

Preface

It is my pleasure as the Chairman of the Annual Meeting of ICG and the 9th ESG conference to welcome all participants in Slovakia, the country known not only for its natural beauty, but presently also as one of the fastest economically growing countries in Europe, with important contribution of industry, glass production including.

Glass production in Slovakia has long and rich history. The first information connected with glass production in this region comes from archeological findings of glass articles dated back to the 6th century AD. The first written evidence on glass production is related to the year 1342 in the resort Sklené Teplice (approximate English translation could be “Glass Hot Springs”).

The venue of the conference, the town of Trenčín, and the Trenčín region squeezed in the valley between White Carpathian and Strážov Mountains, has long been connected with glass production, glass research, science and education. There are several glass manufacturing plants within 80 km around Trenčín, both on Slovak and Czech side of the border. Just to mention few of them, there is RONA in Lednické Rovne (tableware), Vetropack in Nemšová (container glass), Johns Manville in Trnava (E-glass), Vetropack Moravia Glass in Kyjov (container glass), Glass Service in Vsetín (consulting company) and some other smaller companies on the Czech side of the border.

Since seventies of the last century Trenčín was a seat of the Glass Research and Development Institute (the only institute of this type in Slovakia). The tradition of research in the field of glass continues through the Joint Glass Centre VILA (Vitrum Laugaricio), a combined project of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, University of Trenčín, and glassworks RONA a.s. Lednické Rovne. The University of Trenčín offers the possibility of master study and graduation in the area of glass.

Dear glass friends, I believe that this conference will give not only the impulse for development of glass science and glass research in Slovakia but it give you an opportunity to spend time in meaningful work and discussions in a nice atmosphere, which will result in further progress in glass science and technology.

Peter Šimurka

Chairman of the Conference

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