



## The XVI International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium was held on 3-5 September 2014 in Lodz, Poland

under the patronage of the International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation Society, which since 1969 has patronised scientific conferences related to the subjects of biodeterioration and biodegradation. The aim of the Symposium was to exchange and broaden knowledge and experience of biodeterioration, biodegradation and bioremediation processes. The Symposium was dedicated to young scientists, (below 36 years).

The XVI International Symposium was organised by the following: Institute of Fermentation Technology and Microbiology of Lodz University of Technology, Department of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology of the University of Lodz, Department of Microbiology of Cracow University of Economics and the Central Institute for Labour Protection - National Research Institute. The Symposium was held at the EXPO Hall in Lodz.

175 conference participants from 32 countries (19 European, 7 Asian, 3 North American, 2 South American and Australia) attended the Symposium. The members of the Scientific Committee were as follows: **Geoff Robson, John Gillatt, Jeremy Webb, Christine C. Gaylard, Diego A. Moreno, Jimmy Walker, Malcolm Greenhalgh, Katja Sterflinger and Asunción de los Ríos.**

The Symposium concerned harmful microbial activity in the biodeterioration of technical materials, including the phenomenon of biofilms and microbiologically induced corrosion, the biodegradation of wood, polymers, textile petroleum hydrocarbons and other difficult-to-degrade compounds. The conference mentioned the bioremediation of contaminated areas of the environment, quality of life, as well as the biodiversity of organisms involved in biodeterioration and biodegradation processes. Moreover the degradation and protection of cultural heritage, methods of protection against microbial corrosion and the removal of its effects were discussed.

The conference included 12 scientific sessions:

- I. **“Microbiologically influenced corrosion”,**
- II. **“Biofilms and biofouling”,**
- III. **“Biodeterioration and biodegradation of wood and wood products”,**
- IV. **“Biodeterioration and biodegradation of polymeric materials”,**
- V. **“Biodegradation of cultural heritage”,**

- VI. “Microorganisms and the quality of life”,
- VII. “Biotransformation and biodegradation of hazardous compounds”,
- VIII. “Biodegradation and bioremediation of persistent pollutants”,
- IX. “Biodiversity of organisms involved in biodeterioration, biodegradation and bioremediation”,
- X. “Strategic view of economic, regulatory affairs, forensic studies and regional development in biodeterioration”,
- XI. “Protection against biodeterioration process”,
- XII. “Biodegradation in environmental protection”,

presided by the following chairpersons: *Iwona Beech, Christine C. Gaylarde, Geoffrey Daniel, Glyn Morton, Katja Sterflinger, Jimmy Walker, Jerzy Długoński, Katerina Demnerova, Joseph Suflika, Dennis Allsopp, Glyn Morton, and Laurence R. Wetherley*, respectively

During the conference 12 plenary lectures, 40 oral reports and 104 posters were presented. Abstracts of all the presentations have been published as conference proceedings.

The honorary patronage of the conference were as follows: **Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, Voivod of Lodz, Mayor of Lodz, Marshal of Lodz Voivodship, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, Vice-Rector for Science of Lodz University of Technology, Rector of the University of Lodz, Rector of Cracow University of Economics, President of the Polish Society of Microbiologists and President of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies.**

The Symposium was held under the media patronage of the Journals: *Fibres & Textiles in Eastern Europe*; *Bezpieczeństwo Pracy – Nauka i Praktyka*, ed. of Institute for Environment Protection – National Research Institute, *LAB, Instal, Przegląd Włókienniczy – Włókno Odzież Skóra, Ochrona przed Korozją, Laboratorium – Polish Review, Dolina Biotechnologiczna.pl* and *e-Biotechnologia.pl*.

The conference was co-financed by the following companies: *Argenta, Merck Millipore, Dytrych, Agros Nova, Ambra, Genomed and Polmos Żyrardów.*

**The next International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium will be held in Manchester, England in 2017.**

