

THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMISTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The 16th International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment (ICCE) was held in Oslo (Norway) from 18th to 22nd June 2017. This edition of ICCE took place at the University of Oslo (Blindern Campus). The preparation of the ICCE Congress was organised in seven dedicated satellite events as preand post-conference events on Sunday, 18th June and Thursday, 22th June. These events aimed at highlighting specific priority aspects associated with applying chemical strategies in environmental research and development. The other three days, the ICCE 2017 program consisted of both plenary presentations and contributions that were presented in four parallel sessions to provide an appropriate frame for all relevant aspects in chemistry and environment. In total, the oral program included 213 presentations and 196 posters were displayed during the entire conference period.

The first day started with the first satellite events in four parallel sessions during the morning and, in the afternoon, the Norwegian Academy of Music opened the welcome ceremony playing different pieces of Norwegian music. Roland Kallenborn (Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway), Øivind Mikkelsen (President of the Norwegian Chemical Society (NKS), Morten Dæhlen (Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, University of Oslo, Norway) and Santiago V. Luis Lafuente (University Jaume I, Castelló de la Plana, Spain) welcomed all the assistants. After that, a plenary lecture entitled “Chemistry in the service of society” was given by Leiv K. Sydnes (University of Bergen, Norway). Finally, an ice breaker reception took place in the Georg Sverdrups building hall in the evening.

On Monday, the day began with a conference given by Sören Jensen (Stockholm University, Sweden), who in 1966 discovered polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCBs) in the environment while he was analysing the DDT pesticide levels among the Swedish population. During all day, different oral sessions took place in parallel. The topics of these sessions were: microplastics, atmospheric aerosols and pollutants, persistent inorganic pollutants, bioactive substances and biotoxins, nanomaterials, challenges in environment chemistry, and regulation of chemicals. After the last session, the Major of Oslo invited all participants to an official welcome reception at the Oslo City Hall. Canapés and drinks were served and assistants had the opportunity to join an exclusive guided tour of the City Hall.

To conclude the day, a conference dinner was celebrated at Tjuvholmen restaurant in Tjuvholmen Sjømagasin, which is one of the most modern neighbourhoods of Oslo.

On Tuesday morning, Lars-Otto Reiersen (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme-AMAP, Secretary General, Oslo) gave the plenary lecture of the day about Arctic pollution issues. During the coffee break more than one hundred posters were presented in the first poster session and were exhibited until Wednesday. After that, ten different parallel sessions were running all day long, except for two lunch breaks. To end up the day, all participants were invited to join a Panel Discussion: “Microplastics-What is the problem?”, and also a Scientist Quiz and pizza were hosted by the chemistry society “Proton” (Science Library, Blindern Campus) for young scientists.

On Wednesday, there was a plenary session about sustainable development of chemicals given by Rupert Simon (European Chemical Agency, Helsinki, Finland). Then, different parallel sessions were carried out during the day including topics from Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) to Marine Toxicology and Chemistry. After this intense conference day, the ICCE 2017 ended with the closure ceremony, where the Young Scientist Awards (poster and oral) were delivered, and also with the announcement of the future ICCE 2019 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Finally, on Thursday there was the last satellite event focused on Suspect and Non-Target screening by NORMAN community.

Overall, one of the most exciting topics was related to suspect and non-target analysis which are being of great interest in the scientific community. Several oral presentations were focused on these subjects and gave to the audience some useful and new information.

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