

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

Ref.: Travel reimbursement UNITECR 2017

I would like to share my pleasant experience at UNITECR 2017 with you. It was my first time in this congress and it was a special opportunity to present part of results of my PhD research. I'm a doctoral student in Materials Science in the National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The location of the congress was very comfortable and the people of the organization were very polite, being possible to consult any doubts I had. I recognize an especial intention from them to integrate all the assistance.

About the professionals who attended the congress, they were nice people willing to talk. Thanks that, it was easy to have a conversation with many of them, despite the hierarchy in the area that they work. This fellowship generated an interesting information exchange between PhD students, researches, industrial personal and business owners.

Especially in my case, I was able to generate several contacts with new people. As an example I can mention Simon F. Leiderman from Shinagawa Advanced Materials or Steven Ashlok from Kyanite Mining Corporation, both from United States. They contacted me after my presentation and I had a very useful talk with them. In addition, I had the opportunity to talk with the Director of Communications and Marketing of the American Ceramic Society, Eileen De Guire. She was a very kind person to talk.

Technical aspects of my experience in UNITECR 2017 were very important too. Regarding my presentation, it was a challenge opportunity to expose my work to experts in refractories. Furthermore, I was able to attend to several presentations of other participants. In general, they were very useful, being or not directly related with my research doctoral work. I would like highlight the conferences of Carmen Baudin and Margarita Alvarez Montes from Spain in monolithic refractories and that of Ana Paula Da Luz from Brazil about raw materials.

The attendance to UNITECR 2017 gave me a chance to know the high amount of different kind of studies on refractories around the world, as well as the industry necessities and the tendency of the world economies. I was able to realize how important my study is and gave me a great motivation to continue my career as a researcher in the field of refractory materials.

Finally, I would like to give special thanks to reimbursement done by the next groups: The Refractory Ceramics Division, St. Louis Section of the American Ceramic Society, ASTM International Committee C08 on Refractories, The Refractories Institute. Thanks to them I could attend to the congress.

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