

Guest Editorial

The special issues of *Composite Interfaces* are devoted to the publication of selected papers presented at the 15th European Conference on Composite Materials (ECCM15, <http://www.eccm15.org/>) held in Venice, Italy in June 2012. Chairman of the Conference was Prof. Marino Quaresimin (University of Padova), and Co-Chairmen were Prof. Valter Carvelli (Polytechnic of Milano), Prof. Alessandro Pegoretti (University of Trento), and Dr Nicola Trevisan (Veneto Nanotech). The Organizing Committee was coordinated by Prof. Michele Zappalorto (University of Padova).

The Conference was attended by more than 1,500 delegates from five continents. As expected, particularly large have been the attendance from European countries, such as France (172), Germany (148), UK (143), Italy (124), and Spain (75), but a relevant number of participants also came from Japan (104), USA (74), and Korea (57). To such a wide interest for the event surely contributed the sponsorships and patronages from 26 technical and scientific Associations from all-over the world.

More than 2,000 abstracts were received. Among them, about 980 oral and more than 330 poster presentations were selected. Through a careful selection of the contributions, the Scientific Committee was able to design a high-level program covering the most relevant areas of science and technology of composite materials. The scientific program was organized in 58 thematic sessions with invited lectures of internationally recognized experts and 75 general sessions. We sincerely thank all members of the Scientific Committee for the valuable revision work, and the Organizing Committee members and all the students involved in various roles in the numerous activities required to run a huge conference such as ECCM15.

The overall scientific level of the Conference was enhanced by 4 plenary and 8 keynote lectures. In the opening plenary lecture, Prof. Ramesh Talreja (Texas A&M University – USA) described a new approach to design composite structure, taking the manufacturing defects into account. Prof. Karl Schulte (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, Germany) presented a comprehensive overview of the advantages of using nanocomposites as matrices for structural composites. In the third plenary lecture Prof. Masaki Hojo (Kyoto University, Japan) focused his attention on the damage mechanisms for delamination. Finally, Stefan Klaus Nothdurtfer of Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Italy) illustrated the developing process of the new Lamborghini Aventador.

We really appreciated the enthusiastic collaboration of the Editor-in-Chief of *Composite Interfaces*, Prof. Hatsuo Ishida (Case Western Reserve University, USA), and his impressive efficiency in coordinating the peer-review process of the selected manuscripts.

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