

Dear readers,

Simultaneously with the release of this issue, the 45th professional and scientific international symposium of Croatian society for fuels and lubricants, Fuels 2012, is held in Medulin on October 18 and 19. A very large number of presentations has been submitted covering broad and compelling topics, which are corresponding to the actual situation in petroleum refining industry. The most numerous are works from Croatian company INA Ltd, MOL Plc. from Hungary and the Slovak Slovnaft Plc, followed by others, among which also the works from companies Grace, Afton Chemical Ltd. and Axens. Also, the scientific institutions are represented, the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Sarajevo, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, as well as University of Pannonia, Veszprém. A detailed report from the Symposium will be published in the next issue. On this occasion we acknowledge the organizing committee and its president Neda Marčec Rahelić as well as the expert scientific committee and its president Roberta Gorup for their efforts and securing the plentiful Symposium program.

In June, 18 to 22, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the world largest scientific and professional meeting and exhibition of chemical engineering, environmental protection and biotechnology AICHEM 2012 was held. During the Congress 900 lectures were held, whereat the exhibition space amounted 140 000 m² of covered space where 4000 exhibitors from 50 countries (three of which from Croatia) within the 14 thematic units have presented them-self. Highlights and messages from this event are as follows: (i) the chemical industry has overcome the crisis and exceeded the indicators from 2008, (ii) there is a substantial increase of the insured and planned investments in the chemical industry, besides Asian countries (China, India, countries of the Arabian Gulf), also in Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, especially in the United States, (iii) a key future component and the basis for the further development of chemical engineering will be biotechnology. Hence, as the main topic of the whole program was appointed and featured bioeconomy (at AICHEM 2009 was a nanotechnology), which is, also, very important for the area of fuels and lubricants, and therefore, will be presented in more detail in next issue of *Fuels and Lubricants*. In line with this direction of development is the announcement of a major research program of the European Union dedicated to the artificial photosynthesis, as it was presented by professor Ulrich Schubert, chairman of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) in 14th *Ružicka days* in Vukovar.

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