

Nanomechanical Testing in Materials Research and Development

Invitation and Extended Call for Posters

July 28, 2009

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of Engineering Conferences International and the conference chair, **Mathias Göken** (Materials Science and Engineering, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany), and his Organizing Committee, **George M. Pharr** (University of Tennessee, USA), **Nigel M. Jennett** (National Physical Laboratory, UK), **David F. Bahr** (Washington State University, USA), **Jean-Luc Loubet** (Ecole Centrale de Lyon, France), **Karsten Durst** (University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany), and **Alfonso H.W. Ngan**, (University of Hong Kong), it is my pleasure to extend this invitation to you to participate in the forthcoming conference, **Nanomechanical Testing in Materials Research and Development**, to be held **October 11-16, 2009** at the Il Ciocco Resort and Conference Center just outside of Barga (Tuscany), Italy.

The registration and payment information can be found at www.engconfintl.org/9ba.html. The conference page includes:

- Preliminary Program
- ECI registration form
- Conference general and fee information
- Payment information form
- Pre/Post conference hotel reservation forms

We strongly encourage you to register before **September 10** in order to take advantage of the "early bird" rate. After **September 10** the normal registration fee applies. **All conference payments should be received by September 25**. Your reservation will be tentative until we receive payment. If no payment has been received by September 25, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation.

Registration will begin at 14:00 on Sunday, October 11 at the hotel followed by the opening dinner at 6 pm. There will be technical presentations from 7 pm – 10 pm followed by a reception at 10 pm.

Complimentary Transportation to Il Ciocco from Pisa Airport: Right now we expect to have one coach pick up participants at 11 am and a second coach at 3 pm. Please arrange your flights for arrival at the Pisa Airport at least one hour prior to the bus you wish you take. The buses will be boarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the airport, please be in front of the door by the baggage claim area. The bus may or may not be labeled Il Ciocco but there will be a hostess with a sign indicating Il Ciocco and/or Engineering Conferences International (ECI). The airport is small and the bus should be easily seen.

If you arrive early on Sunday morning, consider checking your luggage and taking a cab to the Leaning Tower for some sightseeing while you wait for the bus departure time – but don't miss the bus! (Pisa attractions are quite close.) Otherwise, there are places at the airport where you can get a bite to eat, sip a cappuccino and people-watch.

(The buses back to the airport on October 16 will leave early in the morning (6 am) and at 1:30 pm.)

TRAIN/TAXI TO IL CIOCCO: If you plan to arrive at Il Ciocco on your own by train, you can get train information at www.trenitalia.com. The train route you will need is "Pisa – (Lucca) – Barga-Gallicano" and it will take approximately 90 minutes. After Lucca the train is a slow, small valley train – a commuter line with very few trains on Saturday or Sunday. Be certain that you validate your ticket in the small yellow machines that are on the train station platforms. The stop before Barga-Gallicano is Fornaci di Barga. Barga/Gallicano

is approximately 5 km from the hotel. You can call Il Ciocco to have them send a taxi for you (tel: 0583-7191). A taxi to the hotel is about 15-20 euro.

If your timing is such that you need to take a taxi from Pisa, you can make arrangements with the hotel to have a taxi meet your plane. The cost of a taxi is approximately 125 euro from Pisa and more from Florence. This amount can be billed to your hotel room as incidental expense if prior arrangements are made through Il Ciocco.

If you prefer not to wait for the bus, you are welcome to share a taxi to Il Ciocco, but ECI cannot reimburse you.

AUTOMOBILE:

From Rome and Bologna – Take Motorway A-11 until the next exit for Lucca

From Genoa – Take Motorway A-12 to Viareggio, then the A-11 until Lucca

From Milan – Take Motorway A-15 to Viareggio, then A-11 until Lucca

The distance from Lucca to Il Ciocco is approximately 40 km. At Lucca take route SS445 towards Barga/Aulia/Castelnuovo (and Garfagnana – the brown tourist sign). As you leave Lucca you will be driving on a road with trees bordering it closely on both sides – shortly after this you will come to a major intersection with a large store on the right and a left turn only lane – take this left turn toward Castelnuovo. If you miss this turn drive a short way up to Ponte a Moriano, cross over the bridge and keep on this road until you reach Ponte di Campia. At the stop sign make a right turn, crossing back on the river. Then take the road that goes up toward the right and up the hill (not the sharp right which you take back down along the river). You will go through the small town of Castelvecchio Pascoli and see a suspended light over the middle of the road and also a red and white sign on the right hand side telling you to make an immediate left to Il Ciocco. Continue up the mountain to Il Ciocco. If you happen to drive up the right side of the river, you will go through Barga toward Castelvecchio Pascoli (about 5 km) and make a right turn at the sign (which will be on your left) to Il Ciocco. This route is longer and narrower; however you can make a stop at picturesque Devil's Bridge.

Speakers: There will be a laptop computer and a computer projector for presentations. Please plan to bring your PowerPoint presentation on a memory stick or a CD-rom (or both!).

Extended Period for Submission of Abstracts for Poster Presentations

Abstracts of work relevant to the session topics are invited for selection for poster presentations. The selected posters will be displayed throughout the meeting to allow open discussion among the participants. Graduate students and young investigators are particularly encouraged to present posters.

The deadline for the receipt of a one-page (300-word) abstract is September 15, 2009. The abstract must be submitted electronically. Follow the instructions given on the ECI web site:

www.engconfintl.org/9ba.html

Visas: Check to see if you require a visa to Italy. (http://www.esteri.it/visti/home_eng.asp) If you will require a special letter of invitation in order to receive a visa, please send an email to info@engconfintl.org and we will send you a form to complete so that a special letter can be issued.

Casual dress is preferred for ECI conferences. (Leave your suits at home.) The weather should be lovely during the conference. For the latest weather forecast visit weather.weatherbug.com/Italy/Barga-weather.html

Please make a note on the registration form if you have special dietary requirements (e.g., vegetarian or specific food allergy). If you have a physical disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate in the conference, please also note this on the online registration form. You will be contacted by ECI to discuss your specific needs.

We want to draw your attention to the fact that discussion and interaction among participants is an important part of ECI conferences and will be emphasized. There is ample time for discussion with fellow participants.

Thank you for your continued interest in this program. Please contact Tressa Gaffaney (Tressa@engconfintl.org) if you need additional assistance or information.

We would appreciate your informing colleagues about this conference and look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Hickernell

Barbara K. Hickernell, CAE
Director