

## MATERIALS 2010: A REPORT

Yaseen Iqbal

Materials 2010 (December 01-03, 2010) was the first conference of its kind on Materials Processing, Characterization, Properties and their Economic Potential organized by the Pakistan Materials Society at Materials Research Laboratory, University of Peshawar. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Science Foundation and Materials Research Laboratory sponsored the 3-Day event.

Mr. Khalid Khan, ex-director S&T, KPK facilitated the 3-day conference in an excellent manner. The inaugural session was chaired by eminent scientist and educationist Prof. Rasul Jan, Vice Chancellor, Malakand University, KPK. This session was honoured by Mr. Qazi Asad, Minister for Higher Education, KPK as the Chief Guest. The registration disk was opened at 8.00 AM and the program started with recitation from the Holy Qura'n. Prof. Fazal-ur-Rahman Sethi, Director Institute of Physics & Electronics, welcomed the guests and delegates and termed the event a historic one.

The first talk of the session was given by the young scientist, Dr. Shahid Ali on the Transport Mechanism in Transition Metals. The second talk was delivered by another young scientist Dr. Aurangzeb Khan on the Raman Spectroscopy of ZnO-nanostructures. Both the talks were highly technical and impressed the audience. The next talk was delivered by the Principal organizer of the event, Prof. Yaseen Iqbal. He introduced the aims and short and long term goals of the event and educated the audience about the significance of Materials Science and Engineering in the economic development

of a country. The title of his talk was Materials-Key to economic development.

The chief guest highly appreciated the activity and evinced keen interest in promoting research culture in the region. He promised to do whatever he could to allocate maximum funds for higher education in the forthcoming provincial budget. The chairman of the session, Prof. Rasul Jan appreciated the continuous efforts of Prof. Iqbal in introducing and developing a research culture in Materials Science and stressed upon the need for the establishment of institutions in the region, and in particular, a Department of Materials Science in the University of Peshawar.

The first technical session was chaired Prof. M Riaz Khan, Dean, Faculty of Numerical & Physical Sciences, University of Peshawar while Prof. Fazle Ahmad Khalid, Pro-Rector, GIKI honoured the event as the chief guest. The session was started with the keynote lecture by Prof. Fazle Ahmad Khalid on the Processing & Characterization of Diamond based Composites who educated the audience with the immense academic and applied significance of nanotechnology. Mr. Abdul Mateen (PhD Scholar, GIKI) presented his talk on the Fracture Toughness Wear WC Coatings.

Renowned economist and ex-Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar, Prof. Abdul Mateen presented his plenary talk on the Economic potential of the Local and National Mineral Wealth and emphasized upon the need to promote education and research for the economic development of the country. He warned

the audience of the current and imminent global economic challenges and termed Materials Science a key to the economic development of the region and country.

The chief guest appreciated the efforts of the organizers for holding such a useful event. He promised every possible support for such events and stressed upon the need for making it a regular activity. The chairman of the session, Prof. M Riaz Khan termed the event a great success for his faculty and university and promised for extending every possible support for organizing such activities in future.

About 35 abstracts were submitted for oral presentations and 15 for poster presentations. The number and quality of the abstracts indicated the exponentially growing science community in the field.

Various sessions were chaired by senior academicians and scientists. Prof. Fazal-ur-Rahman Sethi, Dr. Daniel Pirzada, Prof. Rafiullah Khan, Prof. S Tajjamul Hussain, Mr. Khalid Khan, Mr. Mazhar Sajjad, Prof. Farooq Swati and Engr. Wazir Muhammad chaired various sessions in the 3-Day Conference.

The closing ceremony was held on December 03, 2010 with Prof. Azmat Hayat Khan, VC, University of Peshawar in chair and renowned scientist and ex-rector Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Science & Technology (GIKI), Prof.

Abdullah Sadiq as the chief guest. Prof. Iqbal appreciated the tremendous support extended by GIKI, PINSTECH, Quad-i-Azam University, Islamabad and Centre of Excellence in Physical Chemistry, UOP. He thanked the chief guest for his continuous support and encouragement. He termed material science & engineering as the science and skill to transform the

minerals discovered by geologists, mined by the mining engineers, processed by process engineers into marketable products by utilizing the knowledge of physics and chemistry. He stressed upon the need to establish materials science institutions for the economic development of the country. Mr Khalid Khan presented his keynote talk on Material Industry: Economic & Environmental Issues which covered important issues the current status of the country and highlighted the issues responsible for poor economic performance of the country. Dr. Ali Hussain presented his talk on Pb-Free  $\text{Bi}_{0.5}(\text{Na}_{0.78}\text{K}_{0.22})_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3$  Ceramics. The chief guest, Prof. Abdullah Sadiq, talked on the role of the academic institutions in preparing students for the future responsibilities. Prof. Sadiq emphasized upon the need to streamline the academic activities in accordance with the needs of the society and the role of the medium of instruction in educating and training the youth. The chairman of the session, Prof. Azamat Hayat Khan, promised every possible support for developing a true research culture in the university. He advised the principal organizer to submit a PC1 for the establishment of the department of materials science and promised every possible support in this connection. At the end of the session prizes were distributed among the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position holders in the poster competition. Prof. Fazle Baqi (retired professor, Islamia College Peshawar) was given a special prize for his lifelong meritorious services in ICP. Prof. Fazal-ur-Rahman Sethi, Director, institute of Physics & Electronics, UOP thanked the delegates, guests and all the contributors whose untiring efforts made the conference a real success and declared the closure of the event.