

The 34th Edition of the International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants (DIOXIN) was held in Madrid (Spain) from 31st August to 5th September 2014. The organizing committee was formed by five researchers of the Institute of General Organic Chemistry of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and led by Dr. Begoña Jiménez from the same institution.

The Symposium offered a high quality scientific programme with presentations on the most recent advances in all areas of halogenated persistent organic pollutants (POPs), such as analysis, monitoring, risk assessment, etc. Around 1000 communications (posters and oral presentations) were presented on both traditional topics and emerging issues.

Oral communications presented from Monday to Thursday were split into fifty different sessions, and every day five parallel sessions were scheduled at a time. Furthermore, every morning the conference was started with a plenary session by a well-known scientist in the area of POPs, including, inter alia, Prof. Joan Grimalt (CSIC, Barcelona, Spain) on Monday and Dr. Antonia Calafat (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, USA) on Tuesday.

The topics of the presentations were very diverse, including: the occurrence and monitoring of pollutants in different ecosystems or environments (marine and terrestrial ecosystems, remote areas, etc.); their modelling, intake evaluation and risk assessment, and other interesting sessions about trends, sources and fate of these pollutants. Moreover, presentations involving emerging POPs and even some pseudo-POPs were also held, such as that entitled 'pseudo-POP: Non persistent but persistently in the environment', in which pyrethroids, cyclic volatile methyl siloxanes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and halogenated carbazoles were presented as potential pseudo-POPs.

Regarding the social program, it was very carefully programmed and included some innovations. First of all, on Sunday, before the reception, it took place the first edition of the session 'Science with Tapas', where students had the opportunity to interact with several distinguished scientists and to have some informal discussions on science with them. The following day, on Monday, the official reception was held in the Retiro Park, in the very centre of Madrid. Additionally, and as usual, the social agenda included a Gala dinner. It was programmed on Thursday in the Casino de Madrid, one of the listed buildings of National Cultural Interest.

On Friday, and as a novel initiative, some students and mentors were encouraged to share their research interests within a relaxing and easy-going atmosphere. After that, the Otto Hutzinger awards were given to the best oral and poster communications. Finally, Dr. Begoña Jiménez closed the ceremony thanking all the attendees to this Edition of the DIOXIN conference, and encouraging them to attend DIOXIN 2015, which will be held in Sao Paolo (Brazil).

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