

TRIESTE, ITALY
MAY 23–26, 2010

The 11th Conference of the Italian Society of Rheology was held during May 23–26, 2010 in Trieste. Trieste is a city sprawled between the rugged Carso and the Adriatic sea which laps right up to the historic centre, and plays as a mirror for its elegant buildings. Trieste is a multicultural city, a melting pot of different cultures, religions and artistic expressions and has been an inspiration for several great writers. Trieste is known as City of Science owing to high density of world-known research institutions, academic institutions, international organisations, technological transfer centre and high-level research infrastructures.

The conference returned to Trieste after the Joint Meeting which was held twelve years ago and gathered rheologists from the three neighbouring countries Italy, Slovenia and Austria. Following the tradition, the meeting offered the occasion not only for assessing the state of the art of the research at the national level but also to open the door to young researchers, whose presence was particularly large in this meeting, so satisfying one of the main objectives pursued by the Italian Society of Rheology. The conference was hosted in the elegant frame and suggestive atmosphere of the Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel, placed in the heart of the city and in front of the sea, overlooking the Gulf of Trieste. The excellent quality of the lecture halls and lunches will be remembered by the delegates as the high quality of the rest of the conference, as it can be evinced by the answers given to a questionnaire.

The conference attracted 78 delegates, a record in the series of the national conferences. The program offered 26 oral presentations and 22 poster contributions, not to mention a plenary

lecture and three keynote lectures. Being the biennial SIR conference a forum for rheologists working in different fields, the conference program was subdivided in 7 sessions dealing with polymers, experimental techniques (rheometrical and not), food, biomedical systems and cosmetics, dispersions, nanocomposites, industrial suspensions. The conference was opened by the first plenary lecture given by Dino Ferri (Polimeri Europa – Mantova) on the complex topic of spurt of thermoplastic elastomers. The lecture offered an illustration of the phenomenological aspects through a series of examples referred to the most common thermoplastic elastomers and an excellent overview of still debated problems concerning the mechanisms underlying the spurt phenomenon.

The keynote lecture given by Bruno de Cindio (Università della Calabria) was dedicated to new frontiers in food rheology, in particular to an engineering approach suitable for assessing fundamental measurements and rheological process modeling. A specific industrial case of an aerated system was presented as an application of this approach. In his keynote lecture Pier Luca Maffettone (University of Naples) discussed the peculiar viscoelastic effects observed for hard sphere suspensions under confined shear flow conditions within narrow devices whose characteristic dimensions are comparable to that of the suspended particles, as in the case of several microfluidic applications. The third keynote lecture was given by Romano Lapasin (University of Trieste) and concerned dispersions of clay particles, which can be considered a paradigmatic example of the important contribution of fine particles to suspension rheology. Crossing different contexts (from environment to industrial





sectors) he illustrated how much different can be the clay particles contribution owing to the different structural features of the disperse phase and different flow-induced mechanisms.

In addition to oral and poster presentations a special session was devoted to Panta Rei Prizes awarded for best master theses in rheology discussed in 2009. The winners were: Antonella Aquino (from University of Calabria), Marco Banzola (from University of Bologna), Paola Labate and Angelo Pommella (both from University of Naples – Federico II). A special premium was offered to Romano Lapasin, in recognition of the contribution given in the past twenty years to the growth of the Italian rheological community in terms of both scientific knowledge and social communications. The social program included a cocktail party held on Sunday May 23 in the hall of the Savoia Excelsior Palace Hotel, where the chef tempted the delegates with the best of local products. On Tuesday May 25 the

delegates visited the charming Miramare Castle and Park, the most famous place along the Trieste coast, an indissoluble part of the city's landscape and history. The visit was followed by a conference banquet at Zolla, not far from the Middle Age fortress crowning the hill of Monrupino.

An electoral assembly was held during the conference for the election of the new officers of the Italian Society of Rheology. Bruno de Cindio was confirmed as president for the next two years. More information on the new board of the SIR and on social activities can be obtained from internet site: <http://www.sir-reologia.com>.

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