

## UNITECR 2017 – STUDENT REVIEW

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UNITECR 2017 was, in general, an excellent opportunity to meet with like-minded people and industry peers. UNITECR successfully brought together people from all different geographical areas who share a common interest in refractories and was a great way to meet new people in the field. At UNITECR we were able to get together with people from a wide range of backgrounds, of whom we rarely encounter at our home workplace and institution.

We, at UNITECR 2017, had the opportunity to experience all the state of art of the refractories field. The new techniques, new types of equipment, unpublished data, and the mind-blowing experience of learning from thought-leaders that I have and have not previously heard of. I was able to keep onto of the research of some of the biggest names in the field, in addition to some of the newest faces in it. Besides of having the opportunity to talk to these people one-on-one about what they are working on, and even receiving their advice on how to enhance my own.

It may not seem like a notable thing, but attending UNITECR 2017 was also an exciting way for people to notice me in this field. Regardless if I am a third-year grad student and just starting my way through this industry, I was able to present myself and make some valuable connections which can become highly relevant when I start looking for collaborators or jobs opportunities.

Attending UNITECR 2017 conference enhanced both my professional and personal development dramatically, as well as providing me with tools and skills which cannot be learned in-house or online. The focused nature of learning at a conference allowed me to dig deeper into the understanding of the refractory topic and made UNITECR 2017 an incredible experience.

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