

17th European Conference on Fracture

Multilevel Approach to Fracture of Materials, Components and Structures

Basic data

The 17th European Conference on Fracture (ECF17) took place in Brno, Czech Republic, in September 2-5, 2009 (the official website ecf17.fme.vutbr.cz [qui va inserito il link](#)). The conference chairmen were Prof. Jaroslav Pokluda from the Brno University of Technology and Dr. Petr Lukas from the Institute of Materials Physics, Czech Academy of Sciences in Brno. The co-organizer of this periodical conference, traditionally held under the auspices of the European Structural Integrity Society (ESIS), was the Czech Chapter of ESIS in Brno. More than 400 participants from 42 countries all over the world presented 280 oral and 63 poster contributions in 9 parallel sections during the whole conference time.

Scientific program

A number of high-level contributions dealing with a multi-scale modeling of deformation and fracture as well as experimental works introducing facilities of extreme resolutions and unique capabilities have been presented. The plenary key-notes were given by world leaders in fracture and fatigue: Z. P. Bazant (Evanston), L. Botvina (Moscow), Y. Estrin (Melbourne), T. Kitamura (Kyoto), A. J. McEvily (Storrs), Y. Murakami (Fukuoka), J. Newman (Mississippi State), J. Petit (Futuroscope), T. Palin-Luc and P. C. Paris (Talence Cedex), K. Wallin (Espoo), G. Williams (London) and M. Zehetbauer (Vienna). Other 12 invited talks were given as section key-notes.

All presentations were published in the Book of Abstracts and the Proceedings (CD ROM). The best sixty papers were selected for a possible publication in special issues of the scientific journals Engineering Fracture Mechanics, International Journal of Fatigue and Engineering Failure Analysis that will be devoted to ECF17. These special issues are under preparation and will appear in autumn 2009.

Accompanying sessions

In the frame of ECF17, a number of important meetings of international scientific authorities took place as, for example, the ESIS council, the ESIS Executive Committee, the ICF Executive Committee and ESIS Technical Committees. Moreover, sessions of editorial boards of several scientific journals published in Elsevier, Springer and Wiley-Blackwell have been in progress during the conference time. Thus, many very important personalities exercising over the field of fracture and fatigue were present, e.g. Prof. K. Ravi-Chandar, Prof. E. Gdoutos, Prof. D. Taplin, Prof. A. Carpinteri, Dr. M. Elboudjaini, Prof. R. V. Goldstein, Prof. K-H. Schwalbe, Prof. L. Bank Sills, Prof. A. Neimitz, Prof. G. Ferro, Prof. S. Beretta, etc.

Social events

Three social events were organized during the conference evenings. The first one, the Welcome Party, was associated with registration of arriving participants. The second one, the Banquet, was aimed as the opportunity to meet the local political leaders. The attendants could also enjoy the beautiful voices of singers of the Vox Iuvenalis choir. The conference dinner was held in the reconstructed Vannieck gallery. During the dinner, the conference chairman and the ESIS president traditionally passed the ESIS awards on C. M. Sonsino (the Wöhler Medal), A. Carpinteri (the Griffith Medal), R. A. Ainsworth (the Honorary Membership) and E. Gdoutos (the Award of Merit). The music band Jazz Archive dulcified the atmosphere of both the ceremony and the following free entertainment.

Final assessment

According to reactions of many participants and authorities during and after the conference, the ECF17 very successfully continued the old tradition of primary ESIS conferences.