NCKU Project of Promoting Academic Excellence & Developing World Class Research Centers

Report of **NGUYEN NGOC THANG**

Duration: 2012/12/10 – 2012/12/16

Sponsorship: 邁向頂尖大學計畫經費

Name: *The 28th International Conference of the Polymer Processing Society (PPS-28)*

Position: *Pattaya, Thailand*

Organization: *National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC), Thailand*

Tel: 0988699419

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Head of Department/Graduate Institute</th>
<th>Dean of College/director of Research Center</th>
<th>Internationalization Division at the Office of University Advancement</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>審核欄</td>
<td>系、所、科、中心、組等主管</td>
<td>院、處、館、室、中心等主管</td>
<td>頂尖辦公室 INTERNATIONALIZATION DIVISION</td>
<td>校長</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date 2012/12/19  (yyyy/mm/dd)

Nguyen Ngoc Thang

Department of Chemical Engineering, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
Cell phone: +886-988699419; Email: thangnn-tex@mail.hut.edu.vn

Abstract

The 28th International Conference of the Polymer Processing Society (PPS-28) is one of the highly acclaimed meetings in the field of polymer processing, takes place annually in different countries all over the world, with the most recent ones being held in Banff, Canada (2010) and Marrakech, Morocco (2011). For this year, PPS-28 held from December 11 to 15, 2012 in Pattaya city, Thailand and attracted about more than 500 researchers and attendees around the world. From my research achievement, I decided to submit an abstract and a full paper to PPS-28 with the title “UV irradiation formation of Poly(vinyl alcohol)/Chitosan hydrogel thin films for biomedical application”. After being reviewed by the conference committee, fortunately, my research work has been accepted as an oral presentation at the conference.

I attended the PPS28 from December 10 to 16, 2012 and had a successful oral presentation on Thursday, December, 13th in the session “Bio-Based & Biodegradable Polymers and Polymer Recycling”. From attending the conference, I could improve my presentation skill, accumulate the knowledge, and update the latest achievements and issues in my research field that are very useful on doing my research. Furthermore, PPS-28 brought me a good chance of learning an international event organization, understanding about Thailand culture and promoting an international cooperation in polymer processing community.

Abstract (Chinese)

第28届高分子加工协会的国际会议在高分子加工的领域上是一个高度受到赞誉的会议，而此会议每年都举办在世界上各个不同的城市中，最近几年则是分别举办于加
拿大的Banff(2010)以及摩洛哥的Marrakech(2011)。今年的会议则是举办在泰国的Pattaya，
从12月11号到15号，期间吸引了世界各地超过500多名的研究人员前来参与会议。从我的
研究成果中，我决定提交论文摘要与全文来参加此次的会议，此题目为紫外光照射成型的
聚乙烯醇/聚丁酮水胶薄膜在生物医学的应用。幸运的是，我的研究工作经由会议委员会
审查后，已被接受于此次会议上的口头报告。

今年我参加这个会议从12月10号到16号，在13号，星期四这一天，我参加的是生物
相关&生物降解高分子与高分子回收的领域，而且最后我有了一次很成功的口头报告。对
于出席此次会议，我可以增进我的演讲技巧，增加我的知识以及更新最新的研究成果与议
题在研究领域中，因此对于我而言是相当有帮助的。此外，此次会议给我很棒的机
会来学习国际事务组织，了解泰国文化，促进高分子加工协会与国际间的合作。
Table of contents

1. About the PPS-28 2
2. Travel to the PPS-28 3
3. At the PPS-28 4
4. Discussions 5
5. Appendix 6

1. About the PPS-28 conference

The Polymer Processing Society (PPS) was founded in March 1985 at the University of Akron, Ohio, USA; the intent was to provide a mechanism and format for interaction and presentation of research results in the international polymer processing community; the goals are to foster scientific understanding and technical innovation in polymer processing by providing a discussion forum for the worldwide community of engineers and scientists in the field.

The PPS-28 was organized by National Metal and Materials Technology Center (MTEC) at Pattaya, Thailand from December 11 to 15, 2012. PPS-28 has attracted over 500 participants from around the world. Apart from the usual conference activities consisting of plenary lectures, 10 general symposia and poster presentation, there also were a symposium in honor of Professor Musa Kamal, 4 special symposia and an organized visit to natural rubber plantation and processor. It was a good opportunity for researchers over the world to present the research achievement, exchange the knowledge, discussions, to give out the best solutions for polymer processing.

2. Travel to the PPS-28 conference

It was a memorable trip to the PPS-28 conference in an attractive city of Pattaya, a seaside resort about 165 km, southeast of Bangkok, Thailand. It took me 4 hr to fly from the Kaohsiung International Airport, Taiwan to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand on China airlines. From Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport, I had to take a bus to the North Pattaya Road bus station and got a taxi to my respective hotel, which closed to Pattaya Exhibition and Convention Hall (PEACH).

3. At the PPS-28 conference
The conference was hosted in five days, from December 11 to 15, 2012. On December, 11 the executive meeting, registration and welcome reception was held at Roof Top Cliff Terrace, Royal Cliff Grand Hotel & Spa for all participants. On the September, 12 Chairman of PPS-28, after Prof. Krisda Suchiva opened the ceremony and two plenary lectures were presented by two leading researchers coming from USA and Japan, the parallel sections were taken place in nine rooms. From December 13 to 15, some plenary lectures were continuously delivered in the conference and then scientific meetings were operated following the technical program schedule. The scientific meetings were divided into 10 general and 4 special symposia; the topics covered a wide range of polymer processing and commercial applications. The detail of the PPS-28 symposia could be found by the link: http://www.mtec.or.th/pps-28/conference-symposia

Furthermore, various social events were designed to provide all participants with a chance for meaningful discussion, quality relaxation and entertainment during the conference time.

4. Discussion

4.1. Purpose of attending the PPS-28

The main purpose of attending this conference is to present my research achievement to international researchers, update the latest achievement and scientific issues given by researchers, scientists around the world.

Firstly, it is a good chance to present my research to international participants. A benefit is that through my presentation, people have comments, questions that help me to complete my research topic. In addition, it also helps me to improve my presenting skill, one of important parts in doing research.

Secondly, I also attended other presentations during the conference; it gives me a chance to update the latest research achievements, the innovative proposal relative to my research given out by researchers around the world. The exhibition showed by manufactures and organizations in the conference have given me an overall view about the current products, technology and trend of services and demands in polymer field in the future.

Thirdly, PPS-28 provided me a chance to meet each others, to understand and promote the relationship between people in different countries. I have been meaningful discussion with professors, researchers and producers to exchange the knowledge and promote the cooperation in the future.
In addition, since the conference is organized in Pattaya, an attractive city of Thailand, I had a meaningful as well as an enjoyable time to discover the local culture and lifestyle.

4.2. Process

I submitted an abstract to the PPS-28 on June 6\textsuperscript{th} 2012 and received an invitation letter for oral presentation at the PPS-28 conference from the conference committee on August 31\textsuperscript{st} 2012. The full paper was subsequently submitted on September 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2012 for review. Fortunately, my full paper was accepted with no revision and I got a dinner banquet ticket at the Royal Cliff Beach Resort Pattaya as an award for the best student paper. After completing all procedures, I went to Pattaya, Thailand from December 10 to 16, 2012 for attending the PPS-28 conference. The table 1 showed the list of procedure and corresponding time for attending the PPS-28 conference.

**Table 1.** List of procedures for attending the conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2012/06/06</td>
<td>Submitted abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2012/08/31</td>
<td>Abstract accepted &amp; Received invitation letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2012/09/02</td>
<td>Submitted full paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2012/10/31</td>
<td>Full paper accepted with no revision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2012/12/10-16</td>
<td>Attended the PPS-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2012/12/13</td>
<td>My oral presentation at the PPS-28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3. Accomplishments

I presented my research on Thursday, December 13, 2012 in special symposia - Section 11: Bio-based & biodegradable polymers and polymer recycling with the title “UV irradiation formation of Poly(vinyl alcohol)/Chitosan hydrogel thin films for biomedical application”. There was about 30 audiances attending my presentation, two researchers had questions for me. My paper was published on the PPS-28 proceeding (Appendix).

4.4. Recommendations

Since I have attended some conferences (JSPS AA science platform program on Neo-fiber Technology from July 20 to 23, 2009 in HUST, Hanoi, Vietnam and Japan-Taiwan Bilateral Workshop on Nano-Science from November 21 to 23, 2011 in NCKU, Tainan, Taiwan), I have some comparisons and recommendations.
✓ It is necessary to have some policies such as registration fee discount or funding support for students or young researchers from developing countries to encourage the interests in science.

✓ The quality of the conference mainly depends on the quality of papers and speakers. Beside that the audiences attending the conference with the wide, deep knowledge and serious attention is the key point for a worth section.

✓ Besides the technical meeting and additional lectures, the conference should have some cultural activities or tourist trip to promote the cooperation between attendees as well as experience about local culture and society.

5. Appendixes

Photographs of activities in the PPS-28 conference.

Picture 1. Registration.

Picture 3. The special symposia at the PPS-28.
Picture 3. My presentation.

Picture 4. Discussion.
**Picture 5.** Took a photo with President of PSS - Prof. Ica Manas-Zloczower (person in the second from left-hand side).

**Picture 6.** Dinner banquet at the Royal Cliff Beach Resort Pattaya.
Picture 7. Special shows of the Ladyboys in the Royal Cliff Beach Resort Pattaya.

Picture 8. Pattaya beach.