

The IUPAC Symposium on Ionic Polymerization, held once every two years, is a typical gathering place for people working in the field of ionic polymerization. Recently, one such symposium was held in Goa, India from October 23–28, 2005. It is for the first time that such a specialized symposium has been organized in India. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Science and Technology, Indian National Science Academy and Reliance Industries Limited, India generously sponsored the Symposium. The conference provided an opportunity to the Indian scientific community to interact with leading scientists working from around the world in the area of ionic polymerization.

The Symposium was conducted at the salubrious environment of 'The Leela', a resort hotel near Colva Beach in Southern Goa, India. The technical program of the symposium consisted of 52 oral presentations and 38 poster presentations. A total of about 150 participants drawn from USA, France, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, and India attended the symposium. The elegance of the technique of ionic polymerizations is the ability to synthesize polymers with well-defined architectures without any side reactions such as termination and transfer. As the control of the polymerization becomes

the motivation, atom-transfer radical polymerization, which has similar attributes of ionic polymerization and is a more recent addition to the armory of synthetic methods available to polymer chemists, was also included in the symposium. The technical program of the symposium was organized into morning and afternoon sessions chaired by two eminent persons one from India and another from abroad. The order and sequence of presentations were carefully blended so that each session had a flavor of both established as well as young practitioners in the field of anionic, cationic, and controlled radical polymerization.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all the speakers and participants for accepting our invitation and contributing to the success of IP 2005. We hope that the contributions presented in this special volume of *Macromolecular Symposia* would be of interest to all those who are interested in contemporary methods of polymer synthesis. We appreciate the timely help of all the reviewers and authors to bring out this special issue.

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