

Program

Alkali Activated Materials and Geopolymers: Sustainable Construction Materials and Ceramics Made Under Ambient Conditions

May 28 – June 2 2023

Cetraro (Calabria), Italy

Conference Co-Chairs

W.M. Kriven

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Cristina Leonelli

Universita' degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy

John L. Provis

University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Aldo R. Boccaccini

University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany



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Engineering Conferences International (ECI) is a not-for-profit global engineering conferences program, originally established in 1962, that provides opportunities for the exploration of problems and issues of concern to engineers and scientists from many disciplines.

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Tero Luukkonen, Oulu University, Oulu, Finland

Jannie S. J. van Deventer, Zeobond Group, Australia

Luis Pérez Villarejo, Universidad de Jaén, Jaén, Spain

Guang Ye, TU Delft, Delft, The Netherlands

Previous conferences in this series:

Geopolymers

May 24-29, 2015

Herrnstein, Austria

Conference Chairs:

Cristina Leonelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
Aldo R. Boccaccini, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
Waltraud M. Kriven, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Arie van Riessen, Curtin University, Australia

Alkali Activated Materials and Geopolymers:

Versatile Materials Offering High Performance and Low Emissions

May 27 – June 1, 2018

Tomar, Portugal

Conference Chairs:

John L. Provis, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
Waltraud M. Kriven, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Cristina Leonelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
Aldo Boccaccini, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
Arie Van Riessen, Curtin University, Australia

Sunday, May 28, 2023

17:00 – 18:30	Conference Check-in
18:30 – 19:30	Welcome Reception with music
19:30 – 21:30	Opening Dinner

NOTES

- *Covid-19 precautions: Covid-19 has not gone away and we request that you be mindful of those who may be particularly vulnerable. Please bring your own test kits and masks. ECI will have a limited number of masks on hand. Masks are not required but we encourage you to use them particularly during poster sessions as there is typically a great deal of close-up discussion. If you are not feeling well, please remain in your room.*
- *Technical Sessions will be held in the Conference Center.*
- *Meals*

Breakfast in the breakfast room and outside deck;

Lunches – either at the beach or at the hotel – one’s choice. The hotel staff would like to get an idea of how many will be eating at the beach area. The beach eating area is covered and is quite close to the sea. One takes an elevator to get to the beach area and back. Once there, it is quite lovely and people hesitate to come back promptly.

Dinners are either in the dining room or outside patio (depending on what they are serving). It is not a large hotel and everything is close.
- *Speakers – Please have your presentation loaded onto the conference computer prior to the session start (preferably the day before).*
- *Speakers – Please leave at least 3-5 minutes for questions and discussion.*
- *Please do not smoke at any conference functions.*
- *Turn your mobile telephones to vibrate or off during technical sessions.*
- *After the conference, ECI will send an updated participant list to all participants. Please check your listing now and if it needs updating, you may correct it at any time by logging into your ECI account.*
- *Audiotaping, videotaping and photography of presentations are prohibited*

Monday, May 29, 2023

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast buffet

Session 1: Fundamental Chemistry

Session Chair: Waltraud M. Kriven

09:00 – 09:40

KEYNOTE

Current knowledge of geopolymers and AAMs network

Angel Palomo, Eduardo Torroja[†] Institute (CSIC), Madrid, Spain

Cristina Leonelli, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

09:40 – 10:00

Designing alkali-activated materials based on the precursor volume fraction and molar concentration of activator

Vlastimil Bílek Jr., Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic

10:00 – 10:20

Exploration of the phase composition of activated calcined clay-slag mixtures using ²⁷Al and ²⁹Si MAS NMR spectroscopy

Souayfan Faten, Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France

10:20 – 10:50

Coffee break

10:50 – 11:10

The origin of the acceleration period in alkali-activated fly ash

Luiz Miranda de Lima, TU Delft, Netherlands

11:10 – 11:30

Metakaolin particle size reduction and geopolymer composite modeling for higher strength

Waltraud M. Kriven, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

11:30 – 12:00

Discussion

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

Session 1: Fundamental Chemistry (continued)

Session Chair: Raudhatul Islam Chaerun

14:00 – 14:40

KEYNOTE

Organic ligands improve the reactivity of aluminosilicate precursors and accelerate AAM hardening

Juho Yliniemi, University of Oulu, Finland

14:40 – 15:00

Acid attacks on metakaolin based-geopolymers with recycled corundum: A study focused on the role of anions by NMR characterization

Giovanni Dal Poggetto, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

15:00 – 15:40

Coffee break

Monday, May 29, 2023 (continued)

Session 2: Composites

Session Chairs: Rania Derouiche & David Markusík

- 15:40 – 16:20 **KEYNOTE**
Recent developments in geopolymer composites and their potential applications
Waltraud M. Kriven, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- 16:20 – 16:40 **On the use of varied natural fibers as sustainable sources to tailor highly efficient geopolymer composite materials**
Ana Carolina Trindade, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- 16:40 – 17:00 **Recent advances on the mechanical properties of geopolymers through the design of hybrid particulate-fiber reinforced composites**
Ana Carolina Trindade, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- 17:00 – 17:20 **Development of gamma-ray and neutron radiation shielding using geopolymer-particulate composites**
Alexander Fields, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- 17:20 – 17:40 **Discussion**
- 17:40 – 19:30 Networking / Time for leisure
- 19:30 – 21:00 Dinner

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast buffet

Session 3: Cement/Concrete Performance

Session Chairs: Johanna Laukkanen and Byoungkwan Kim

09:00 – 09:40

KEYNOTE

Ancient binders before and after Roman “Opus Caementicium”

Gilberto Artioli, University di Padova, Italy

09:40 – 10:00

Success story of alkali-activated high calcium oxide fly ash concrete handling for cast in-situ road construction

Nawamonwan Sirima, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), Thailand

10:00 – 10:20

Geopolymer mortar with flash-calcined dredged sediment

Ali Alloul, IMT NORD EUROPE, France

10:20 – 10:50

Coffee break

10:50 – 11:10

Functional inorganic geopolymer coatings for different applications

Ameni Gharzouni, IRCER, France

11:10 – 11:30

Sustainability and multifunctionality for next-generation construction materials

Michael Di Mare, École de Technologie Supérieure, Canada

11:30 – 12:00

Discussion

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch

Session 4: Other Applications

Session Chairs: Farnaz Aghabeyk and Alexander Fields

14:00 – 14:40

KEYNOTE

Functional inorganic geopolymer coatings for different applications

Sylvie Rossignol, Limoges, France

14:40 – 15:00

Ash beneficiation for the enhancement of electrical transmission infrastructure

Kelley Reynolds-Clausen, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, South Africa

15:00 – 15:20

Fire resistant materials based on argilite or metakaolin as a refractory geopolymer

Sylvie Rossignol, IRCER UMR CNRS 7315, France

15:20 – 15:40

Discussion

15:40 – 16:10

Coffee break

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 (continued)

Session 5: Industrial Application/Standards

Session Chairs: Yangmei Yu & Rebecca Willson-Levy

16:10 – 16:50

KEYNOTE

The use of alkali activated materials in mining Applications

Cyril Attwell, ARC Innovations, South Africa

16:50 – 17:10

Geopolymer based brake pads

Enrico Casamassa, RAICAM Company, Italy

17:10 – 17:30

SMART geopolymers, an ERA-MIN project

Silviana Onisei, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Flash Poster Presentation

Session Chairs: Prihutami Pramesti and Ali Alloul

17:30 – 18:15

Posters from 101 to 110 (included) will be presented with 1 to 3 slides in 5 min.

18:15 – 19:30

Poster Session (All the posters will be discussed in the two poster sessions)

19:30 – 21:00

Dinner

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast

Session 8: Waste/Sorbents

Session Chairs: Giovanni Dal Poggetto and Ivana Krajnovic

09:00 – 09:40 **KEYNOTE**
Alkali-activated material used for immobilization of mine wastewater concentrate
Minna Sarkkinen, Tapojärvi, Finland

09:40 – 10:00 **Impact of calcium hydroxide on physical characteristics and leaching stability of metakaolin-based geopolymer waste form containing radioactive borate waste**
Byoungkwan Kim, Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), South Korea

10:00 – 10:20 **Development of geopolymer materials for sustainable design**
Laura Ricciotti, University of Campania, Italy

10:20 – 10:50 Coffee break

10:50 – 11:10 **A novel management concept for reverse osmosis reject waters: immobilization into alkali-activated aluminosilicate matrix**
Sima Kamali, University of Oulu, Finland

11:10 – 11:30 **Uptake of nickel with alkali-activated materials from mining wastewaters**
Johanna Laukkanen, University of Oulu, Finland

11:30 – 11:50 **Reactive metal/graphene oxide doping to fabricate porous geopolymers for arsenic removal**
Waltraud M. Kriven, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA

11:50 – 12:10 **Discussion**

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Session 8: Waste/Sorbents (continued)

Session Chairs: Hyeonseok Jee & Giulia Tamani

14:00 – 14:40 **KEYNOTE**
Geopolymers adsorbents: Production and use
Elettra Papa, CNR-ISSMC (former ISTEC), Italy

14:40 – 15:00 **Elaboration of geopolymer binders from phosphate mining waste rocks and their application in immobilizing simulated radionuclides Cs and Sr**
Sanae Sbi, University of Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco

15:00 – 15:20 **Adsorption and desorption of ammonium by the novel porous geopolymer granules**
Yangmei Yu, University of Oulu, Finland

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 (continued)

- 15:20 – 15:40 **Containment of Group 1 molten chloride salt using an amorphous self-healing geopolymer composite**
Patrick Keane, University of South Australia, Australia
- 15:40 – 16:00 **Effect of precursor and activator type on effectiveness of lignosulfonate plasticizer in alkali-activated materials**
David Markusík, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:30 **ROUND TABLE: “Why geopolymers are key components of a sustainable world”**
Moderator: Waltraud M. Kriven
Presenters: Cyril Attwell, Aldo R. Boccaccini, Claudio Ferone, Cristina Leonelli, Tero Luukkonen, Sylvie Rossignol.
- Flash Poster Presentation**
Session Chairs: Luiz Miranda De Lima & Gulsen Nazerian
- 17:30 – 18:15 Posters from 111 to 121 (included) will be presented with 1 to 3 slides in 5 min.
- 17:30 – 19:30 **Poster Session** (All the posters will be discussed in the two Poster Sessions)
- 19:30 – 21:30 Conference Banquet

Thursday, June 1, 2023

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast

Session 9: Valorisation/Raw Materials

Session Chairs: Michael Di Mare and Sima Kamali

09:00 – 09:40

KEYNOTE

Alkali activation for management of construction and demolition wastes coming from earthquake

Isabella Lancellotti, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

09:40 – 10:00

Effect of the progressive substitution of metakaolinite by metallurgical residues on the properties of phosphate cementitious materials

Rania Derouiche, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

10:00 – 10:20

Development of one-part geopolymers based on industrial waste

Rebecca Willson-Levy, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

10:20 – 10:50

Coffee break

10:50 – 11:10

Recycling of electric arc furnace slag from hydrogen-based iron production in cementitious binders

Vitalii Ponomar, University of Oulu, Finland

11:10 – 11:30

Modifying of expansive clay soils using alkali activated ESKOM dump ash

Phenyo Mvuyana, ESKOM, South Africa

11:30 – 11:50

New alkali-activated materials from extensive use of waste glass

Giulia Tameni, University of Padova, Italy

11:50 – 12:10

Alkali activated binders based on municipal solid waste Incineration bottom ash

Alex Maldonado-Alameda, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

12:10 – 12:30

The investigation of the potential of municipal solid waste incineration (MSWI) fly ash as a mineral resource

Farnaz Aghabeyk, TU Delft, Netherlands

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 20:00

Technical Excursion

20:15

Dinner

Friday, June 2, 2023

07:30 – 09:00 Breakfast

Session 9: Valorisation/Raw Materials (continued)

Session Chairs: Patrick Keane & Fabio Oliveira

09:00 – 09:40

KEYNOTE

Synthetic precursor to make alkali activated cements

Ana Fernández-Jiménez, IETcc-CSIC, Spain

09:40 – 10:00

Influence of the type of alkaline activator on the reactions and mechanical properties of autoclaved bauxite residue-based monoliths

Fábio Oliveira, KU Leuven, Belgium

10:00 – 10:50

Coffee Break

10:50 – 11:10

Mercury and cadmium immobilization in potassium-activated geopolymer: the effect of mixing design and heavy metals concentration

Pramesti Prihutami, Hokkaido University, Japan

11:10 – 11:30

Utilisation of Cs-contaminated Fukushima soil as natural pozzolan for embedding into k-alkali activated materials

Raudhatul Islam Chaerun, Hokkaido University, Japan

11:30 – 12:00

Discussion and closing remarks from the conference chairs

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch and departures

Poster Presentations

1. **On the effect of foaming agents on the porous structure and zeolite content of ceramic foams produced by geopolymer gel conversion**
Claudio Ferone, University Parthenope of Naples, Italy
2. **The effect of nano-silica on the performance of geopolymer concrete reinforced with polypropylene fiber**
Fadi Althoey, Najran University, Saudi Arabia
3. **Cork powdery industrial waste in metakaolin–geopolymer matrix**
Giovanni Dal Poggetto, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), Italy
4. **Textile reinforced cementitious composites with natural fibers and non-traditional cements – treatment of the fibers to reduce their swelling in water**
Gulsen Nazerian, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
5. **Insights on atomic ordering and reaction kinetics via *in situ* X-ray pair distribution function: High calcium vs low calcium systems**
Hyeonseok Jee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA
6. **Foundry sand alkali activation for sustainable construction**
Isabella Lancellotti, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
7. **Shrinkage of alkali-activated mortars intended for concrete repair**
Ivana Krajnović, Ghent University, Belgium
8. **Optimization of process parameters for the synthesis of geopolymer binders**
Aldo R. Boccaccini, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
9. **EXCEED Route: Lithium mining residues as secondary resources for construction materials through alkali activation**
Priyadharshini Perumal, University of Oulu, Finland
10. **WITHDRAWN**
11. **Antennas and absorbing materials based on geopolymers**
Sylvie Rossignol, Limoges, France
12. **AshCycle Project: Recovery of valuable components and preparation of alkali-activated materials from municipal solid waste, biomass, and sewage sludge ashes**
Tero Luukkonen, University of Oulu, Finland
13. **Class C fly ash activated by low alkalinity activator with controlled setting**
Weiliang Gong, Vitreous State Laboratory, Catholic University of America, USA
14. **KEOPS project: Research on sustainable high-added value alkali-activated concretes based on industrial waste**
Alex Maldonado-Alameda, CETIM, Spain
15. **Evaluation of mechanically activated kaolin as alkali-activated material precursor**
Alex Maldonado-Alameda, CETIM, Spain



Engineering Conferences International

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Calendar of ECI Conferences

Celebrating 60 years of international, interdisciplinary engineering conferences

2023

March 19-24	22AD	ELECTRIC FIELD ENHANCED PROCESSING OF ADVANCED MATERIALS III: COMPLEXITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES (Tomar, Portugal) R. Raj, University of Colorado at Boulder; Luis Perez-Maqueda, CICA, Spain
April 23-28	23AC	CELL CULTURE ENGINEERING XVIII (Cancun, Mexico) L. Palomares, IBT-UNAM; C. Goudar, Amgen; T. Wang, Roche
May 7-12	23AP	PYROLIQ II – 2023: Pyrolysis and Liquefaction of Biomass and Wastes (Hernstein, Austria) F. Berruti, ICFAR & Western University; A. Dufour, CNRS, ENSIC; M. Garcia-Perez, Washington State University; W. Prins, University of Ghent
May 14-17	23AU	2023 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY FOR ULTRA LARGE SCALE INTEGRATED CIRCUITS AND THIN FILM TRANSISTORS (ULSIC VS TFT 8) (Otaru (Sapporo), Japan) Y. Kuo, Texas A&M University
May 28-June 2	21AG	ALKALI ACTIVATED MATERIALS AND GEOPOLYMERS: SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND CERAMICS MADE UNDER AMBIENT CONDITIONS (Cetraro (Calabria), Italy) W.M. Kriven, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; C. Leonelli, Universita' degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia; J.L. Provis, University of Sheffield; A.R. Boccaccini, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
July 16-21	21AV	SIXTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRESS-ASSISTED CORROSION DAMAGE (Washington, DC area) A.K. Vasudevan, Office of Naval Research (retired); R. Latanision, Exponent, Inc.; H. Holroyd, Luxfer (retired); F. Friedersdorf, Luna Innovations Inc.
September 10-13	23AT	SINGLE USE TECHNOLOGIES VI (Boston, USA) M. Barbaroux, Sartorius; S. Kane, Takeda; S. Yoon, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
September 17-21	23-AH	INTERNATIONAL HYDROGEN CONFERENCE: UNDERSTANDING HYDROGEN-MATERIALS INTERACTIONS (Park City, Utah) M. Martin, NIST; J. Burns, University of Virginia
September 17-21	23AB	BIO-CHAR III (Tomar, Portugal) F. Berruti, Western University, Canada; D. Chiamonti, Politecnico di Torino and RE-CORD, Italy; S. Fiore, Politecnico di Torino, Italy; M. Garcia-Perez, Washington State University, USA; O. Masek, University of Edinburgh, UK
October 1-6	23AE	ENZYME ENGINEERING XXVII (Singapore) Ang Ee Lui, Singapore Institute of Food and Biotechnology Innovation, A*STAR, Singapore; Li Zhi, National University of Singapore; Yan Feng, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Oct. 15-19	21AO	ADVANCES IN OPTICS FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY, MEDICINE AND SURGERY (Tomar, Portugal) M. Niedre, Northeastern University; F. Leblond, Polytechnique Montreal

2024

January 7-12	23-AI	INNOVATIVE MATERIALS & METHODS FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING II (IM2AM) (Tomar Portugal) D. Schmidt (Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST); N. Gupta, New York University; E. Eastwood, DOE; B.G. Compton; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; G.M. Gladysz, Los Alamos National Laboratory
February 4-8	24AT	ADVANCING MANUFACTURE OF CELL AND GENE THERAPIES VIII (Coronado, CA) F. Masri, Cell & Gene Therapy Catapult; C. Yeager, Georgia Institute of Technology; G. Maheshwari, BMS; J. Moscariello, BMS
February TBA	21AD	ADVANCED MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGY VIII: ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, HEALTH AND NEW FRONTIERS (Casablanca, Morocco) J. Hestekin, University of Arkansas; U. Beusche, W.L. Gore, Inc.; D. Bhattacharyya, University of Kentucky
April 4-7	20AP	DELIVERY OF NUCLEIC ACID THERAPEUTICS II: BIOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT (Siracusa, Sicily) L. Sepp-Lorenzino, Intellia Therapeutics; S. F. Dowdy, University of California San Diego School of Medicine; M. Stanton, Generational Bio
April 14-19	24AI	ULTRA-HIGH TEMPERATURE CERAMICS: MATERIALS FOR EXTREME ENVIRONMENT APPLICATIONS V (Sicily, Italy) D. Sciti, Institute for Science and Technology of Ceramics, CNR; L. Silvestroni and F. Monteverde, ISSMC-CNR; J. Binner, Univ. of Birmingham; R. Savino, Univ. of Naples; G. Thompson, Univ. of Alabama; E. Wuchina, Naval Surface Warfare Center
April TBA	24AK	MICROBIAL ENGINEERING III (TBA) E. Keshavarz-Moore, University College London; T. Sauer, Sanofi
April/May	20AF	SYNTACTIC AND COMPOSITE FOAMS (Riga, Latvia) G.M. Gladysz and K.K. Chawla, University of Alabama at Birmingham; A. R. Boccaccini, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; M. Fukushima, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
May 12-17	24AH	NANOTECHNOLOGY IN MEDICINE III: ENABLING NEXT GENERATION THERAPIES (Tomar, Portugal) K. Rege, Arizona State University; S. De Smedt, Ghent University S. Varghese, Duke University
May 19-24	24AA	VACCINE TECHNOLOGY IX (Los Cabos, Mexico) C. Lutsch, Sanofi Pasteur; L. Lua, University of Queensland; F. Godia, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; T. Tagmyer, Merck
June TBA	24AS	TRANSITION OF ENERGY SYSTEMS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY (Savanger, Norway) S. De, S. Bandyopadhyay, IIT, Bombay; M. Assadi, University of Savanger
July 21-25	24AM	BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR ENGINEERING XXIII (Dublin, Ireland) M. O'Malley, University of California at Santa Barbara; B. Pflieger, University of Wisconsin
Sept/Oct	24AW	WATER (Europe) D. Hunkeler, Aqua+Tech;
Oct 6-11	24AN	NANOMECHANICAL TESTING IN MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IX (Sicily, Italy) M. Sebastiani, Rome TRE University
Oct 20-24	24AB	INTEGRATED CONTINUOUS BIOMANUFACTURING VI (USA, Canada or Panama) A. Azevedo, Instituto Superior Técnico; A. Noyes, CodiakBio;; K. Brower, Sanofi

Engineering Conferences International

Engineering Conferences International (ECI) is a not-for-profit global engineering conferences program that has served the engineering/scientific community since 1962 as successor program to Engineering Foundation Conferences. ECI has received recognition as a 501(c)3 organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and is incorporated in the State of New York as a not-for-profit corporation.

The program has been developed and is overseen by volunteers both on the international Board of Directors and international Conferences Committee. More than 1,900 conferences have taken place to date. The conferences program is administered by a professional staff and the conferences are designed to be self-supporting.

ECI Mission

To serve the engineering/scientific community with international, interdisciplinary, leading edge engineering research conferences

ECI Purposes

The advancement of engineering arts and sciences by providing a forum for the discussion of advances in the field of science and engineering for the good of mankind by identification and administration of international interdisciplinary conferences

To work with engineering, scientific and social science societies and the interested general public to jointly sponsor conferences and to take other actions that will foster complementary programming.

To initiate conferences that will have a significant impact on engineering education, research practice and/or development.

ECI Encouragement of New Conference Topics

The ECI Conferences Committee invites you to suggest topics and leaders for additional conferences and encourages you to submit a proposal for an ECI conference.

Ideally, proposals should be submitted from 18 to 24 months in advance of the conference although the staff can work on a shorter timeline.

The traditional format for an ECI conference is registration Sunday afternoon with technical sessions held each morning and evening through Thursday or Friday noon. Afternoons are used for informal gatherings, poster sessions, field trips, subgroup meetings and relaxation. This format has served well to build important professional networks in many areas.

ECI welcomes proposals for shorter conferences and for conferences which span weekends in order to reduce the number of working days participants are away from their offices.

ECI Works With You

ECI works with conference chairs in two complementary ways. First, an experienced member of the Conferences Committee acts as your technical liaison from the proposal stage through the conference itself. He or she is always available to consult with you on any conference issue.

Second, after your proposal has been approved by the Conferences Committee, the ECI staff will assume responsibility for the administration of the conference.

Your primary responsibilities will be recruiting the organizing committee, developing the technical program and securing third-party funding necessary to support the travel of key speakers.

The responsibilities of ECI's "full service" staff include -- but are not limited to -- the following:

- Recommend, negotiate, contract and make substantial deposits for housing, meals, meeting space, A/V equipment and tours.
- Maintain web sites for the conference and for submission of abstracts.
- Publicize via electronic and print media.
- Administer all finances including grants, contributions and purchase orders. (ECI makes grant funds available as soon as a grant is approved.) There is no need for chairs to set up a conference bank account or file tax returns for their conference.
- Process all applications and registrations.
- Produce bound program/abstracts book.
- Contract for the publication of print or electronic proceedings, if any.
- Provide on-site staff during the conference.

For more information, please contact the ECI Director at Barbara@engconfintl.org