

## Article for SA Mechanical Engineer



Last month saw the fifth staging of the World Tribology Congress, a four-yearly gathering of those involved with the science of Tribology. Previous events were held in London (1997), Vienna (2001), Washington DC (2005) and Kyoto (2009).

This year the SAIT delegation consisted of David Beard (President), Patrick Swan (Vice-President) and Gill Fuller (Secretary). We were all impressed by the wonderful venue, excellent organization and the stunning city of Turin, areas of which we were able to visit in between the wall-to-wall presentations.

The programme started with a meeting of the International Tribology Council on the Sunday evening, where the members voted to decide the venue for WTC 2017 – Beijing, China. Monday saw the start of the full programme, with an opening ceremony followed by Plenary lectures on subject as diverse as Biomimetics, Nanotribology and Space Tribology.

I am very pleased to report that the academic considered to be the “father” of Tribology, Professor Peter Jost, was present, and I was even more pleased to have the opportunity to meet him:



After the plenary sessions, the conference was broken up into ten subject areas, with each one being allocated a lecture room for the rest of the week. Each lecturer was allowed 20 minutes to get their message across which was a tall order with the amount of information available and questions being asked. Lecture sessions often carried on into the early evening. With well over 1,200 lectures on offer, it was very difficult to narrow down the choices, and then work out how to get to them all at the correct times. Most of the lectures were excellent; they matched the expectation created by the title and were presented in an interesting and engaging manner. Diversity was the name of the game – we had the opportunity to hear about subjects such as Biotribology, Coatings, Contact Mechanics, Chemistry and Rheology, EHL Modeling, Nanostructures, Fluid-Film Bearings and Automotive Tribology.

As if this wasn't enough, the organizers were also able to run the ECOTRIB 2013, VIENNANO '13 and ADDNANO events in parallel, at the same venue. Add in some factory tours to SKF and Petronas and the like, as well as a Gala Dinner, and we fully appreciated the level of organization that went into the smooth running of this event.

The website for this event is still live and can be accessed at [www.wtc2013.it](http://www.wtc2013.it) . I am already looking forward to Beijing 2017.

David Beard

President, SAIT.