

SUMMARY OF THE
**38th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
SITH**

Beppu City, Oita, Japan

September 25th, October 1st 2003



Sept. 25 - Oct. 01, 2003, Beppu, Japan

**38th International Conference of SITH
in collaboration with OMTh**

**Joint conference with the 56th Meeting
of The Balneological Society of Japan**

ORGANISATION
MONDIALE DU
THERMALISME

sith

SOCIETE
INTERNATIONALE
DE TECHNIQUE
HYDROTHERMALE



From September 25th to October 1st, it was held in the city of Beppu (Japan) the 38th Congress of SITH.

The event, co-organized by the Association Japanese des Techniques Hydrothermales (The SITH Japan), The Balneological Society of Japan (BSJ), and the Organization Mondiale du Thermalisme (OMTh), had as main theme “The Hydrothermal Phenomena: Interaction between Human and the Earth”.

The city of Beppu is probably the main reference in Japan for thermal springs, with a vast diversity and richness in mineral waters and spas that have been used by people since centuries ago.



B Con Plaza



B-Con Plaza, Main Entrance

The Congress took place in B-Con Plaza, the modern convention center in Beppu, and now one of its symbols. At the inauguration ceremony, both the Mayor of Beppu city, and the Governor of the Oita Prefecture were among

the speakers that addressed the inauguration speech.



Opening Ceremony



Speakers at the Opening Ceremony

This 38th Congress takes place after the meeting held in Levico (Italy) in 2002, and the previous ones in countries such as Iran, Mexico, Spain, Russia, Italy, Japan, etc. The purpose of these Congresses is to gather researchers and professionals of all the world around thermalism, each occasion focusing in one theme. In all of them, papers are presented by researchers, and panels on specific subjects take place.

Specifically, the aim of Beppu's meeting was to exchange extensive knowledge of earth and environmental sciences, engineering, medical science, pharmacy, human and social sciences, and tourism related to hydrothermal phenomena, and to deepen contact between human and earth.



The Meeting Room



Beppu's thermal area

The Congress took place in morning and afternoon sessions, over a two and a half days period. In addition, a one day trip to main spa centers was done, visiting those in the Beppu area and surrounding areas.

More than 100 people assisted to the different sessions of the Congress, with representatives and papers coming from Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Mongolia, Rumania, India, Taiwan, Spain, Russia, Korea, The Philippines, etc. In addition, a poster-room was prepared. The quality and level of works being presented was very high, as evidenced by the interest and questions that the audience placed.



During a lecture

In the next pages the following information is included:

- a) A detailed summary of the papers and lectures given. An abstract of the papers and contact information on lecturers is available, should this be of interest.
- b) A graphic report of the event, including, opening ceremony, official memorial photograph, lectures, formal dinner, etc.

c) The speeches of the opening ceremony

And finally, we would like to thank and congratulate the Organization Committee, in particular Mr. Watanuki, and Mr. Yuki Yusa for the excellent work done over last years for organizing this event in Beppu. The results have been excellent in every sense, setting a new reference for all of us for future events like this.



Welcome party

Should any additional information of the event or about SITH and OMTH be needed, please contact us in the following addresses:

Andres Campos

President SITH

acampos@termascuntis-sl.es

Marisol Espino

General Secretary

marisol@termascuntis-sl.es

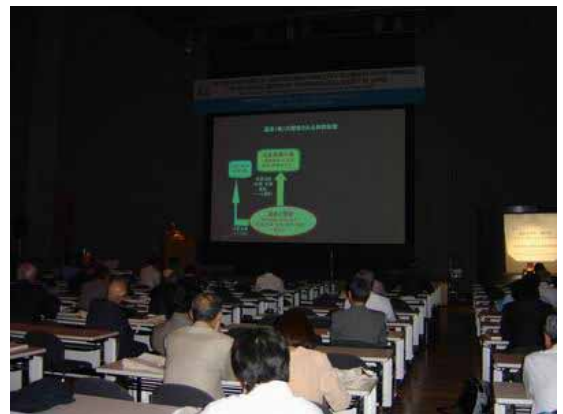
IMAGES FROM THE CONGRESS AND BEPPU



Official Picture



Opening Ceremony. SITH President Speech



During lectures



A Lecture



Lectures



One day Trip. Volcano



Official Banquet



Official Banquet



Shrine at Spa area



Myoban area



Spa Center

SPEECHES FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY

Addressed by Dr. Kunihiko Watanuku

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of organizing committee and the other organization and society which support the conference SITH, I would express my hearty thanks and welcome to the all participants especially from abroad.

Because Japan is volcanic islands, there are many types of thermal activities and hot springs. For example, low temperature to high temperature, low salinity to high salinity, acid to alkaline, and radioactive. You can see these various types of hot springs easily. Limiting to Beppu area, you can see various types thermal activities.

It is our great honor and pleasure to hold international conference such as SITH. I hope the conference will be successful and fruitful. And I hope you would enjoy Beppu and Japan.

Thank you.

Addressed by Dr. Okada

Distinguished guests and honorable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, On behalf of the Balneological Society of Japan, it is very much honorable and grateful that I give you the opening address of the 38th

Conference of Societe Internationale des techniques Hydrothermales. The Balneological Society of Japan was established in 1939 for various natural scientific fields regarding balneology such as geophysics, geology, mineralogy, biology, medical science, physics, and chemistry to communicate and exchange their academic opinions, and now the 56th meeting has been held in this place.

As you know, our country Japan is abundant in so much resources of hot spring that we have been indebted to the benefits from them. Simultaneously, we have achieved new research theme that we have confronted.

To hold this International Conference may stimulate our other Japanese academic societies and lead to the great progress of this field all over the world by opening and exchanging the information of various kinds of fields ranging from balneology to sightseeing and human life.

We hope that your participation in the meeting will be rewarding experience and that sharing ideas with colleagues will help deeper international understanding and friendship. We all hope that this international conference will be fruitful for all participants and for the future of this association. I hope that you all experience Japanese traditional and refined cultures and living in Beppu. Lastly, I would like to wish each and every delegate a warm welcome and a mostly interesting week in Oita Prefecture.

Thank you!

Speech by Mr. Campos

Distinguished guests and delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to address and welcome, on behalf of the entire International Society of Hydrothermal Techniques, to the 38th Congress of this organization; and the 56th meeting of the Balneological Society of Japan.

And first of all, I want to thank and congratulate the Organization Committee, and its Chairman, Mr. Watanuki, for the excellent work done over last years for organizing this event here in Beppu. I am sure that this Congress is going to set a new reference for all of us for future events.

Our warm recognition also to Mr. K. Hirose, Governor of the Oita Prefecture, and Mr. H. Hamada, Mayor of Beppu City, for their kindness, support and help for making possible to have this conference in the city of Beppu, one of the places in the world with more tradition when talking about thermalism. This is also a great opportunity for many of us to get to know a little bit closer this great country, its culture and its traditions.

And finally, I want to thank all the many persons and companies that have collaborated in one way or another in the arrangements for this meeting, which is already a success in terms of participants and papers to be presented.

As you know, the aim of SITH is to stimulate and promote in all countries the research, study and application of hydrothermal techniques (thermal and mineral) within disciplines such as natural sciences, engineering, economy, geology, bacteriology or any other discipline with a direct or indirect connection to this field.

The foundational purpose of our organization is, more and more, becoming more important. Governments and supranational organizations define as one of the greatest challenges that humanity faces at the beginning of this millenium is the wise and economic use of all water resources on Planet Earth.

And in particular, our interest is in the use of waters for a very important, noble and selective purpose: The health of human beings. The curative virtues of Thermal Waters have been known for centuries; and also the use of mineral waters, with no pollution, that have been in the base of human feeding.

More than fifty million people uses every year thermal waters for pure curative purposes, and millions more in the so called "wellness" centers. I can affirm that there is no country in the world that does not have thermal springs, and also, that there are no two waters that are the same. This vast richness and diversity is an additional challenge in order to ensure quality to all citizens making use of, what is probably, one of the oldest practices of medicine: Thermalism

A few days ago, in Spain, the International Prize to Thermal Research was awarded. We received papers from countries from Europe and America, a consequence of the increasing interest that thermalism has at university levels.

And it is the purpose of conferences like this that today starts, to encourage research, share information across countries and professionals, and to publicise and promote as much as possible the collaboration among different organisations involved in the area of hydrothermalism. And all this because it is our responsibility to help governments, universities, companies and people in making a better and more rational use of thermal waters worldwide.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a quote from the World Thermalism Letter that says "...thermal and hydromineral resources are in the base of the oldest natural medicine, yet today in the forefront of Health of Humanity. Any human being that requires the use of thermal waters, has the right to make use of it, and corresponds to each nation to have them at the disposal of anyone that wants to benefit from them."

Thank you very much for your attention.