

## Preface

The Brazilian Ceramic Conference in its 59<sup>th</sup> edition (CBC59) took place at the Prodigy Beach Resort & Conventions Aracaju, Barra dos Coqueiros - SE, Brazil, from May 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>st</sup>, 2015, with the participation of researchers, scholars and professionals from Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Cuba, Germany, United States and Brazil.

CBC has been an itinerant conference since 1954, being held in several locations in Brazil. In 2015, the city of Barra dos Coqueiros hosted the event. Located near Aracaju, the capital of Sergipe State, the city has a beach six kilometers long in one of the best regions of the Brazilian coast.

This Conference represents the most traditional event of the ceramic community in Brazil and aims to promote the interactions of various sectors involved in the ceramic field, including industries, technical schools, universities, research institutes, raw materials and equipment suppliers. Therefore, it has a broad character, which comprises not only ceramic materials, but also correlated subjects such as energy, environment, mineral resources, technology, quality control, process control and human resources.

During the Conference the participants had a wide range of events in several sessions of technical papers (oral and posters presentations) plenary and keynote lectures, panels, short courses, workshops and exhibitions. This edition gathered 360 participants, which presented a total of 570 talks and posters.

The opening plenary session was held by Dr. Angelo Fernando Padilha, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, who presented the talk "Research opportunities in materials in the nuclear area in Brazil".

From the papers presented at the Conference, 84 of them were selected for publication at Material Science Forum after a reviewing process. They cover a wide range of topics regarding structure, processing, characterization and applications of ceramic materials.

The Editor acknowledges the contributions of the authors, and the voluntary collaboration of the Scientific Advisory Committee members and expert referees. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff, participants and sponsors for their support.

Fernando dos Santos Ortega

Guest Editor

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