

The Sohn International Symposium on Advanced Processing of Metals and Materials

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The Sohn International Symposium on Advanced Processing of Metals and Materials was held in San Diego, California from August 27 to 31, 2006 at the Catamaran Resort. It was organized to honor the very distinguished work and lifetime achievements of H.Y. Sohn, a professor of metallurgical engineering at the University of Utah. Sohn is renowned for his impact in various fields, processing routes, and investigation techniques.

The symposium was based on a "Materials Life Capsule" philosophy developed by the symposium organizer and author of this article. This philosophy is structured around a triangle in which each corner represents principles, technologies, and industrial practice. These equally important pillars that closely interact with each other in both directions serve as the supporting basis for various materials-related fields, processing routes, and investigation techniques. Together they constitute the Materials Life Capsule.

As such, this symposium, sponsored by TMS and cosponsored by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration received a record 104 co-sponsorships from professional societies, organizations, independent publishers, and professional journals from all over the world. In addition, the symposium was sponsored financially by Ausmelt, Ltd., FLOGEN Technologies Inc., Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources, Korea Zinc Company Ltd., LS-Nikko Copper, Outokumpu Technology, Posco, Umicore Precious Metals Refining, and Xstrata Technology.

The symposium drew an overwhelming response from the international professional community. Authors and co-authors from more than 80 countries

contributed 530 papers. Papers by primary authors represented the following countries: the United States, Japan, China, Russia, South Korea, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Chile, India, Georgia, Mexico, Brazil, France, South Africa, Finland, Belgium, Germany, Argentina, Austria, Sweden, Great Britain, Norway, Albania, Egypt, Ukraine, Iran, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, England, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Taiwan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Holland, Hungary, Indonesia, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovakia Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Venezuela, and Zambia.

The symposium covered a wide range of topics in depth based on the three pillars of the Materials Life Capsule triangle: principles, technologies, and industrial practice. The papers were presented in 55 sessions dealing with nonferrous high-temperature extraction and processing; iron and steel making; aqueous, electrochemical processing and molten salts; nano, composite, refractory, and polymer materials; and recycling, recovery, and waste treatment.

Of special note was the distinctive symposium topic of Legal, Management, and Environmental Issues in Minerals, Metals, and Materials Extraction and Processing. Featured were full sessions of prominent lawyers covering today's hot topics—mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, patents, litigation, and arbitration. In addition, renowned speakers on industrial management covered management perspectives in today's metals and materials world. Also of special interest was the International Symposium on Sulfide Smelting 2006, which was incorporated into the Sohn programming.

The symposium papers are published

in nine separate volumes of more than 6,000 pages, classified according to the topical areas as previously described. These volumes are available for purchase through the TMS Document Center.

As the chair and organizer of the symposium, I would like to thank TMS Past President Gregory Hildeman and President Brajendra Mishra, TMS Executive Director Emeritus Alex Scott and Executive Director Warren Hunt, and the TMS staff for their support. I also thank the directors and staff of FLOGEN Technologies who not only sponsored the symposium but did most of the work, and Migen Dibra for organizing the legal session. Thanks also go to the co-chairs, members of the organizing committees, session chairs, and above all authors and co-authors who made this symposium the biggest ever in its class.

I have received hundreds of positive messages about the symposium. Among the comments were: "It was about life, quality, communication, interaction, knowledge, feeling, location and people bonded together in excellence," and "So many excellent papers to attend, so many things to do and so many beautiful places to explore . . . three days felt like one month."

So the relativism theory has a subjective proof in this symposium, which was probably not only a "Materials Life Capsule" but also a real "Life Capsule" concentrated in three and a half days.

Florian Kongoli, chair and organizer of the Sohn International Symposium, is chief executive officer of FLOGEN Technologies Inc., in Montreal, Canada.

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