



WTC III Technical Program Attracts Interest from over 60 Countries!

The World Tribology Congress III has received tremendous response from the international tribology community. Abstracts from 61 countries were submitted for consideration in the technical program. Over 65% of the submissions were from countries outside of the United States representing each of the seven continents. "We are extremely pleased with the level of interest from around the globe. These results underscore our commitment to making WTC III truly a world-class event," said Dr. Josiah Knight of Duke University, a member of the WTC III Oversight Committee.

As envisioned by the International Tribology Council (ITC), WTC III is meant to bring together practitioners and researchers from around the globe including participants from over 33 cooperating associations. Early in the planning stages, WTC III Organizers were keen on realizing that goal. In August of 2004, an International Advisory Board (<https://www.conferencetoolbox.org/WTC05/IAB.cfm>) was formed consisting of twenty-four recognized leaders from around the world in the field of Tribology. "Much of this success can be attributed to those individuals. Not only did they encourage participation in their respective region of the world, they were invaluable in advising the Oversight Committee in matters that would provide a positive experience for the international attendee," said Dr. Rick Cowan, Chair of the ASME Tribology Division and member of the WTC III Oversight Committee.

A user-friendly abstract submission process, simplified requirements for invitation letters, affordable registration fees, accurate and up to date information on hotel and travel issues are all measures that were taken to ensure this positive experience. The WTC III website is powered by an online "Webtool" developed by ASME which has facilitated an abstract submission process empowering authors anywhere in the world to keep track of their abstract submission status in real-time. "It's been a very successful automated process that has improved the efficiency of how we do things. The positive effects are seen by the organizers and authors alike," said John Tichy of RPI and member of the WTC III Oversight Committee.

The organizers went a step further. "We recognize that WTC III participants from around the world may want to communicate with each other, share experiences, start engaging discussions-- whatever! So we created an online forum to facilitate that communication," said Carol Griffin, Administrative Assistant at ASME. By visiting the following site, www.cop.asme.org potential participants can join what's called the World Tribology Congress III Community of Practice and start discussion threads on anything from technical questions to travel plans.

Of course the corner stone of any conference is determined by its technical program. An impressive lineup of technical program committee Chairs promises a state-of-the art program that aims to boost the global awareness and significance of tribology. Among the highlights-- several sessions will focus on nanotribology and its role in the fast growing nano technology; the role of adhesion and stiction in MEMS devices; and a special K.L Johnson Symposium paying tribute to a pioneer in the field of contact mechanics. The program also covers many important areas that are vital to our industrial technologies such as lubricants, wear, tribochemistry, additives, bearings, engines, materials, surface engineering, aerospace,

etc... Advances in health and safety topics will highlight the role which tribology plays in the areas of biomaterials, biomedical devices, and lubricant health and safety issues. One plenary speaker and several sessions have been organized to address orthopaedic joints and how their well-being affect our daily lives. A complete listing of the technical tracks can be found on the WTC III website at www.conferencetoolbox.org/wtc05.

In addition to the technical sessions, the program features plenary talks by distinguished scientists and industry leaders including Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Nobel Laureate in Physics, Prof. Van C. Mow, Biomedical Engineering, Columbia University, and Dr. James Spearot, Director, General Motors R&D. "The program demonstrates our focus on promoting academia-industry partnerships. This is critical in fostering innovation and bringing technology solutions to meet the needs of the industry and the marketplace," said Dr. Selda Gonsel, Business Team Manager at Shell Global Solutions and member of the WTC III oversight committee.

The venue for WTC III was carefully selected by the organizers in order to maximize the longer-term impact of this event on the larger scientific and business community. "We believe that the high-profile environment of Washington DC presents an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the positive impact of tribology and tribology research on some of the world's most urgent needs and challenges," explained Edward Salek, STLE Executive Director and member of the WTC III oversight committee. "We expect the conference to create greater awareness of how the practical application of tribological research can reduce energy waste, conserve natural resources, save money and protect the environment."

As a result, the conference relevance is reaching beyond just the tribology community. The ASME Nanotechnology Institute (<http://nano.asme.org>) among other cooperating societies has endorsed WTC III. "Our global community of micro/nano experts look forward to sharing micro/nano solutions with the tribology industry!" said Raj Manchanda, Director of Advanced Technology Programs at ASME.

The abstract submission process for WTC III closed on January 28th, 2005. Authors will be notified of their acceptance by February 11th, 2005 and draft extended abstracts are due for submission by March 11th, 2005. With the event taking place September 12-16, 2005, registration will be made open soon on the WTC III website (www.conferencetoolbox.org/wtc05).

The 2005 World Tribology Congress III is co-organized by ASME and STLE, in association with the International Tribology Council (ITC).