

PREFACE

On March 5, 2006 over 100 scientists and engineers from 25 different countries met in Tomar Portugal to hold ECI's first conference on Bioenergy. Recent concerns about climate change, increasing costs and dwindling supplies of petroleum, and tensions in oil producing parts of the world, has led to world-wide interest in biofuels and this conference, one of ECI's largest, was successful in providing an excellent overview of the state-of-the-art in biofuels research and commercialization. Representatives from Universities, Governments, and Private Industry gave 47 separate presentations and 31 posters. Areas covered included 1) Fuel Alcohols from Grains and Sugars; 2) Fuel Ethanol from Biomass and Cellulosics; 3) Biogas and Biohydrogen; 4) Biodiesel; 5) Thermochemical Conversion of Biomass; 6) Environmental, Economics, and Energy Balance; and 7) New Paradigms. Major advances were announced in the areas of pre-treatment of biomass and grains, conversion of biomass to fuels, conversion of alternate feedstocks like barley to fuel ethanol, thermochemical conversion of biomass to fuels, and novel methods to produce biodiesel, biogas, and biohydrogen. We are fortunate that many of the speakers have agreed to post their presentations on this website so that many more than the 100 attendees of this meeting can now benefit from this new knowledge.

This conference would not have been successful without the support of the outstanding staff at ECI, especially Barbara Hickernell and Kevin Korpics, and the entire Technical and Organizing Committees for the Conference. Special thanks go to Bia Henriques, as Conference Secretary, she kept all the planners on track and helped us meet our deadlines. Finally, many thanks go to Franco Berruti for laboring to take these presentations and make them available on the web.

Plans are underway for another conference, Bioenergy II. If you are interested in serving on the organizing committee, please contact Dr. Franco Berruti, at berruti@eng.uwo.ca

Sincerely,

Kevin Hicks, Muthanna Al-Dahhan, and Charles A. Abbas
Conference Co-Chairs