



Photos: Courtesy of CORESTA

## CORESTA Congress Québec – a place for scientific dialogue

You certainly know that the peace pipe is one of the most prominent symbols of the American Indian culture and you may have noticed that the traditional CORESTA logo presents three pipes, which have been there since its foundation in 1956.

**F**or the American Indian nations the peace pipe was the traditional way to begin peace talks, to seal friendships and to strengthen relationships between tribes. Indians also believed that smoking the peace pipe before a political gathering would put them in a state of mind conducive to good decision making. As CORESTA is known for its respect of consensual recommendations of good practices in all fields, the calumet smoking was the most appropriate way to start the Congress in Quebec which was held from 12. - 16. October 2014.

It was indeed in a very pacific and relaxed atmosphere that CORESTA people sat down on the floor to smoke the peace pipe in Québec, Canada. The four Study Group Presidents and the Secretary General passed the calumet from hand to hand at the welcome reception initiated by the Huron Indians. We cannot tell you how the main- or sidestream smoke of the peace pipe worked and not a single puff was analysed by GC, LC or TOFMS. However, we observed de visu that it did work and gave remarkable results in humans, male and female. From Monday morn-

ing onwards, over 450 participants from all parts of the world representing 22 different languages started a four-day scientific programme together, all speaking peacefully the same language of science.

The theme of the congress was “Building on Experience to Shape the Future”. As the President of the Board, Dr. Martin Ward, emphasized in his welcome speech : “This time the congress wants to reflect on what has been achieved and learnt by CORESTA as well as to discuss the most recent scientific advances in different fields.”

The many faces of CORESTA: Past, Present and Future was the title of Dr. Derek Mariner's (President of the Scientific Commission) keynote speech in which he explained the essential role of the Scientific Commission dealing with the: "scientific issues under current discussion and pressures and priorities to which CORESTA should respond in order to meet the needs of its diverse membership"

He outlined the main features of CORESTA activities which englobe around 600 participants in the world. The CORESTA congresses and annual meetings allow these people to discuss their own sector-specific and country-specific topical issues. Mariner highlighted that many members watch closely the increasing regulatory requirements or are involved in ISO, WHO or FDA related activities. The main priorities in the key sectors of CORESTA, according to Derek Mariner, were focusing on guidance and training, data collection and sharing, global collaborative studies and method development. He addressed the future challenges, both for CORESTA organisation and the whole industry: "Above all, CORESTA should enable cooperation as



Dr. Martin Ward

national studies, and showed how past experience can be used today for novel products.

The Congress Working Programme offered a high standard scientific menu for all tastes. Those who were eager for Agro-Phyto knowledge were served copiously. There were sessions on TSNAs, nematodes, fungal diseases, virus diseases, genetic breeding, fertilisation and curing techniques, entomology, weeds, bacterial disease, production aspects, seed and seedlings. Being an international platform, CORESTA

testing products, toxicity, cigarette design, sources of variability, selective filtration, biomarkers, E-cigarettes, analysis, exposure assessment, smokeless tobacco products and tobacco/CPAs.

In addition to the above mentioned, the Smoke-Technomenu included three workshops (Cigarette Design, Toxicity and Collaborative Studies) which undoubtedly brought a new look and an appealing variation to these sessions. They offered an opportunity for all from different organisations (regulatory, academic or laboratories) to bring and share their expertise in a lively way. As a whole, the workshops generated a dynamic debate, a larger and general vision of the subject and active participation that proved to be very fruitful, especially for those who were new to the industry. Apart from the technical and scientific papers prepared by delegates representing their own work and organizations, CORESTA Congresses are also the opportunity to present updates on progress and results achieved by each of the 24 working groups.

E-cigarettes and novel products are of a growing interest. Two full sessions were dedicated to these, and they appeared in various other presentations. Moreover, the CORESTA ECIG Task Force, launched in May 2013, presented a report on their first output one-liquids, with another study to be completed by end of 2014 on emissions. The significant point is that out of the 40 member companies represented in the Task Force, more than half are independent laboratories and equipment manufacturers.

Building on experience to shape the future drives the activity of all CORESTA participants, whether they can attend a Congress or work behind the scenes. At the forefront are the Board and the Scientific Commission, leading the way. The 2014 Congress has seen many new faces emerging after the elections which confirms that there is a real interest and attraction to CORESTA work. As Diane Raverdy-Lambert, the newly elected President of the CORESTA Board comments: "CORESTA will continue to generate robust scientific work from plant breeding to aerosol characterization to allow all stakeholders to make sound decisions based on scientific evidence."

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Dr. Derek Mariner

well as promote it, by ensuring newcomers have access to the collective knowledge that underpins CORESTA, and access to the people who have generated that knowledge."

This was particularly illustrated by the paper presented by the CORESTA Prize recipient, Dr. William S. Rickert, founder of Labstat International. Rickert recounted 45 years of analytical work, from university research to inter-

Congress gave another opportunity for Sonia Velasquez to highlight the work done by the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) foundation in addressing hazardous child labour and creating decent youth employment in agriculture.

As for those who were hungry for new research on Smoke Techno, they could fill their plates from sessions on smoke chemistry, LIP testing, challenges in