

## Conference Report

### 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Drying Conference (ADC 2017)

Wuxi, P.R. China

September 24-26, 2017

The ninth Asia-Pacific Drying Conference (ADC 2017) was successfully organized under the leadership of Professor Min Zhang of Jiangnan University, Wuxi, P.R. China during September 24 through 26, 2017. The Conference was inaugurated in the presence of Professor Arun S. Mujumdar, the Founder and Honorary Chairman of the International Drying Symposium (IDS) and Co-founder of the ADC series; Professor Wei Chen, the Vice President of Jiangnan University; and Dr. Xin Xu from China Rural Technology Development Center, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China.

The Conference attracted 207 abstracts from over 250 registered delegates, both from academia and industry, from 22 countries. Full papers are included in the conference e-proceedings. Selected papers after peer review will be published in a special issue of *Drying Technology* in 2018. There were one plenary session and twelve oral sessions with a total of 123 oral presentations, including 24 keynote speeches. Additionally, there were 84 posters and an exhibition from 14 industrial companies. Details for the program can be found at the Conference website (<http://www.adc2017.org/>).

The theme for ADC 2017 was “Drying Challenges: Bridging Academia and Industry”, which was achieved through active participation of both parties in the “Industry-University-Research Drying Forum.” Professor Arun S. Mujumdar; Professor Bhesh Bhandari of University of Queensland, Australia, Professor Xiao-Dong Chen of Soochow University; Professor Sakamon Devahastin of King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; and Professor Chung Lim Law of University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus delivered plenary lectures, respectively, entitled “Sustainable drying technologies - Role of global R&D,” “Understanding the mechanism and control of crystallisation of sugar in dried fruit production,” “Spatially distributed drying system modeling made easy through a reaction engineering approach (REA),” “Commercializing a drying research project: Opportunities, difficulties and challenges,” and “A tale of application of heat pump assisted drying in industry.” The delegates were inspired by the innovative ideas of the Plenary Speakers about drying technologies and also excited about the successful R&D cooperation achievements of ten leading enterprises that participated.

The Conference received generous sponsorships from twelve drying-related leading companies, including Haitong Food Group Co. Ltd., Jiangsu Bolaike Frozen Technology Development Co., Ltd., Changzhou Yibu Drying Equipment Co., Ltd., Guangdong Jiahao Food Co., Ltd., Wuxi Delin Marine Equipment Co., Ltd., Suzhou Niumag Analytical Instrument Corporation, Wuxi Linzhou Drying Equipment Co., Ltd., Xinghua Lianfu Food Co., Ltd., Nanjing Orient Microwave Technology Co., Ltd., Xinjiang Fruit Industry Group Co., Ltd, Mayande Group Co., Ltd., Haoxiangni Jujube Stock Co., Ltd. The success of ADC 2017 was indeed due to the significant tangible contribution of industry in China.

ADC 2017 announced five major awards to distinguished scholars in the Asia-Pacific region for their outstanding contributions in recent years. This includes A. S. Mujumdar Medal, Bolaike Outstanding Drying researcher Award, Excellent Drying Award, Outstanding Drying Book Award and Excellent Young Drying Scientist Award. A total of 5 scholars and 2 books received these honors. The best oral and poster presentation awards were also announced. Professor Xiao Dong Chen of Soochow University, was presented the ASM Medal, which is recognized internationally as the highest honor for outstanding drying research coupled with outstanding mentorship in drying research.

ADC 2017 also incorporated the 4th “Food Drying WORKSHOP” into 5 different sessions. A total of 51 oral presentations were delivered, which focused on the reduction of waste in drying of fruits and vegetables; excellent feedbacks were received from the participants. At present, energy-saving drying, green drying, and intelligent drying are the main R&D topics for the development of drying technology in China and the Asia-Pacific Region. The objective of global drying industry is to achieve large-scale application for these newly developed drying technologies.

Several technical visits were organized for interested delegates after the Conference. These included the visits to the National Supercomputer Center in Wuxi, Wuxi Linzhou Drying Equipment Co., Ltd., Changzhou Yibu Drying Equipment Co., Ltd. And Jiangsu Bolaike Frozen Technology Development Co.

Finally, presentations were made regarding IDS 2018 in Valencia, Spain in September 2018, and about ADC 2019, which will be hosted by India in October 2019 in Mumbai. Details will be posted at respective websites in due time.



Fig.1 Participants of the 9th Asia-Pacific Drying Conference (ADC2017)

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