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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290>

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**To cite this Article** Mikołajczyk, Marian and Kielbasiński, Piotr(2008) 'Preface: Tenth International Conference on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium', *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements*, 183: 4, 817 — 818

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10426500801898028

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500801898028>

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## Preface: Tenth International Conference on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium

Marian Mikołajczyk and Piotr Kielbasiński

Heteroatom-containing compounds are widely distributed in nature and play an important role in biological and life processes. They have found many interesting applications in organic synthesis, material chemistry, medicine, agriculture, and industry. The scientists working in the field of heteroatom chemistry realized very early that the best platform for exchange of results, achievements, and ideas are international conferences devoted to each particular heteroatom. Thus, in 1964 the first International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry was organized in Heidelberg, Germany, under chairmanship of Professor G. Wittig. In the same year, sulfur chemists came to Liblice in Czechoslovakia by invitation of Professor V. Horak to participate in the first meeting devoted to this element. In 1971, Doctor W. H. H. Günther (Xerox Corporation) and Professor Y. Okamoto (New York University) initiated a series of International Conferences on the Chemistry of Selenium and Tellurium (ICCST). After the first meeting in New York the subsequent ICCST meetings took place in Lund (Sweden) in 1975, Metz (France) in 1979, Birmingham (UK) in 1983, Oak Ridge (USA) in 1987, Osaka (Japan) in 1991, Aachen (Germany) in 1997, Sao Paulo (Brazil) in 2000, and Mumbai (India) in 2004.

The Tenth ICCST was held in Łódź (Poland) from 22 to 27 June 2007. It gathered 130 chemists (plus 11 accompanying persons) from 16 nations and 4 continents. The topics of the conference were as follows:

- synthesis and reactions of selenium and tellurium compounds;
- structural and mechanistic studies of selenium and tellurium compounds;
- selenium- and tellurium-based material chemistry; and
- selenium and tellurium compounds in biology and medicine

All these topics were covered in 16 plenary and invited lectures, 36 contributed papers, and 56 posters presented at the conference. It should be mentioned that the first lecture was given by Doctor W. H. H. Günther, the founder, first chairman and true *spiritus movens* of the ICCST

meetings. In his talk a nice and interesting overview of ten selenium and tellurium meetings was given.

In this issue of "Phosphorus, Sulfur and Silicon and Related Elements," the chemistry presented in Łódź is described in 32 papers, which are expanded versions of those plenary, invited, and short lectures, whose authors have kindly agreed to deliver their manuscripts. The Editors would like to express their thanks once again to all those who contributed to making ICCST-10 a success: the speakers, the chairpersons, the members of the International Committee and the members of the local Organizing Committee and their coworkers. The eleventh conference in the series is planned to take place in 2010 in Oulu, Finland under the chairmanship of Professor Risto Laitinen, e-mail: [risto.laitinen@oulu.fi](mailto:risto.laitinen@oulu.fi).