

Introduction

International Polymer Technology Conference and Exhibition 2013 (IPTCE13) took place in Shah Alam, Malaysia from 16-18 April 2013. IPTCE 13 gathered an international community of participants for the presentation of recent advances in polymer science and technology, the physical characterization and advanced performance attributes of both synthetic and biological polymeric materials.

IPTCE 13 was organized by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam Selangor. The joint-organizers are the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Alumni Association Malaysia (GAAM). IPTCE 13 was supported by several local and international polymer, tyre and automotive industries such as Continental Tyre, Perodua, and NAZA.

The conference covered six broad topics which included rubber science and technology, composites, textiles, adhesive and coatings, process modelling and simulations, testing and instrumentation. The conference emphasized on issues that have positive impact on society, energy, health, sustainability, and advanced technologies. Participants from various disciplines of polymer science and technology, came from different sectors of polymer industry, research institution, universities and institution of higher learnings; local and abroad. IPTCE '13 had proved to be a suitable platform for professional networking through activities held in the discussion sessions, daily poster sessions, and oral presentations.

The theme of the conference which is "Polymer in Automotive and Tyre Industry – Present and Future Trends" was chosen with the view that the Malaysian's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) in the automotive and tyre sectors play significant role in the Malaysian exports of rubber products. Currently, there are about 33 SMEs who are vendors to PERODUA and PROTON and other automotive industry to supply automotive components that use polymers (thermoplastics, composites and rubber). There are 11 tyre manufacturing companies, and 12 companies producing inner rubber tubes in Malaysia. Apart from the National Car manufacturers, Malaysia is also well known in international automotive industry companies such as the Mercedes, the BMW and the Volkswagen of Germany operating in Malaysia.

Eminent Professors, Scientists and Technologist were invited as Keynote and Invited Speakers to deliver the latest information in their respective expertise areas. It was very timely that the SMEs, students, vendors and academicians took the golden opportunities to interact with the experts and specialists to get their advice or consultation on technical matters, sales and marketing strategies.

Organizing committee

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