

The 42<sup>nd</sup> World Polymer Congress –MACRO 2008–, (WPC) sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and organized by the Polymer Society, Taipei (together with the Chemical Society Located in Taipei, the National Tsing Hua University, and the Industrial Technology Research Institutes), was held at the Taipei International Conventional Center from June 29 to July 4, 2008. The aim of the biannually held WPC series is to bring polymer scientists and engineers from around the globe to address recent developments and urgent issues in polymer science. This 42<sup>nd</sup> WPC followed this general aim, for which the theme was set as “**Polymers at Frontiers of Science and Technology**” to fit in the current trends in the developments of polymer-related nano-, bio- and optoelectronic technologies.

The Taipei MACRO 2008 involved 11 plenary, 157 invited, 245 contributed oral, and 595 poster papers; these gave a total of 1008 papers contributed by more than 1189 participants from 41 countries, in which two-thirds of the papers were contributed by scientists overseas. Among the 11 plenary lectures, one was given by *Dr. Yuan T. Lee* (Nobel Laureate of Chemistry, 1986) on the general topic “*Awakening of Humanity in the 21st Century*” and another by *Prof. Robert Grubbs* (Nobel Laureate of Chemistry, 2005) on “*Macromolecular Molecules and Materials Using Olefin Metathesis*”. There were 12 symposia, namely, (1) *Polymer Chemistry*, (2) *Polymer Physics*, (3) *Polymer Processing*, (4) *Nanostructured Polymeric Materials*, (5) *Advances in Bio-*

*Related Polymers*, (6) *Polymers in Optics, Electronics, and Opto-electronics*, (7) *Environmentally Benign Polymers*, (8) *Polymer Membranes*, (9) *Polymer Composites and Blends*, (10) *Polymer Education*, (11) *Performance Materials* and (12) *Young Polymer Scientists*, in which the last two were arranged together with the IUPAC Polymer Division, along with DSM and Samsung Total Petrochemicals, respectively.

Three prestigious Awards were conferred during MACRO 2008, these include the DSM- IUPAC Performance Materials Award (to Dr. Craig J. Hawker of the University of California, Santa Barbara), the Polymer International-IUPAC Award for Creativity in Applied Polymer Science or Polymer Technology (to Professor Zhenan Bao of Stanford University), and the Samsung-IUPAC Young Polymer Scientist Award (to Professor Eric Cloutet of University of Bordeaux). Selected from the poster papers, there were also three IUPAC Poster Prizes (awarded respectively to Nicolas Nouvel of Cambridge University, Satoshi Akasaka of Kyoto University, and Kyuhyun Im of Pohang University of Science and Technology) and three PST Poster Prizes (awarded respectively to Gudrun Schmidt-Naake of TU Clausthal, Kotato Koike of Keio University, and Yung-Jin Weng of National Taiwan University).

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of MACRO 2008, we would like to thank all participants for their presence and support for the success of this meeting.

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