

Brief review of UNITECR 2017 – Santiago de Chile

September 26th – 29th

In overall, the UNITECR'17 was great for personnel and professional development, which is a consequence of the conference technical sessions and social activities. Also, it clearly showed how the raw materials and refractory industries are related, their projects, goals, new trends and insights for future developments. Their close relationship allows the development of new refractories with outstanding properties, as the many studies conducted throughout this productive cooperation. This partnership reduces the gap in understanding the behavior of new raw materials in their final application, whose properties and performance are vastly investigated. It is also important to highlight the strong presence of monolithic materials in the conference papers. Several studies showed aspects of castable materials, as new compositions, techniques for investigating their drying behavior, corrosion resistance, mechanical and application features, pointing out that this technology is trending in the refractory industry and a lot of improvements have already been achieved. In parallel, the energy savings and insulation studies also raised very rich discussions, demonstrating the industry needs to reduce the energy consumption and the environmental impacts of their processes and products.

Personally, presenting at this very important event was very meaningful and rewarding. It encouraged people to ask questions, to come and know more about the presented topics, allowing new connections for future developments to be built. Other students, engineers, specialists, managers, researchers, professors, they were all open for interaction, discussions, and sharing.

Santiago has become memorable. The UNITECR'17 showed perfect organization, very welcomed environment and good and high qualified people. For the students, the ACerS was fundamental and their efforts also need to be highlighted. It is time to get everything done to Japan in 2019!