



ROMPHYSCHEM-14, June 2-4, 2010: the crisis edition

At the beginning of 2010 the effects of global economic crisis eventually reached Roumania: people laid-off, lower salaries and pensions, increasing protest movements.

Ash clouds blasted out from Iceland's Eyjafjoell volcano caused travel chaos to most important of European airports.

Bad weather with thunderstorms and heavy rains affected most of the Central Europe with flooding and infrastructure damage.

However, the 14th edition of the International Conference of Physical Chemistry took place in Bucharest, supervised by the Roumanian Academy and the National Authority of Scientific Research. It was co-organized by "Ilie Murgulescu" Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Roumanian Academy, Department of Physical Chemistry of the Bucharest University and Alpha Association. With a redesigned scientific and organizing structure, the 14th edition of the conference took advantage of the generous hosting provided by the Roumanian Academy and was developed along 6 sections and one satellite workshop:

1. Theoretical chemistry. Molecular spectroscopy.
2. Chemical kinetics and thermodynamics.
3. Surface phenomena. Catalysis. Colloids.
4. Electrochemistry. Corrosion. Ionic liquids.
5. Materials science. Chemical engineering.
6. Biophysical and environmental and green chemistry.
7. Workshop: Sol-gel science and technology

With over 300 participants from Roumania and 17 foreign countries (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Moldova, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA), 7 plenary lectures, 35 keynote lectures and 293 posters the conference obviously surpassed the "crisis expectations".

The following sponsors contributed to the organization of this event: RONEXPRIM, AMEX, AGILROM SCIENTIFIC, ANKERSMID, ANDREESCU LABOR& SOFT, ABL&E JASCO Roumania.

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This somewhat unexpected attendance level of researchers from Roumania and emerging countries, as well as the quality of presented scientific contributions (partially illustrated by the ones published within this issue of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*) may be regarded as the expression of the most important qualities of the ex-communist scientific researcher, the ones that allowed his survival over even harder times: stubbornness and persistence.

"Like a bridge over troubled waters", the 2010 edition of the International Conference of Physical Chemistry, ROMPHYSCHEM-14, offered a look forward to the future with tempered and steady optimism.

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