

# Foreword

The Brazilian Ceramic Conference in this 57<sup>th</sup> edition (CBC57) was held together with the 5th Ibero-American Ceramic Conference (IberAcerC5), at the Convention Center of the Praiamar Hotel, Natal/RN, Brazil from May 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, with the participation of researchers and scholars from Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, such as Spain, Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, Portugal and Brazil.

The Brazilian Ceramic Society, the Spanish Society of Ceramics and Glass, and the Portuguese Ceramic Society supported both events. This conference celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brazilian Ceramic Society (ABCeram), which was created in 1953.

CBC is an itinerant conference since 1954, which has been held in several locations in the country. It represents the most traditional meeting of the ceramic community in Brazil. CBC aims to promote the interaction of the various sectors involved in the ceramic field, including industries, technical schools, universities, research institutes, and raw materials and equipment suppliers. Therefore, it has a broad character, which comprises not only ceramic materials (red ceramic, coatings, refractories, whiteware, technical ceramics) but also correlated subjects such as energy, environment, mineral resources, technology, quality, and human resources.

Along this meeting the participants had a wide range of events in several sessions of technical papers (oral and poster presentations), plenary and keynote lectures, panels, short courses and workshops.

This edition celebrated a record number of submitted and presented contributions (800 and 691, respectively) as well as participants (561). This is also the first time that selected technical papers from CBC are published in an internationally indexed journal, which represents a milestone for the ceramic community in Brazil.

The opening plenary session was held by Prof. José Serafin Moya, from the Institute of Materials Science of Madrid (ICMM), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The conference featured presentations from distinguished scientists and technologists from Ibero-American countries including 4 plenary and 10 keynote lectures, and 3 discussion panels. Moreover, 4 short courses on processing and characterization techniques for ceramic materials were offered.

Celebrating the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of CBC, two distinguished members of the ceramic community in Brazil were awarded for their lifelong contribution for the development of this area in our country and particularly for the outstanding support in several editions of this event. The award recipients were José Carlos Bressiani (IPEN/CCTM) and Marco Antonio Pacheco Jordão (ABCeram).

From the papers presented at the Conference, 125 have been selected for publication in Materials Science Forum after a reviewing process. These papers cover a wide range of topics regarding to structure, processing, characterization and application of ceramic materials.

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the authors, the supporting help of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and the expert referees, who have devoted their time and efforts to making it a successful meeting ensuring a high quality standard for the conference.

The Editors      Brazil, 2014

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