

IFAC on control



Dr. Jan-Christopher Schrag and Dr. Hans Jürgen Schrag of Oschatz GmbH got the Fray International Sustainability Award at the 15th IFAC

The 15th IFAC symposium on Control, Optimization and Automation in Mining, Minerals and Metals Processing held in San Diego, California in August 2013 had as a general theme the close relationship of sustainability and control, optimisation and automation. One of the principles of sustainability is "doing more with less" which is also one of the goals of control, optimisation and automation (F. Kongoli: preface of the book "Automation"). This relationship was explored in detail in the symposium, organized as SIPS 2013

The technical program covered all aspects of control, optimisation and automation. It also covered specific topics on metal and materials recycling processes, waste treatment and environmental issues. Plenary presentations covered processing industries, mining, sensors, mineral processing and bio processing. There were 75 peer reviewed papers and numerous posters from 36 countries. The articles CD is available at <http://www.flogen.org/books/>. The symposium was organised by FLOGEN STARS OUTREACH.

Reader Reply No.51

Concentrates meet LME

The first Metal Bulletin Copper Concentrates Conference took place on 3 - 4 October 2013 prior to LME Week with around 70 international delegates attending. Day one saw Paulo Araujo give an overview of Vale's Brazilian mining operations schedule. Dale Choi of Mongolian Mining & Metals Research said mining represented 20% of GDP, 85% of investment, and 90% of Mongolian exports. An Oyu Tolgoi underground commercial terms agreement is hoped for by December 2013.

Toshiaki Sato of Pan Pacific Copper said no profit from current TC/RCs was possible due to increased labour and other costs. PPC has commissioned special 'combo' vessels to transport sulphuric acid to Chile and return with concentrate. Mario Lorencatto of 'New Parapanema' detailed an extensive investment programme in new cathode, rod, wire, tube and plate production plants, with parallels to be drawn with Aurubis. A new



Delegate refreshment and networking area at the MB Copper Concentrates Conference 2013 with (Inset) Gu Liangmin of China Minmetals giving his presentation.

management team and a strategic focus on copper are driving the activity. Gu Liangmin of China Minmetals Corporation said China currently has 21 concentrate (total 200 kt) and 15 SX-EW projects (total 310 kt) overseas, with the totals set to rise to 625 kt and 400 kt respectively by 2015. Day two covered regulations and TC/RC pricing options.

Reader Reply No.52

Home of African copper

The recently concluded African Copper IV Conference held in Lusaka during September was a Metal Bulletin initiative to focus on the huge opportunity African countries, especially DR Congo and Zambia, can offer to the world of copper. Around 70 participants from various businesses including Brochot Hydromet joined the conference, preceded by a site tour to Kansanshi mine of First Quantum at Solwezi. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon. Yamfwa Mukanga, Minister of Mines, Energy & Development,

Government of Zambia, who spoke about the newly formulated Mineral Resources Development Policy, infrastructure and energy issues.

The conference was divided in five sessions starting with the Copperbelt region's potential in a global context and followed by emerging projects, geological studies, logistics and energy challenges, taxation and financing issues of the copper mining industry. Fifteen speakers from various industry sectors participated.

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