawi (left) with Professor C C Ho, Professor G R Luckhurst and Associate Professor Othman Mohd. Nor at the Workshop

In recent years, there have been a significant number of research groups working in the field of liquid crystals and related areas in Malaysia. This prompted the Chemistry Department of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur and the Royal Society of Chemistry (Malaysia Section) to organise a two-day Workshop (13/14 September 1994) on "Liquid Crystals and their Applications", the first of its kind in the region.

It was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dato' Professor Ahmad Nawawi, who expressed the University's support for this important and challenging area of Materials Science. A botanist by discipline, Professor Nawawi noted in his speech that it was another botanist, Reinitzer, who was amongst the first to identify this fascinating state of matter. He also stressed the importance of good communications and collaboration amongst scientists in various disciplines, as demonstrated by the history of the discovery of liquid crystals.

The Workshop consisted of a series of advanced lectures aimed to introduce the subject to local scientists and technologists in order to increase activities in this area. Professor G R Luckhurst, the President of ILCS, was specially invited to conduct the Workshop where he talked on the applications of liquid crystals, to-

gether with the essential chemistry and physics on which these are based. On the opening morning, Professor Luckhurst gave a Special Lecture called "Liquid Crystals, Fact and Fiction". Apart from Dr S K Khoo who introduced thermotropic mesophases, Professor C C Ho described lyotropic systems and Dr R Hashim discussed the microscopic descriptions of liquid crystals.

A small group of scientists, with diverse interests in liquid crystals (including thermotropic, lyotropic and polymer) plan to form a Malaysian Liquid Crystal Group and is in the process of applying for an affiliation to the International Society. The Group also wishes to welcome any liquid crystal scientists from the international community to meet and discuss their work when they are in this region.

EDITOR'S CORRECTION

The meeting report of the 15th ILCC (Liquid Crystals Today Vol 4 No 2) omitted the name of Professor Chandrasekhar who contributed to the preconference tutorial. The report, attributed to Dr Agnes Buka, included editorial comments on the excellence of the facilities and social programme which were not in the original report.