



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

ISSN: 1542-1406 (Print) 1563-5287 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl20>

Foreword

To cite this article: (2016) Foreword, *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*, 627:1, 1-3, DOI: [10.1080/15421406.2015.1135367](https://doi.org/10.1080/15421406.2015.1135367)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15421406.2015.1135367>



Published online: 13 May 2016.



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Foreword

This special issue of *Molecular Crystals Liquid Crystals* journal contains selected papers presented at the XIIIth International Conference on “Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials (13th ICFPAM): *Emerging and Transferring New Technologies*” organized under The High Patronage of His Majesty The King Mohamed VI by the Moroccan Association of Physics of Advanced Materials and Their Applications and held in Marrakech, Morocco, 29 March – 2 April 2015. Marrakech is the most important Morocco’s four former imperial cities and it is among the top ten world tourist attractions according to a recent survey. It was a wonderful place for this important event.

The conference was a sequel of the preceding, very successful series of international meetings organized in different locations around the world, such as: Auckland (New Zealand, 2013), Pretoria (South Africa, 2011), Santiago de Chile (Chile, 2009), Krakow (Poland, 2007), Cancun (Mexico, 2005), Bucharest (Romania, 2003), Pernambuco (Brazil, 2001), Poznan (Poland, 1999), Cairo (Egypt, 1997), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia, 1995), Jakarta (Indonesia, 1993) and in New Delhi (India, 1991).

The main conference objectives are:

- To highlight advances and new findings in polymers and advanced materials and their impact on new technologies;
- To facilitate technology transfer and new business opportunities by bringing together representatives from academia, research centers, industries and business;
- To foster international collaborations and joint ventures;
- To facilitate the growth of private sector business;
- To promote the growth of scientific and technical infrastructure in the field of polymers and advanced materials technologies.

According to the well-established tradition, the Conference provided a great forum for discussion on the most relevant topics in polymer science, advanced materials and new technologies, and presented a truly multidisciplinary scientific programme, bringing together leading international scientists, engineers, top-level industrial management and business executives. It included plenary and keynote talks, tutorials, invited lectures and contributed talks. Two poster sessions well also organized. All major topics of current and prospective interest in polymer science, advanced materials and technologies and their practical applications, broadly covering the following main themes. They were addressed in 7, parallelly running, Symposia:

1. General and tutorial lectures on New Materials and Advanced Technologies
2. New Generation Nanostructured Materials, Hybrid Materials, Magnetic Materials, Glass and Ceramic, Energy harvesting, Dental Materials, Exotic Materials
3. Natural Fibres, Composites, Environmentally Friendly Materials and Applied Research on Textiles
4. Polymeric Materials and Composites for Plastic Electronics and Solar and Thermo-electric Energy Conversion

5. New Nanostructured and Hybrids Materials for Energy Storage
6. Advanced Materials and Composites for Photonics, Nano- and Biophotonics
7. Biomaterials and Biotechnology

First Session of the Conference was dedicated to Prof. Andrzej Graja from Institute of Molecular Physics, Poznan, Poland, who passed away a few months ago. His colleagues and friends very friendly presented him to the audience underlying the high quality as well as the scientific level and the importance of his research and ideas he introduced. Professor Graja was an outstanding international scientist, author of a large number of research papers and books. He was a respected, appreciated Gentleman and a great friend to a large number of conference participants.

The conference benefited from a wide international attendance, gathering over 500 participants coming from about 40 countries, representing almost all continents.

We were fortunate to welcome some of the most outstanding scientists in the fields of macromolecular sciences, materials sciences and technology, including the plenary speakers: Distinguished Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 1987, Professor Paras N. Prasad - SUNY Distinguished Professor at University at Buffalo, Distinguished Professor Mostapha Bousmina, Chancellor of the Hassan II Academy of sciences and technology and also, President of Euromed University which is located in Fez (Morocco) and Prof. Rachid, Yazami, Draper Prize winner in 2014 awarded by the Academy of Sciences in New, York, distinguished scientists as keynote and over 120 invited speakers. The range of articles in this special issue of the Journal provides a taste of the interdisciplinarity of science presented at the conference.

We wish to thank various institutions, and corporations which provided support for the conference, namely: Taqa Morocco, OCP, Le ministère de l'Habitat et de la Politique de la Ville, La Foundation Action Mutualiste MAMDA-MCMA, La SAMIR, MANAGEM, Hassan II academy of sciences and Technology, Gasup, Esith, Serdilab, Sogelab, MasterTec, Metasco. We are also grateful to Hannam University, Taejon, Korea as well as to the Moroccan universities of El Jadida, Casablanca, Marrakech, Rabat, to University of Angers, to the RIF LUMO-MAT and to Moltech Anjou UMR CNRS, France.

We would like to thank warmly the conference Honorary Chair Prof. Paras N. Prasad from University of Buffalo, USA, who started this series of conferences and organized very successful earlier meetings, for his continuous interest, support and help in its organization. Thanks are also due to the conference co-chairs: Prof. R. Kozlowski, Institute for Engineering of Polymer Materials and Dyes, Toruń and FAO/Scorena, Poland, Prof. K.-S. Lee, Hannam University, Taejon, Korea, International Coordinator Dr. J. Grote from US Air Force Wright Patterson Labs, USA. International Secretary Dr F. Charra from CEA Saclay, France. Thanks are also due to the members of the International Program Committee, chaired by Dr. G. Bidan from CEA Grenoble, and the International Advisory Committee, chaired by Prof. A. Meghea from University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, for the helpful suggestions in the selection of plenary, keynote and invited speakers, as well as oral and poster contributions. The success of this conference is in large measure due to their inputs.

Special thanks are due to the Local Organizing Committee for its great work and commitment for the conference organization, offering not only an outstanding scientific program but also excellent conference facilities for both presentations and associated discussions. As it became also a tradition of this conference the social programme at the conference was equally entertaining from the Welcome Reception, Conference dinner at the beautiful Palace and the conference excursion to Essaouira, pitoresque, medieval city, funded by Portuguese on the

Atlantic Coast. It also contributed significantly to the success of the conference and gave the participants a unique opportunity to taste and appreciate this beautiful and fantastic country.

Francois Kajzar and Ileana Rau, on their own and other participants behalf, would like to express their special thanks and gratitude to Prof. Bouchta Sahraoui and Prof. Yahia Boughaleb for setting up this exceptional conference in Morocco and their vivid commitment to its organisation as well as a relevant selection of plenary, keynote and invited speakers; all of which have contributed significantly to the event's international success.

The next conference will be held in Daejeon, South Korea, October 2016. This will be the third time that the conference is organized in Asia.

Guest Editors:

Prof. Yahia Boughaleb, University Chouaib Doukkali, El Jadida, Morocco

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El Jadida, Angers, Bucharest, Lyon October 2015.