ANNOUNCEMENT

SEMINAR ON 'POLYMERS FOR SURFACE COATINGS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS'

The Oil Technologists' Association of India, Southern Zone, Hyderabad, organised a Seminar on "Polymers for Surface Coatings: Recent Developments" during November 27-28, 1982 at the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. This is the first time that the OTAI Southern Zone has arranged a seminar on polymers, keeping in view the newly emerging role of polymers and resins in the formation of organic coatings in the fast developing areas like space exploration, nuclear power, off-shore and under-ocean exploitation and their important function in combating special problems of corrosion.

The seminar was conducted in five sessions: i) Basic properties of polymers in relation to their use in surface coatings; ii) Speciality type of polymers for space, atomic energy, off-shore establishments, etc., iii) Polymers: energy saving type and non-polluting types, and iv) Polymers for corrosion prevention: recent advances.

The deliberations of the discussions held over the two-day seminar and the specific conclusions drawn were summed up in a final fifth session.

Dr. G. Thyagarajan, Director, RRL, Hyderabad while welcoming the delegates, brought out the need for the development of newer polymers in the field of coatings. Dr. M. A. Sivasamban, President, OTAI Southern Zone, in his introductory remarks outlined the reasons for holding the seminar on polymers.

Shri Ramesh Grover, Commissioner of Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in his inaugural address covered the various developments of surface coatings. He delineated the present status of surface coating industries in Andhra Pradesh and the need for R & D Institutions.

The first technical session on basic properties of polymers in relation to their use in surface coatings was chaired by Dr. M. Yaseen, RRL, Hyderabad. The key-note address was delivered by Prof. S. P. Potnis, University of Bombay. He highlighted the important properties of film formers/polymers, and highlighted the comparative performance of various polymers used for application in the field of surface coatings. Following the keynote address, research papers were presented covering the solubility parameter, rheological properties of polymeric materials and kinetics of polymer reactions.

Dr. M. M. Shirsalkar, RRL, Hyderabad chaired the second session on special types of polymers for space, atomic energy and off-shore establishments. Dr. K. V. C. Rao, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, in his key-note address brought out the basic function of coating to decorate and/or protect the surface from the environment and dealt with the application of protective coatings on launch pads, rockets, satellites in space research etc. After the key-note address, research papers were presented in the session dealing with the development and characterisation of polymers for nuclear industry, underground oil pipelines, building industry, optical fibres, etc.

Energy saving and non-polluting type of polymers were dealt in the third session which was chaired by Shri B. Kumar, Coromandel Paints and Chemicals Limited, Visakhapatnam. Two key-note addresses were delivered—one on high energy radiation curing of organic coatings and printing inks by Dr. N. Krishnamurti, and the other on non-polluting types of coatings— by Dr. B. G. K. Murthy, both from RRL, Hyderabad. Research papers dealing with anodic and cathodic electrode position coatings, vinylbased coatings, etc. were presented in this session.

The fourth session on polymers for corrosion prevention and their recent advances, was chaired by Dr. K. M. Kamath, BHEL, Hyderabad. Research papers based on poly-urethanes, epoxy acrylates, and polyesters were presented in this session. Dr. M. A. Sivasamban, in the last session, critically reviewed the suggestions made by the Chairman and key-note lectures of each session.

Proceedings of the seminar are under preparation and those who would like to have more details regarding this may write to the Hony. Secretary, OTAI Southern zone, C/o Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad-500 007.

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