

Miscellanea

International Symposium on Brittle Matrix Composites 8

The series of BMC Symposia was initiated by the highly successful EUROMECH 204 Colloquium on Brittle Matrix Composites held in Poland, in Jablonna in November 1985, renamed BMC 1. Then, similar symposia were organized every three years in Poland. In each case, the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research (IFTR) of the Polish Academy of Sciences served as the host.

The Symposia, took place from 23 to 25 October, in Warsaw, were devoted to composite materials with matrices behaving as brittle in normal or special conditions. Brittle matrix composites are applied in various domains (civil engineering, mechanical equipment and machinery, vehicles, etc.). In the last decades their importance and diversity amongst engineered materials has continuously increased. Examples of the materials covered in the accepted papers principally include:

- aggregate-binder composites (concretes, fiber concretes, polymer concretes),
- sintered materials (ceramics), and
- other composites with brittle matrices.

Since the beginning, BMC Symposia provided a forum aimed at encouraging and enhancing cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange. It was also the main conference in this kind of composites where researchers from many countries, gathered to update developments in composite research and advance in technology in various countries. This year at BMC8 in the Staszic Palace over 80 participants from 17 countries (e.g. US, Canada, Brazil, Japan and Poland) presented 57 papers on:

- mechanical properties, strength, toughness and rheology,

- analysis of materials structure and microstructure,
- various degradation effects, crack propagation and control,
- test methods and new test results,
- computation methods and manufacturing processes,
- durability assessment of materials and structures,
- applications of new materials and their behaviour in structures.

The papers have been selected on the basis of two-stage peer reviews and have been published jointly with Woodhead Publishers Ltd. (Cambridge, UK). Collectively, this set of papers represents the latest advancements in the field of Brittle Matrix Composites. The scientific sponsorship of RILEM was granted, as in previous events of this series. The volume should prove useful to both advanced researchers and to students entering this field as a helpful reference.

The BMC8 was co-chaired by A.M. Brandt (Poland), V.C. Li (USA) and I.H. Marshall (Australia).

web page: <http://www.ippt.gov.pl/~abrandt/geninfo1.htm>

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Actualities

With the exceptional satisfaction we announce that Professor **Władysław Włosiński**, corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Chairman of the Division IV – Technical Sciences of PAS was honoured with the title of the Doctor Honoris Causa of the Wrocław University of Technology on 15 November 2006.

We would like to congratulate Professor W. Włosiński and wish him further successes.