

EUROPACAT VIII 2007

EUROPACAT VIII, was held at Turku Fair and Congress Center in Åbo/Turku, Finland on 26-31 August 2007. Around 1500 participants from 56 countries were registered.

Catalysis is one of the key technologies of today, combining chemistry, physics and chemical engineering. The catalytic effect was first defined by the world-famous Swedish chemist Jöns Jacob Berzelius in 1835. Catalysis has deep roots in Northern Europe. Jöns Jacob Berzelius wrote his "Annual Report" in 1835 about a number of reactions taking place in the presence of some substance which remains unaffected. The concept of catalysis was born.

EUROPACAT is organized every second year. The first EUROPACAT congress took place in 1993 in Montpellier, France. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden took the initiative and suggested that EUROPACAT VIII (2007) could take place in the Nordic region, more precisely in Åbo/Turku, Finland. The European Federation of Catalysis Societies, EFCATS, accepted the Nordic proposal with the title 'Catalysis – From Theory to Industrial Practice'.

The scientific advisory board consisted of the EFCATS council and the President of EFCATS, Prof. Roel Prins. The scientific committee members were Prof. Henrik Topsøe (President, Denmark), Prof. Ib Chorkendorf (Denmark), Prof. Outi Krause (Vice President, Finland), Prof. Dmitry Murzin (Finland), Prof. Anders Holmen (Norway), Prof. Unni Olsbye (Norway), Prof. Magali Boutonnet

(Sweden) and Prof. Ingemar Odenbrand (Sweden).

EUROPACAT attracted a huge global interest. We were happy to receive about 1500 proposals for presentations. The conference participants represented universities, research centres and industry. All of the submitted abstracts were evaluated and oral or poster presentations were selected. *Continues..*



Dmitry Yu. Murzin, Roel Prins, Robert H. Grubbs, Tapio Salmi and Henrik Topsøe.

...Continued. We approached prominent scientists to give plenary and keynote lectures. In autumn 2005, the Nobel committee announced that the Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded to the discoverers of the metathesis reaction, for which catalysis plays a decisive role. Yves Chauvin (France), Richard R. Schrock (USA) and Robert H. Grubbs (USA) obtained the prize. Prof. Grubbs came

to Finland and gave a special plenary lecture, namely a Berzelius award lecture at the conference.

Plenary lectures were given by Prof. J.A. Dumesic (University of Wisconsin- Madison), Prof. I. Ivanova (Moscow State University), Dr. H. Kuipers (Shell Global Solutions), Prof. J.K. Nørskov (Technical University of Denmark), Prof. F. Schüth (Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung)

and Prof. A.T. Bell (University of California). The plenary lecture of Prof. A.T. Bell was a Michel Boudart Award Lecture.

About 40 keynote lectures, 200 oral presentations and over 1200 posters were included in the scientific programme. The selection of plenary and keynote speakers reflected the broad scope of catalysis – from theory to industrial practice.

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception

The congress opening took place on Sunday, August 26. Welcome speeches were given by the President of EFCATS Prof. Roel Prins, the president of the scientific committee of EUROPACAT VIII Prof. Henrik Topsøe, the mayor of Åbo Mr. Mikko Pukkinen, and the minister of

culture and sports Mr. Stefan Wallin. Thereafter Prof. Anders Holmen presented the plenary speaker, Dr. H. Kuipers, from Shell Global Solutions. At the welcome reception, with buffet provided by the City of Åbo/Turku, we enjoyed the live music by Sointu-Seitsikko.

Excursion to the Archipelago



Lunch



Poster Session



Church Concert



Social Programme

On August 28, the congress day culminated in a church concert where the unique musical ensembles of Åbo Akademi University, the symphony orchestra and the choirs, performed Ave verum corpus and Te Deum KV 141 by W.A. Mozart. Choral and orchestral music from the Nordic countries were also heard at the concert, together with Russian sacred music performed by the Choir of the Orthodox Church of Åbo. On August 29, an excursion to the archipelago was arranged using 13 boats with totally 1200 passengers. Small, bare, uninhabited, and

unbelievably beautiful; the island of Loistokari was the goal of the excursion.

The conference dinner took place on August 30. The speciality of the Åbo Castle is the Renaissance Banquet hosted by Duke John of Finland and his lovely wife Catherine Jagellonica of Poland. The banquet took place in the year 1562, and the menu and the manners followed the glorious ways of the Renaissance court. At the same time the young scientist party was going on. Ms Annina Alanen, a famous Finnish singer and a prominent chemical engineer was one of the artists, performing live.

Closing Ceremony

At the closing ceremony on August 31, the scientific programme was summarized by Prof. Dmitry Murzin. The Francois Gault Lecturer 2008-2010 was announced; the honor was given to Prof. Robbie Burch, Belfast. EFCATS award for best doctor thesis in catalysis was given to Dr. Kalle Arve at the Process Chemistry Centre, Åbo Akademi

University. Moreover, the Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics Poster Awards were distributed to three researchers. The winners were Felix Studt (Denmark), Cecilia Modelli (Switzerland) and Ion Angelica (Belgium).

EUROPACAT IX will take place in Salamanca, Spain 2009.

Henrik Topsøe, Alexis T. Bell and Roel Prins



Michel Che, Duke John of Finland and Catherine Jagellonica of Poland



Conference Banquet



Young Scientist Party





-This is my first visit to Finland and I love this country. My company is actively following research and I am interested in catalyst preparation, *Emma Schofield* from Johnson Matthey tells.

-This is also my first participation in Europacat. It is well organized and I will definitely go again.



-So far, I have missed Europacat only once, *Masato Machida*, Kumamoto University (left) says. Here in Åbo there could have been more space for the poster sessions. Otherwise, things have been running smoothly.

-I miss food for Muslims but the concert and the archipelago were beautiful, is *Mohammed Hasnat's* impression.



-I have been on Europacat in Limerick and Sofia earlier and this time I am traveling with my wife *Julita* and our son *Irek*. The Polish *Bartłomiej Szyja* is a researcher at Eindhoven University of Technology.

-It is important to every now and then meet colleagues from different corners of the world to discuss research topics.

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A Centre of Excellence in research appointed by the Academy of Finland for the periods 2000-2005 and 2006-2011. The Åbo Akademi Process Chemistry Centre (ÅA-PCC) studies physico-chemical processes at the molecular level in environments of industrial importance, in order to meet the needs of tomorrow's processes and product development. Our particular focus on the understanding of complex process chemistry we call Molecular Process Technology.

The Centre consists of four research groups at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Technology, Åbo Akademi University:

- Combustion & Materials Chemistry (Prof. Mikko Hupa),
- Kinetics & Catalysts (Prof. Tapio Salmi),
- Process Analytical Chemistry (Prof. Ari Ivaska) and
- Wood and Paper Chemistry (Prof. Bjarne Holmbom).

In the year 2006, about 130 people (including 20 senior researchers) took part in the PCC activities with a total funding of approximately 6 million euros.

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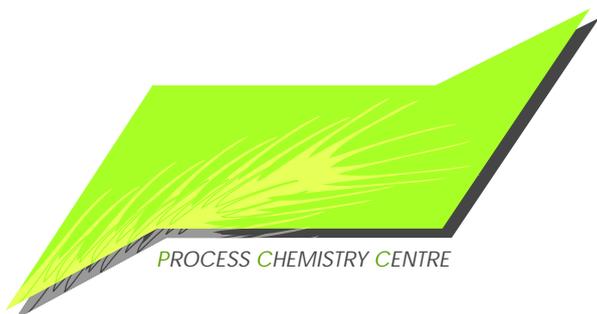
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