

Brief review of UNITECR 2017 – Santiago de Chile

September 26th – 29th

In overall unitecr 2017 was a great opportunity for technical and personnel enrichment due to the well-planned conference. The opportunity to get to know different professionals from industries placed in the several levels of the refractory supply chain is an unmeasurable experience, which helps the understanding of the drivers and needs of such market ranging from the raw materials producers to the end users. This knowledge allows a holistic view of the market highlighting the present and future trends.

It was clear that the use of monolithic refractories is one of the major trends once the number of works on this topic was massive. This state two clear messages: the need of process cost reduction and the evolution to 4.0 industry concept. Other sessions corroborated this insight as considering the energy consumption efficiency in the steel production process as well as new materials designs for better performance in the basic science session.

The main message I learnt from the conference was the need of the holistic view in order to solve the present and future demands. The use of computational simulations as a tool to help the development of new materials and improve process regarding different criteria, such as energy consumption and reduce wear, is a vivid trend which allows to explore different scenarios with a reduced development cost.

It was a great experience to present part of the work I have been developing to such a public, which generated rich discussions and fruitful collaborations.

Santiago has become memorable. The UNITECR'17 showed perfect organization, very welcomed environment and high qualified people. For the students, the ACerS was fundamental and their efforts also need to be highlighted.