

DIOXIN 99
VENICE, ITALY
September 12-17 1999



Introduction

The 19th International Symposium on Halogenated Environmental Organic Pollutants and POPs convened in Venice, Italy in September 1999. The Symposium was held at Fondazione Giorgio Cini on San Giorgio's island in Venice, a place of great architectural beauty and cultural heritage. The church, a masterpiece of architect Andrea Palladio (1565-1583), allowed delegates to enjoy one of the best panoramic views of Venice and the lagoon from atop the bell tower. Inside the church, everyone enjoyed the works of art of J. Bassano, G. Campagna, and Tintoretto ("The Last Supper" and "Collection of the Manna"). In the apse, visitors were marveled by the wooden chorus. The program began on Sunday afternoon September 14th with the Plenary Lecture of Monsignor Timothy Verdon on "Air, Light and Silence: the Human Spirit in Venetian Art" and a speech on "environmental policies" by the mayor of Venice, the great philosopher, Massimo Cacciari. The symposium concluded with the closing ceremony on Friday September 17th.

Dioxin '99 had 1,002 participants from 38 countries, more than 200 speakers, 434 posters, and 25 exhibitors/sponsors. We are most grateful to the organizing committee, the conference event managers and volunteer session chairs and peer reviewers for their hard work and precious contributions.



Photo above: a view of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini San Giorgio's island.



Side: Lunch in the Chiostro dei Cipressi

Conference planning and Organization

To preserve the health of humans and wildlife requires an ever-increasing depth of knowledge among researchers, industry and society. The scientific program of the Symposium covered all the topics of the Dioxin series of symposia as well as a number of special topics including “Seveso” that we saw as relevant for development in this area of research. For the first time a session on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) as well as a session on Risk Assessment under WHO were added.

Technical program

General and special sessions

There were 194 oral presentations in 31 sessions on the following topics: human exposure (background contamination, indoor, accidental and occupational exposure, different accidents, Seveso), ecotoxicology, formation and sources, environmental levels, mechanisms of toxicity, endocrine disruption, toxicology, analysis and mathematical models, toxicokinetics, chiral compounds, emission controls and abatement technology, inventories, POPs, brominated flame retardants, toxaphene, epidemiology, risk assessment and management. Four parallel sessions took place from Monday morning to Thursday afternoon, while a plenary session took place Friday morning with the objective to obtain some highlights from the meeting and to discuss future work in the environmental science field.

Poster session

Posters (434) were displayed within the elegant frame of the Chiostro dei Cipressi and in the Sala Capriate from Monday morning to Thursday afternoon. The most meritorious posters were awarded prizes during the closing ceremony on Friday morning.

Plenary Lectures

Two plenary lectures were offered:

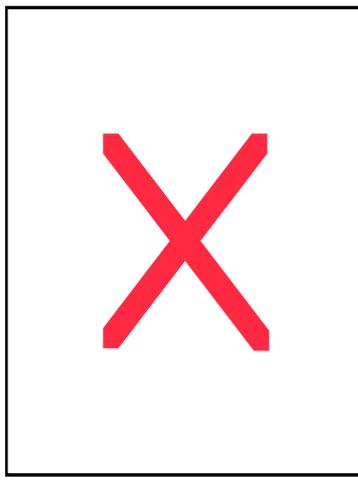
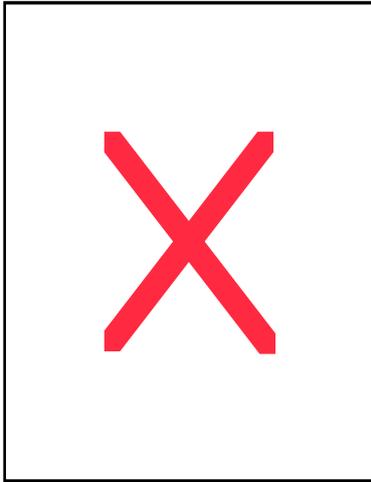
The topic of human exposure was prefaced by the lecture of P. Mocarelli (Italy) “Seveso: a teaching story”; and Toxaphene, a different environmental problem (M.Oehme, Switzerland).

Unique Accomplishments

It was at Dioxin 99 that for the first the Internet and telecommunications in all the aspects of technical program production, conference promotion, hotel and on-line conference registration and administration were used. This fact has been increased thereafter.

Social program

The conference social program was developed to permit everybody to enjoy Venice and its enchanting atmosphere. The Get Together Party was held in the “Chiostro dei Cipressi”. An evening concert “Petite Messe Solennelle” by Gioacchino Rossini in the Church SS. Giovanni e Paolo was highly attended. A lagoon tour and visit of Torcello and Burano islands, a taste of the Italian art and architecture was organized on Wednesday afternoon. The Art Show “Terza Voce” – engraving, painting and drawing- an exhibit of three of young Italian artists’ works was held on the premises of the “Fondazione Cini”.



Acknowledgements

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Photo above:

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