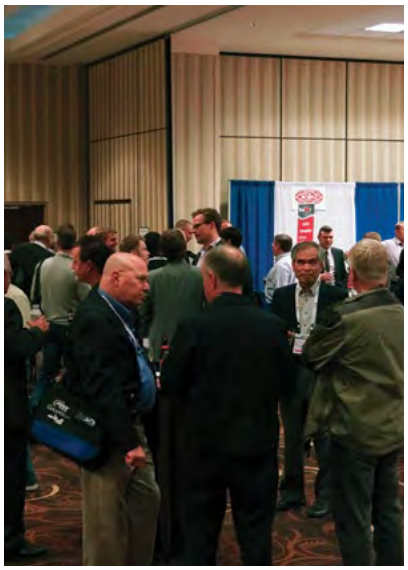

GALVATECH 2015 AND CHS²

TORONTO, ONT., CANADA

The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) was pleased to help organize two major international steel forums: the 10th International Conference on Zinc and Zinc Alloy Coated Steel Sheet (Galvatech) and the 5th International Conference on Hot Sheet Metal Forming of High-Performance Steel (CHS^2), at the Sheraton Centre Toronto in Toronto, Ont., Canada, 31 May–4 June 2015.

The event in Toronto represented the first time that the conferences had been co-located, as well as the first time that CHS^2 had been held in North America. The conferences attracted a combined 605 attendees from 26 countries.

Galvatech is the premier international forum for the presentation and discussion of new and emerging technologies for processing and performance of zinc-coated steel sheet. Since 1989, Galvatech has been held every three years, with the location rotating between Japan, Europe and North America. The time frame was modified in 2011 to be on a two-year cycle with an emerging market country in the rotation. AIST had previously served as the conference organizer at the 2004 event held in Chicago, Ill., USA.

The University of Kassel in Germany and Luleå University of Technology in Sweden established the Swedish-German Centre of Excellence for Hot Sheet Metal Forming of High-Performance Steel — a unique, worldwide competence network to meet the future challenges of hot sheet forming technology. One of the network activities involves organizing the biannual CHS^2 conference. With four very successful conferences since the initial event in 2008, CHS^2 has grown into the leading platform for scientific exchange in press-hardened steel (PHS) technology, constituting the most important meeting point for the international scientific community in the field.

Galvatech 2015 attracted 346 attendees and featured 137 presentations from 450 authors representing 20 countries. After a Sunday evening welcome reception, the program began with plenary lectures that detailed regional galvanizing developments. The lectures were given by Wang Li, Baoshan Iron and Steel Co.; Sung-Ho Park, POSCO; Motohide Mori, Toyota Motor Corp.; Gerhard Angeli and Josef Faderl, voestalpine Stahl GmbH; and Frank Goodwin, International Zinc Association, and Eduardo Silva, U. S. Steel Research and Technology Center.

Over the course of three days, Galvatech offered 30 individual sessions, with topics including automotive applications, process technology, corrosion performance and advanced high-strength steel (AHSS) galvanizing.

CHS^2 and Galvatech attendees had the option of attending any of the respective conference sessions. There were special crossover sessions, including Zinc-Based Coatings for Press-Hardened Steels I & II.

"The success of Galvatech 2015 confirmed its position as the world's leading galvanized sheet technology conference. The current hot topics of this field — galvanizing of advanced steels, new zinc-based coatings, product applications developments, and recent advances in galvanizing line equipment and operations — were all comprehensively covered in multiple sessions," said Frank Goodwin, director, technology and market development, International Zinc Association. "The coordination with CHS^2 was especially valuable for presentation of the latest advances in zinc-coated hot press forming technologies."

The CHS^2 conference featured 83 presentations from 322 authors representing 26 countries, with 259 attendees. By working with AIST, CHS^2 was able to receive valuable exposure. The 2015 conference had the largest number of abstracts and papers received of any of the CHS^2 events.

CHS^2's program also began in earnest on Monday morning with plenary lectures from William Joost, U.S. Department of Energy, and Del Matharoo, Cosma International Group of Magna International. CHS^2 offered 24 sessions, along with two individual tutorials from Dr. Kurt Steinhoff, University of Kassel, and Prof. Dr. Mats Oldenburg, Luleå University of Technology.

The conferences finished up Thursday with a trip to nearby Hamilton, Ont., Canada, for plant tours of ArcelorMittal Dofasco Inc. and U. S. Steel Canada — Hamilton Works. Both tours were available to all attendees.

"In PHS technology, major problems are always accompanied by minor experience! One of the most valuable things to do when moving toward uncharted technological territory therefore is to be sufficiently prepared by building up comprehensive knowledge in time. In this particular sense the very successful CHS^2 2015 conference was a really eye-opening event!"

— Prof. Dr. Kurt Steinhoff, University of Kassel

AIST offers special thanks to Ian O'Reilly of ArcelorMittal and U. S. Steel's Peter Badgley for their help with the tour logistics.

All conference attendees were invited to a reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame in downtown Toronto on Monday night. The reception offered attendees a chance to explore the history of Canada's national pastime, as well as the international flavor of today's game. The Hockey Hall of Fame is home to the Stanley Cup, which allowed attendees a memorable photo opportunity. Thank you to Foen and Iwatini Corp. for sponsoring the banquet, and Samwooeco for sponsoring the conference water bottles.

In addition to the technical program, 32 companies exhibited at the combined Galvatech and CHS^2 exposition. Open daily during conference hours, the exposition offered companies a chance to demonstrate their newest technologies, make new contacts and re-establish old ones.

The success of Galvatech and CHS^2 was due to the hard work of the organizers, specifically Frank Goodwin of the International Zinc Association and Joseph McDermid of McMaster University, for Galvatech; and Prof. Steinhoff and Prof. Dennis Fuss of University of Kassel, Mats Oldenburg and Braham Prakash of Luleå University of Technology, and Paul Belanger from GM Automotive, for CHS^2.

The 11th edition of Galvatech will take place in Japan in November 2017. Discussions are under way for bringing CHS^2 back to North America for its sixth meeting in June 2017. ✦