

CONFERENCE REPORT

International Recycling Congress Berlin'79

The first International Recycling Congress (IRC) sponsored by WHO, OECD and other scientific and technical organizations, and held in West Berlin 1-3 October, 1979, was the consequence and continuation of two conferences organized previously and well accepted by their participants:

Conversion of Refuse to Energy, November 1975, Montreux (Switzerland), and, Materials and Energy from Refuse, October 1976, Antwerp (Belgium).

The direct organizers of the Congress were the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and the Technical University of West Berlin (in the hundred years' anniversary of its foundation).

The Congress was devoted to the most recent theoretical findings, as well as to the results obtained from technological studies and implementations in the field of recycling. Many real possibilities of the refuse treatment for gaining raw materials and/or energy were presented. Thus both the lectures bearing a mathematical and theoretical character and the descriptions of technological solutions already verified in practice have been submitted to the Congress. Over 1,000 participants had listened to 230 lectures delivered by 327 authors from 19 countries, who presented the most recent solutions applied in highly and fairly developed countries.

Poland was rather modestly represented by only 5 authors, 3 reports and 3 participants of the Congress.

Considering the total number of the lectures delivered, not all their titles can be mentioned, so only the names of the separate groups of problems are given:

A. Three plenary lectures given by the Organizers of the Congress from West Berlin and by the lectures from the United States and Japan.

B. Recycling and planning — 5 sessions.

C. Energy recycling — 11 sessions during which the following problems were discussed: the Incineration process; Optimizing of waste incineration; Incineration plants; Emission and reduction of emission; Treatment and usage of residues from incineration plants; Pyrolysis; Small scale plants and biogas.

D. Material recycling — 9 sessions devoted to the following problems: Separate collection for resource recovery; Recovery of glass metals and fuels from waste; Technical aspects of material recycling; Biological processes (composting); Utilization of products from material recycling (paper, plastics, and others).

E. In this section a special attention was given (in three sessions) to motor vehicles as an object of recycling.

Because of such a great number of lectures, the sessions had to be held in several sessions simultaneously. The frequency was very good and each lecture (attended by the author of this report) was followed by a vivid discussion.

The texts of all the lectures have been published in English and German as both the languages being equally admitted. Each version consists of two volumes comprising 1500 printed pages.

An exhibition in the lobbies of the West Berlin Congress Hall, organized by 55 firms and institutions, provided the information about the production of various technical facilities and their possible applications, as well as about the whole technological lines used for recycling and disposal of wastes.



The Congress created an opportunity to renew old friendship and make contacts with the prominent experts representing this field of science and technology.

It has been already announced that the next IRC Congress will be held also in West Berlin in April 1982. The following problems are suggested for discussion:

- the most recent solutions in recycling of domestic waste,
- disposal of hospital wastes,
- utilization of sewage sludge,
- possibilities of recovery in the chemical and metallurgical industry,
- recovery and recycling of wastes in the developing countries.

Although it is not a usual practice of congress reports, the rapporteur would like to underline the enormous contribution of a small group of people from the Technical University of West Berlin led by professor dr K. J. Thome-Kozmiensky, as according to his opinion their work is worthy of the highest appreciation.

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