

## Highlights DIOXIN'85 – Bayreuth, Germany

Michael Reissinger

After meetings in Italy, USA, Austria, and Canada this Symposium took place for the first time in Germany. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds was the largest so far in the series. More than 500 scientists meet from September 16 to 19, 1985, at the campus of the University of Bayreuth. For this fast growing University it was also the largest international scientific meeting in their young history at that time. In the final programme, 201 oral and poster presentations are shown. All aspects from research, technology to medicine and regulatory activities have been treated as completely as possible. If one looks through the programme, contributions to the analytical methodology as well as studies of the incineration process, stack gas sampling, waste, destruction and reclamation dominated the technical aspects of the meeting. Other topics to mention studies on the TCDD receptor, pattern recognition, human levels, epidemiology and human observations.

In conjunction with this meeting two Special Symposia, both in beautiful medieval castles, were organized to discuss the dioxin problem on a broader context. Symposium I (September 20, Thurnau Castle) was entitled “Chemistry and Law” where problems of regulation, litigation and legislation were discussed in the light of the incomplete understanding of health effects of chemicals such as dioxin. Symposium II (September 21, Mitwitz Castle) was entitled “Chemophobia”, which reflected a special interest of Prof. Otto Hutzinger on the irrationality of the fear of chemicals.

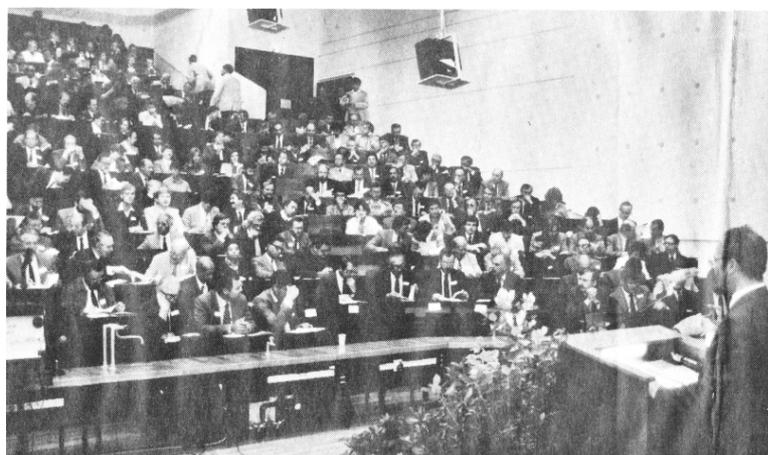


Photo from the opening ceremony in the auditorium of the University in the Bayreuth newspaper “Nordbayerischer Kurier”; Otto Hutzinger speaking



Bayreuth, city of the opera composer Richard Wagner



DIOXIN'85 was organized by the Chair of Ecological Chemistry and Geochemistry at the University of Bayreuth



Bayreuth, capital of Upper Franconia

Papers presented at DIOXIN'85 were published in *Chemosphere*, volume 15 (Nos. 9-12) in 1986. Since the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds was the largest so far in the series, consequently the symposium volume was considerably bigger than in previous years. The special issues contained 150 papers although it was stated in the Preface that a number of manuscripts could not be included.