

Preface

The 3rd International Conference on Green Chemistry (ICGC-3) was held in Ottawa, Canada, 15–18 August 2010, with the theme “The Road to Greener Industry”. Bringing together academia and industry to trade ideas about green chemistry was the purpose of the meeting. Dedicated sessions on industrial aspects, presented by industry speakers, were well attended by both academics and industrial representatives. Academic sessions, in turn, presented new ideas to both groups. Major topics in the conference were green energy (biofuels, H₂ production, CO₂ capture), green engineering (energy efficiency, greener processes, separations), policy (industry, government, NGOs), green chemistry education, green transportation (materials, additives, powertrain) and green chemical synthesis (benign routes, solvents, catalysts, biopolymers). The 348 delegates travelled to Ottawa from 33 countries, making it a truly international discussion.

This issue contains five important lectures from the conference. Peter Wells gives us a rather sobering discussion of some of the unintended consequences of green improvements. Zheng Cui, Evan S. Beach, and Paul T. Anastas describe many of the exciting green chemistry developments coming from China in the past three years. John Andraos announces a new database and algorithm that allows industry to evaluate the efficiency of synthesis plans. Achim Stolle and Bernd Ondruschka compare the performance and energy efficiency of solvent-free reactions performed by ball milling versus other methods such as microwave. Ken Seddon describes the use of new ionic liquids as catalysts for the oligomerization of linear terminal olefins to make lubricant oils.

May these articles continue the discussion, stimulate more ideas, and help us all go down the Road to Greener Industry.

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