

SPECIAL SECTION: 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PETROLEUM PHASE BEHAVIOR AND FOULING

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Conceptual Darcy-Scale Model of Oil Displacement with Macroemulsion
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Conversion Characteristics of Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Simulated Gaseous Atmospheres in Reducing Section of Two-Stage Entrained-Flow Coal Gasifier in Air- and O₂/CO₂-Blown Modes
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13th International Conference on Petroleum Phase Behavior and Fouling

This special section of *Energy & Fuels* is a collection of selected papers from the 13th International Conference on Petroleum Phase Behavior and Fouling that was held on June 10–14, 2012 in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. The meeting venue was the historic Loews Don Cesar Hotel, member of the National Register of Historic Hotels. The Petrophase conference series started in 1999 and has been organized alternately between North America and Europe, with the exception of 2009, when the conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Each year, the conference seeks to provide a technical and academic forum for the petroleum industry with respect to fundamental and applied research as well as industrial experiences.

The 2012 conference attracted 219 participants from 99 different organizations, including professional and student attendees, knowledgeable speakers, and enthusiastic exhibitors, making it the largest Petrophase conference to date. Young professionals have the real opportunity to deliver change, to move the industry in a strongly progressive direction. To encourage student participation and young talent, a limited number of student awards were made available at this year's conference, and the conference had a great youth representation. Attendees had lots of opportunities to meet new colleagues and connect with old friends during the conference and social events. From the opening plenary session, the poster and podium presentations, the Dahl museum tour, and the baseball game to the gala sunset dinner on the beach, the conference culminated on a very positive note. It was evident that the mingling of a global representation of eminent and inspired scientists and engineers from a variety of institutions, academia, and industry facilitated dynamic scientific discussions, making this conference unique, productive, and truly international in spirit.

The technical committee selected 41 oral presentations in five sessions: (1) chemical and physical properties of heavy oil, asphaltene, and waxes, (2) chemistry of the physical properties of the petroleum–water system, (3) flow assurance, (4) upgrading and fouling, and (5) characterization of petroleum compounds. In addition, 95 posters were presented at two poster sessions. We had a great line-up of talks and presentations, with the topics diverse enough to appeal to all and ensure that this international conference continues to remain at the cutting edge. After the opening reception, the plenary lectures by Mietek Boduszynski and Carl Mesters set the tone of the conference. Keynote addresses for each session were given by Tom Baugh, Chris Reddy, Martin Hurlimann, Gareth McKinley, Clarence Miller, Cliff Walters, and Zhao Suoqi.

We extend a special thank you to those that took the time to conduct the presentations, and to all of our committee chairs and volunteers, we cannot thank you enough. Without your participation, input, and encouragement, there is no way that the conference would have been possible. Special thanks to the session co-chairs: Frans van den Berg, Michael Klein, Harvey Yarranton, Jeff Creech, Peter Kilpatrick, Irv Welbe, and Edo

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The next conference, 14th International Conference on Petroleum Phase Behavior and Fouling, Petrophase 2013, will be organized by IFP Energies nouvelles from June 10 to 13, 2013, in Ruell-Malmaison, near Paris, France.

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