



PACRIM8 attracts over 800 ceramic, glass scientists



Vancouver, British Columbia, was the setting for a week-long, uncommon convergence of international groups of ceramic and glass researchers and engineers, as the eighth biennial meeting of the Pacific Rim's ceramic societies intersected with the 2009 annual meeting of the International Commission on Glass. The entire event, which occurred May 31–June 5, was hosted and organized by The American Ceramic Society.

PACRIM8 attracted top scientists and business leaders who shared their expertise on materials



Hench described new studies showing certain bioglass materials are capable of awakening the body's rebuilding mechanisms.

Japan Federation of Engineering Societies, addressed efforts to advance innovations in the areas of ceramic materials.

The third plenary speaker, Larry Hench, ACerS Distinguished



The PACRIM reception provided a great view of Vancouver and a chance for participants to meet, discuss work and strike up new friendships.

research, manufacturing, emerging applications and business strategy. Mrityunjay "Jay" Singh, PACRIM8 chair, and his team of over 100 coordinators put together a technical program that included no fewer than 883 presentations and posters. The group organized the presentations in 27 symposia that covered topics that ranged from electroceramics and bioceramics to environmentally related applications for ceramics and glass.

The conference started on a high note with an opening session chaired by Singh. Over 450 attendees packed into a plenary session to listen to "Global Megatrends: Challenges and Opportunities of Ceramics," a presentation featuring Joseph A. Miller Jr., senior vice president and chief technology officer of Corning Inc. Miller presented a frank discussion of his company's successful efforts to reverse stagnating business plans and reignite Corning's growth through innovation. Teruo Kishi, president of the National Institute for Material Science and The

Life Member and graduate research professor at the University of Florida, gave a 40-year retrospective on the discovery and uses of bioglass. Hench instilled excitement in the audience with his reports on recent advances that indicate that new bioglass and bioceramics materials go beyond just biocompatibility and actually may trigger the body's regrowth mechanisms.

The meeting of the ICG brought additional interest in the symposia topics and created a forum for international glass researchers to continue to lay out a roadmap for implementing strategies on glass strengthening (see Glass Facts, page 35).

Opportunities for networking and informal research sharing were in abundance. Almost 500 participants attended a reception atop Vancouver's Hyatt Regency Hotel. An equal number attended the PACRIM8 banquet that featured dancers and entertainers from tribal groups indigenous to British Columbia.

Dan Perera, past head of the Australian Ceramic Society complimented the organization of PACRIM8 events. "Overall, the standard of the talks were high and informative. Chairman Singh created an atmosphere of friendship with his manner of communication with all the attendees. There was

plenty of opportunity for networking during lunch and tea breaks. ACerS went a long way to welcome the glass community and other societies," he said.

Yanchun Zhou agreed with Perera, noting that, "the symposia were well organized, and scheduling avoided simi-



The PACRIM plenary session presentations triggered a lively discussion with audience members.



Jay Singh, chair of PACRIM8, receives a gift from one of the indigenous dancers who performed at the event's banquet.

lar topics during parallel sessions," said Zhou, director of the High-Performance Ceramic Division of the Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials Science in China. "[PACRIM is] not only a platform for showing the recent achievements in ceramics and glass science and technology, but also an important medium for international cooperation. I am confident cooperative works between leading groups in different countries, theoretical and experimental, have been stimulated."

The next PACRIM conference is scheduled for July 10–14, 2011, and will be hosted in Cairns, Australia, by the Australian Ceramic Society.

For more information on PACRIM9, visit www.austceram.com. ■