

Dioxin 2010



Introduction

The 30th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants – Dioxin 2010 – was held September 12-17, 2010, at the Marriott Rivercenter, in San Antonio, TX.

After an exciting conference in Beijing, China, in 2009, the Dioxin 2010 National Organizing Committee was proud to be able to showcase the historic city of San Antonio, Texas. The 2010 conference brought together 805 participants from 41 countries, for a week of scientific presentations and social events with colleagues.

The IAB confirmed the 2010 Symposium location at the Dioxin 2006 meeting in Oslo, Norway, and preparation began in earnest in early 2007. We hired Meetings Plus, an RK Group Company, to handle major conference planning tasks, including hotel block negotiations, social program venue options, event catering, abstract submission, and conference registration. A major component of every successful Dioxin conference is the support of major sponsors and exhibitors, and we were fortunate to fill the exhibition space with partners from many different industries and organizations. Conference co-chair, Daniele Wikoff and meeting planner, Elaine Dagen, were present at the Dioxin 2009 expo hall and conference in Beijing, handing out Texas souvenirs and answering questions about the San Antonio conference.



Dioxin 2010 booth in Beijing, China

Scientific Program

Monday's opening ceremony entertained delegates with mariachi music, a form of traditional Mexican folk music, played by local San Antonio musicians and dancers. During the week, there were 35 scientific sessions, with 260 oral presentations and 369 poster presentations. All presentations were given on the main conference floor, and some poster presentations were also displayed inside the Exhibit Hall, giving additional visibility to both delegates and exhibitors. The technical program encompassed many of the traditional topics and also addressed new and emerging scientific themes. Searchable CDs of all conference abstracts were provided to delegates in their conference bags.

Each day began with a plenary lecture, followed by a coffee break and oral and poster presentations. Plenary topics included "Indoor Exposure to PBDEs and PFCs: You're Not Just What You Eat" by Tom Webster, and "Omic Examination of the Hepatic Mode of Action of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin: A Species Comparison with Risk Assessment Implications" by Tim Zacharewski.



Delegates enjoy a coffee break and poster presentations in the Exhibit Hall

Friday featured a special program, "International Regulation of POPs: Bridging the Gap Between Science and Policy." This two-and-a-half hour roundtable discussion was chaired by Drs. Laurie Haws and Martin Scheringer, and was well attended by conference delegates. Following the discussion was the closing ceremony and presentation of the Otto Hutzinger awards for outstanding student abstracts.

Social Program

Dioxin 2010 carried on the tradition of robust symposia social programs, with a host of events and activities for delegates and accompanying persons.

All attendees were invited to a welcome reception in the Exhibit Hall on Sunday night for light hors d'oeuvres and socializing with fellow delegates. Monday's reception was held at the Institute of Texan Cultures, a 182,000-square-foot complex featuring 65,000 square feet of

interactive exhibits and displays that tell the stories of Texans. Light dinner and drinks were provided, and all delegates and accompanying persons were treated to an evening of music, food, Texas culture, and socializing.



Delegates at the Institute of Texan Cultures

Wednesday afternoons are traditionally reserved for sight seeing around the host city. At Dioxin 2010, delegates were able to choose from several optional tours to experience San Antonio in the way that best suited their wishes. Options included a San Antonio Stroll – a guided walk through the historic streets of the city, Spanish Mission Trail – a tour through the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, and Knibbe Ranch – an exciting afternoon at an authentic Texas working cattle ranch.

During Thursday's conference banquet at Cowboy's Dancehall, delegates were greeted by a BBQ buffet, cold beers, and an authentic rodeo, complete with some of the best bull riders in Texas. After the rodeo, there was a night of fun including Texas two-step dancing, mechanical bull rides, billiards and more.



Delegates gather around to give the mechanical bull a try and cheer on the brave!

Acknowledgements

The successful completion of this conference required the hard work and support of many individuals. We would like to thank the members of the National Organizing Committee for their help in the planning and execution of Dioxin 2010. We are also grateful for the advice and assistance from previous conference organizers, who were all generous with their time and experience.

Further, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of the session chairs in reviewing the abstracts and assembling the sessions. Additional thanks go to all of the plenary speakers for their efforts in providing informative presentation each morning and to all of the delegates who gave oral and poster presentations.

Finally, this conference would not have been possible without the participation of all of the sponsors and exhibitors who continue to support the Dioxin symposia. We extend our gratitude to all of those partners for their financial support and dedication to this conference.

Sincerely,

Laurie C. Haws, Ph.D., DABT
Symposium Chair

Daniele Wikoff
Symposium Co-Chair