

Announcement

World Forum on Crystallization, Filtration and Drying
WFCFD

**International Workshop
on
Crystallization, Filtration and Drying**

**February 23-25, 2006
Mumbai, India**

The Mumbai University Institute of Chemical Technology has launched “World Forum for Crystallization, Filtration and Drying (WFCFD)” under the leadership of its Director Professor J. B. Joshi. The first International Workshop on Crystallization, Filtration and Drying (IWCFD) was conducted under his leadership during 23-25th February at UICT with true international participation. Eminent leaders from across the globe descended to grace this occasion and share their expertise. Notable amongst them was Professor Arun S. Mujumdar of the National University of Singapore, who is considered worldwide as the “Drying-Guru” for his outstanding contributions to research and development of industrial drying and for the development of drying R&D as a multi-disciplinary area for academic research. Incidentally, Professor Mujumdar is a Distinguished Alumnus of UICT having contributed immensely to the cause of promotion of Drying R&D on a true global scale while working as Professor of Chemical Engineering at McGill University, Montreal, Canada from 1973 to 2000. Presently, he has his base in National University of Singapore in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He has been instrumental in encouraging drying R&D activities at UICT, presenting and organizing related workshops and bring the Asia-Pacific Drying conference to India in December 2005.

Professor Allan Myerson, Provost, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA and Professor Joachim Ulrich, President of the European Federation of Chemical Engineers’ Working party of Crystallization and Professor A. B. Pandit, delivered state of art technology discourses in the area of industrial crystallization. In today’s highly competitive world and the requirement of a specific drug in a highly desired polymorphic form for its efficacy was the main focus of the deliberations during the international workshop. Large number of pharmaceutical industries who were present during this intensive three days technical program would benefit for years to come. Professor Gadre, a renowned theoretical chemist from the University of Pune emphasized principles of polymorph predictions using quantum mechanical theory. The second part of the program focused on the recent advances in industrial filtration. Here, Dr. Patrick Mueller of Dr. M AG Switzerland, Dr. Bob Conway of 3M CUNO, USA and Professor Roger Nicoud of Novasep, France deliberated on several issues related to industrial filtration including the

use of zeta carbon as the filter media for obtaining high quality parental drugs. Mr. Magan Khakharia and Nilesh Badani, Indian representatives of Swiss and USA companies played a major role in the success of this workshop.

Professor Mujumdar and Dr. Thorat provided overviews of various types of industrial dryers, their characteristics, selection criteria and also recent studies on new drying techniques being investigated extensively at UICT. UICT is now a major drying R&D center in India.

The highlight of the first International Workshop on Crystallization, Filtration and Drying (IWCDFD) was the enthusiastic participation of equipment manufactures and analytical service providers in the exhibition. Notably amongst them were: Tara International, HL Engineers, Labultima, Gmm Pfaudler, Pan-Asia, Sharpplex, Shirsat Electronics, Microfilt India Ltd. and Nishotech systems pvt ltd.

For sustainable growth of the Indian chemical and pharmaceutical industries, the three pillars must work hand in hand and according to Professor B. N. Thorat, the founder vice-president of this forum, these three pillars are academia, engineers who design and fabricate the equipment and the end users, i.e industry. UICT has a long tradition of being associated with Indian chemical and allied industries for their growth and the onus of taking India into 21st century and to fulfill the dreams of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DirectorGeneral-CSIR, of India as a re-emerging superpower in the area of science and technology, UICT will continue to play a lead role. One company which stands out amongst the rest is M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd., who magnanimously supported this event along with M/s. Atul Limited.

Overall IWCDFD was a major success. If there was any negative aspect to it, it was that only about half those who wanted to participate, could be admitted to the event due to lack of space in the auditorium.

Finally, Dr. Thorat announced that all those who participated in IWSID2004 and ISCFD will be given a two-year complimentary membership in WFCDFD.

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