

IMF7 - SEVENTH IRISH MATERIALS FORUM CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION - OPENING REMARKS

S. HAMPSHIRE, CHAIRMAN

This year marks the tenth anniversary of a number of significant events related to Materials in Ireland. It is ten years since the establishment of the Materials Research Centre at Limerick under the direction of Professor Evan Petty, ten years since the initiation of the Irish Durability and Fracture Committee under the chairmanship of Professor David Taplin at Trinity College, Dublin and also ten years since the accreditation of a separate B. Eng. degree in Materials Engineering and the setting up of a working party for the development of a Materials Science degree at Limerick. I am particularly pleased to welcome among our many overseas visitors to Limerick, Dr. John Bolton from the University of Bradford who was closely involved with all of these activities as a former colleague at Limerick. Many of these visitors are involved in EC BRITE/EURAM collaborative research programmes with colleagues here and many of the papers to be presented at IMF7 derive from these trans-national cooperative projects. The Materials Research Centre at Limerick, the Department of Mechanical Engineering at University College, Dublin, the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin and the Materials Department of EOLAS have all been, and continue to be, involved in various EC research programmes on Materials over the last ten years.

Also, over the decade of the 1980's, various other degree programmes have been developed in Ireland with Limerick offering a B.Sc. in Materials Science since 1985, Trinity College offering a B.Sc. in the Science of Materials, which has a different emphasis, and the recognition of the importance of materials in various engineering degree programmes.

The 1980's also witnessed the coordination of the activities of the Materials community in Ireland, North and South, through the Irish Durability and Fracture Committee and its successor the Irish Materials Forum which arranged the current series of conferences at the following venues:

Dublin	1983
Limerick	1984
Galway	1985
Belfast	1986
Cork	1987
Dublin	1989
Limerick	1991

More recently, the Irish Materials Forum participated in the discussions which led to the approval for the new National Programme of Advanced Technology, Materials Ireland, under its Director, Dr. Aidan Kennedy, based at EOLAS, Dublin which we will be hearing more about during the conference.

It is clear that we can look forward into the 1990's as a decade of new opportunities for the Materials community in Ireland. We are involved in a diverse range of activities including polymer composites, adhesives, coatings, engineering ceramics, metal matrix composites, bio-materials, electronic ceramics, thin films, glasses, rubbers and high surface-area solids. Our theme reflects this range of topics and I trust that you will enjoy a worthwhile conference as you discuss "Materials for Advanced Technology Applications."

4 September 1991.

Addendum

It is with great sorrow that we acknowledge the contribution to the Irish Materials Forum of the late Professor Seamus Timoney who, among many other roles was an excellent engineer. He will be remembered by those of us in the Materials field as a pioneer of the use of ceramics in diesel engines and, while significant progress has been made in this area, it is sad that he will not be here to witness the fruit of his work. Professor Timoney died in November 1991 and we dedicate these proceedings to his memory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Our sincere thanks are extended to Charlotte Tuohy, the Conference Coordinator and to Deirdre O'Reilly, Jane Murphy, Bob Flynn, Triona Kennedy, Anne Flannery and Jean Brown for their help during the conference.

We would particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions from the keynote speakers, Professor Marcel Van de Voorde, Dr. Phil Walls, Dr. Jim Woodhead, Mr. Gerry Higgins and the late Professor Seamus Timoney to whom this volume is dedicated.

