

GEOHERMAL CONFERENCES IN EUROPE

EGC2003 AND IGC2003

Two important geothermal conferences were recently held in Europe: the European Geothermal Conference (EGC2003) in Szeged, Hungary (25-30 May) and the International Geothermal Conference (IGC2003) in Reykjavik, Iceland (14-17 September). This issue of the Quarterly Bulletin will feature several papers from these two meetings. The choice of papers was difficult, thus, those selected represent some unusual topics that are normally not discussed elsewhere in the geothermal literature.

EGC2003 was a geothermal conference that is held every four years in Europe; this one being hosted by the Hungarian Geothermal Association. This conference was attended by 161 people from 28 countries, mostly European, but also had attendees from Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand and the United States. Over 100 papers were presented, including approximately 30 poster presentations. A number of country update papers were presented as well as an overview paper on "Status of Geothermal Energy Amongst the World's Energy Sources" by I. B. Fridleifsson. Many papers covered two topics of particular current interest, on the environmental aspects and sustainability of geothermal energy. Other topics of major interest included the utilization and reinjection of cold fluids and thermal storage, geothermal heat pumps, proposed and existing power plants in Europe, and direct utilization of geothermal energy, especially for space and greenhouse heating. A majority of these papers were recently published in Vol. 32, No. 4/6 (August/December 2003) of *Geothermics*. A CD-ROM with all the papers is available from Dr. Franciska H. Kármán at: fanni@chemres.hu. Two papers from this conference are presented in this issue of the Quarterly Bulletin:

"EIMY (Energy in My Yard) - a concept for practical usage of renewable energy from local sources" by H. Niitsuma and T. Nakata.

"Titanium in the Geothermal Industry" by R. Thomas.

IGC2003 was a geothermal conference held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations University's Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP) in Iceland and hosted by the Geothermal Association of Iceland. The conference theme was "Multiple Integrated Uses of Geothermal Resources." Approximately 50 former graduates of the UNU-GTP attended the conference, representing 18 countries. The technical part of the conference stretched over three days with approximately 74 papers being presented by

authors from 19 countries. Most notable was a report for the first time from Ireland, on their extensive geothermal heat pump installations, and reports from other non-traditional geothermal countries such as Uganda, Iran, Tunisia and Mongolia. A wide variety of papers were presented covering all aspects of geothermal utilization, from using low-temperature resources for geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps, to high-temperature for power generation and industrial uses. Over 90 papers are available in the 655-page *Proceedings*, edited by Dr. Einar Tjörvi Eliasson and Páll Ingólfsson from the organizing committee, at: ete@jardhitafelag.is. A future issue of *Geothermics* will include many of the papers from this conference. Four papers from the conference are presented in this issue of the Quarterly Bulletin:

"Recent Large Scale Ground-Source Heat Pump Installations in Ireland" by S. O'Connell and S. F. Cassidy.

"District Heating for Holiday Homes" by J. S. Fridriksson

"The Drying of Fish and Utilization of Geothermal Energy: the Icelandic Experience" by S. Arason.

"Meeting the Annual Heat Demand" by T. Jóhannesson and T. Ólafsson.

I would like to thank Dr. Franciska H. Kármán, chairperson of EGC2003, and Dr. Einar Tjörvi Eliasson, chairperson of IGC2003, for allowing the Geo-Heat Center to publish selected papers from their conference in this issue of the Geo-Heat Center Quarterly Bulletin. The author attended both conference and was impressed with the organization and hospitality shown by the organizers. A number of field trips to various geothermal projects in the area were also part of the conferences, illustrating the many diverse uses of geothermal energy. The conferences were a tremendous success, bringing together many geothermal experts from all over the world - ideas were exchanged, problems discussed and contacts made for future work. This will hopefully keep geothermal in the "spotlight" and promote future geothermal development throughout the world.

John W. Lund
Editor