

CARBONO 1992 - 2005

This special issue of the *Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society (JBACS)* publishes selected papers presented at the III Brazilian Carbon Congress (CARBONO 2005), Rio de Janeiro, November 7-11, 2005.

Thirteen years ago, more precisely on the 04th of November of 1992, at Forte de Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, the scientific community dedicated to the research of carbon materials, in Brazil, gathered for the very first time in CARBONO 92, also organized by the Centro Tecnológico do Exército (CTEx). This first meeting was considered, at first, just a dream. The dedication of the researchers of CTEx's Carbon Group, however, made it come true, and successful. There was no money available, at that time, and most of the manual labour necessary to repair the presentation stage and all the necessary facilities, such as the sound system, had to be provided by the researchers themselves. That effort was not in vain. Other carbon research groups gathered around and promoted the second meeting, in São José dos Campos (CARBONO 99), the first Congress in Piracicaba (CARBONO 2002) and the second Congress in Vitória (CARBONO 2004).

This III Brazilian Carbon Congress (CARBONO 2005) happened in a quite different situation. It took place in one of the most sophisticated hotels at Copacabana Beach with

the support and infrastructure we are used to have in the most prestigious international conferences. Five international plenary lectures were presented, together with 90 other scientific papers, a number that forced the scientific committee to be very strict and, unfortunately, to refuse some articles.

The publication of this special issue ends, definitively, CARBONO 2005 and I would like to thank JBACS and its staff for their enormous effort, particularly its editor Dr. Watson Loh and the editorial manager Dra. Elizabeth Magalhães.

I would like to thank Petrobras for its financial support and to remember the names of Lidia Barreto, Fernando Santiago, Bernadete Rulff and Ana Coelho, members of the corporation staff that made everything possible in this event.

To Gen Alberto Cardoso and Gen Ubiratan Marcondes, head and deputy head of the Department of Science and Technology of the Brazilian Army, at the time of the Congress, I must say thank you on the behalf of all the members of the Organizing Committee. Nothing would have happened, not even this technological relationship with Petrobras, without their personal interference and dedication.

Luiz Depine de Castro
President of the Organizing Committees
(CARBONO 92 e CARBONO 2005)