

ISICP: History of the Symposium series

Professor Kenneth (Ken) Kuan-Yun Kuo was the chairman of the first symposium, on the subject of Base Bleed propulsion. However, thanks to his vision, this evolved into a series of symposia on special topics in Chemical Propulsion & Energetic Materials that he chaired for 26 years; however, he sadly passed away in 2016. From the 11th meeting onwards, the ISICP symposia series has been Chaired by Prof. Richard Yetter (Penn State University, USA), with Prof Keiichi Hori (ISAS/JAXA, Japan) & Dr John Zevenbergen (TNO, The Netherlands) as vice Chairmen.

There were some 90 attendees from 18 countries at the 1st symposium, which concluded with a round table discussion. The high scientific standards, widely international group of attendees & the friendly & informal approach have continued as important features of the remaining symposia. The first 11 meetings have been held in ten countries:

- #1: Greece, 1988
- #2: Germany, 1991
- #3: The Netherlands, 1993
- #4: Sweden, 1996
- #5: Italy, 2000
- #6: Chile, 2005
- #7: Japan, 2007
- #8: South Africa, 2009
- #9: Canada, 2012
- #10: France, 2014
- #11: Germany, 2018
- #12: Virtual meeting, 2021

The average number of attendees of the first 11 meeting is approximately 100. The 7th meeting, in Japan, & the 9th, in Canada, both had a record number of 140 scientist participating.

Selected papers from the symposia have been published in the International Journal of Energetic Materials and Chemical Propulsion (IJEMCP). Professor Kuo was the also the founder and Editor-in-Chief of IJEMCP.

The 12th meeting was held virtually (due to Covid) with 175 participants. It was organised by Jim Fleming (now of FCIT2 Ltd), 32 years after his involvement in organising the first event. There were four sponsors: ARO, Pacific Scientific Energetic Materials Company, Day&Zimmerman plus Resodyn.

