

**Refractory Ceramics Division  
St. Louis Section of The American Ceramic Society  
Refractories Institute  
ASTM International Committee C08 on Refractories**

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By means of this short paper, I would like to express my pleasant experience of having participated in the prestigious UNITECR 2017 meeting. As a student in training I had the opportunity to expose the progress of my own work in two oral presentations: "Mechanical Behavior of MgO-C Refractory Bricks Thermally Treated In Low Temperature Range" and "Effect of microstructural modifications at high temperature on the work of fracture of magnesia-graphite refractories". I could also learn about others aspect related to my field of study and new developments as the thermomechanical modeling, analysis of fracture by digital image, monitoring non-destructive techniques, simulation, recycling, raw materials based on magnesia, behavior of binders and behavior to the fracture at high temperature of MgO-C refractories, among others topics.

I highlight the actuality and future prospect provided by the main lectures, which positioned at a world level the availability of raw materials, business activity and the refractory consumption as important engines of the economy propelled by steel, cement and glass industries.

The majority of the attendance was people from China, Austria and Brazil. Moreover, there were participants from the host country Chile and the region, Argentina, Mexico and United States, and from further countries such as Japan, Germany, Spain, India, England, among others. This international spectra of professionals gave a very rich ambient to share experience in the field of refractories. Furthermore, the comfortable environment stimulated the exchange with others assistants, creating linkages and new relationships between student and researches of different countries, stimulating the possibility of establish collaborative works.

Finally, I would like to mention that this interaction between academic and industrial sectors make possible to generate new research projects that can be implemented in industrial applications and also the industry can demand for searching to find solutions to complex problems. This scenario promotes joint works and the training of new human resources with capacity of action. In this way, is encouraged the growth as much at the technological field as economic and environmental care.

The possibility to attend to UNITECR 2017 allowed me to appreciate in person the importance of this kind of meeting and it is a valuable encouragement to continue my formation in area of refractories after I finish my doctoral career. I

especially thank the contribution of The American Ceramic Society and the rest of agencies to foster the participation of students in these spaces.

Eng. Sebastian E. Gass  
INTEMA (CONICET - UNMdP)  
Mar del Plata - Buenos Aires - Argentina