

Newsletter 2. March 21st 2013.

Dear Friend,

First of all, we would like to thank your interest in AD13. Along this week, you will receive the results of the evaluation of your proposals but, before that, we wanted to inform you about how the peer review and selection process has been conducted.

Manuscript Submissions

We have received in excess of 750 proposals from 48 countries, 75% of them applying for oral presentation, with a noticeable participation of the major players in AD. From these data (see Figure 1) it appears that the size of the Congress is likely to increase significantly with respect to previous editions. In figure 2 you can see the statistics per country (total submissions). These are excellent indicators about the dynamism and forcefulness of Anaerobic Digestion!

During the process a preference towards specific topics in terms of number of manuscripts submitted was clearly observed (Figure 3). This has been carefully taken into account by the organisers during the preparation of the programme and the differences from what it was initially proposed have been incorporated.

Peer review and Selection

We have tried to maintain a complete transparency in the reviewing process. All papers have been revised by, at least, two members of the Scientific or Organising committee. A purposely designed computer program (ACRA) permitted to allocate automatically the manuscripts to reviewers, based on four criteria: (i) Topics affinity between manuscript and reviewer; (ii) Availability of reviewers in specific topics; (iii) Geographical exclusion of manuscripts and reviewers from the same country; (iv) A random component everything being equal. (More details at <http://www.ad13.org/content/review-process>).

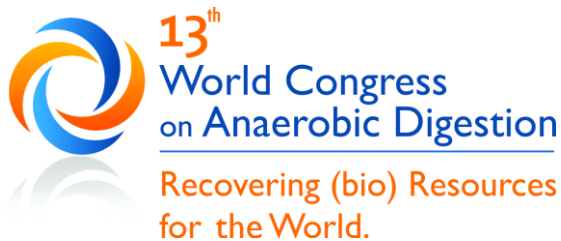
Reviewers did score each manuscript according to specific guidelines provided by the organisers. Considering that in spite of that the degree of exigency of each referee could be different, we have determined the average value for the evaluation of each referee.

The final rate of each paper has been accordingly modified by a normalisation factor (referee average/process average). The average value of the evaluation process has been 67.4 points, which is indicative of the good quality of the proposals.

The final score received by each manuscript as well as the comments from reviewers have been the major factors considered during the selection process, together with diversity of topics and, to a minor extent, wide geographical representation of presenters.

Program

Considering the number and quality of proposals in each topic we have re-designed the program into 21 Full Platform sessions (including 8 key notes and 97 full platform



presentations) and 9 Short presentation sessions (including 108 short platform presentations).

The fact that only about 15% of proposals have been selected for Full platform and other 15% for Short platform presentations serves as indicator of the highly competitive peer review and selection process comparing with other Congresses. These very promising figures also make us expect to see top quality presenters and very interesting sessions in AD13.

The proposed programme can be accessed at <http://www.ad13.org/content/scientific-programme>). Upon reception of authors' acceptance, we will publish by April 30th the detailed final programme.

Keynotes

In addition to the announced Plenary speeches and Workshops, the organisers wanted to highlight specific topics of relevance by inviting 8 relevant researchers to present the state-of-the-art as well as the newest contributions from their research groups as Keynotes in specific sessions. Details at (<http://www.ad13.org/content/keynotes>)

Industrial participation

We have tried to increase as much as possible the role of Companies in AD13. We feel that AD progress should be based in a close cooperation between Academy and Industry. As you may see in the web, up to now 12 relevant Companies have shown interest in the congress as sponsors or exhibitors.

In addition to this, a significant percentage (10 %) of platform presentations will come from industry in AD13, constituting an improvement respect to previous editions and other IWA conferences.

Short specialised courses

As a novelty of this congress, we offer 3 specialised courses delivered by top-quality teachers. Please ensure to pre-register before *April 8th* if you are interested. We offer only 20 vacancies in each course. Details at <http://www.ad13.org/content/specialised-courses>

Lettinga Award

As you might be aware of, the Lettinga Associates Foundation, in cooperation with relevant companies of the sector, offers an award in each AD conference. Please find enclosed full information and consider that the deadline for presenting your proposals is the *1st May*.

We look forward to welcoming you in Santiago de Compostela next June. Cordially,

Juan M. Lema and Marta Carballa
Organising Committee

Fernando Fdz-Polanco and Jorge Rodriguez
Scientific Committee

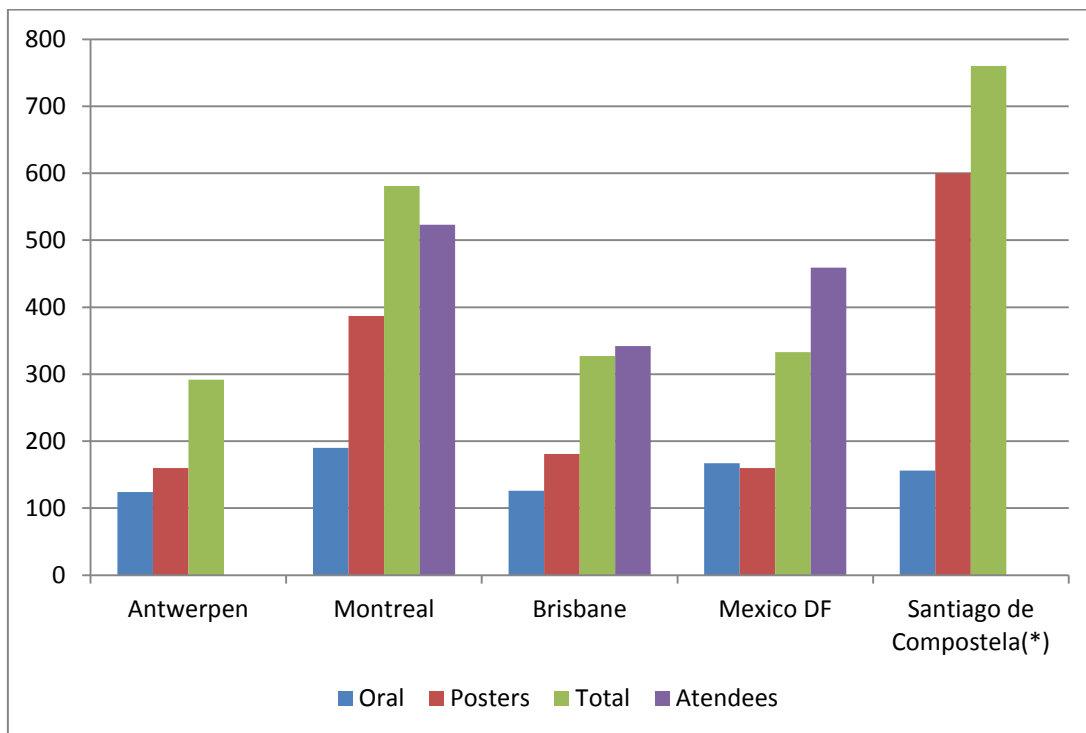


Figure 1. Contributions and Participants in AD Congresses. (*) Provisional

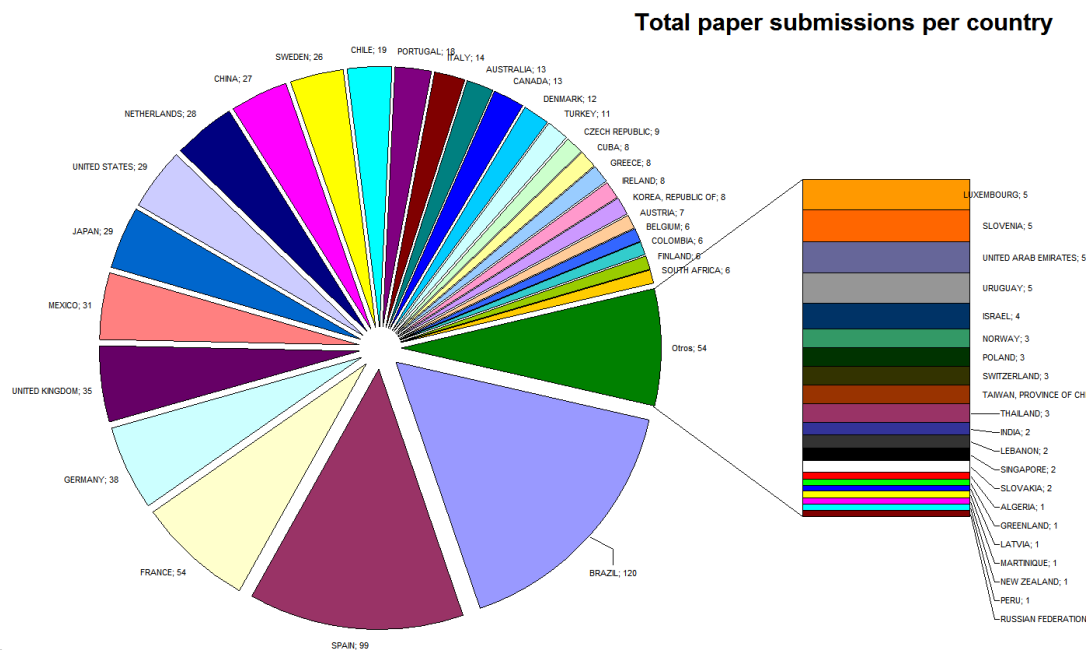


Figure 2. Total submissions (per country).

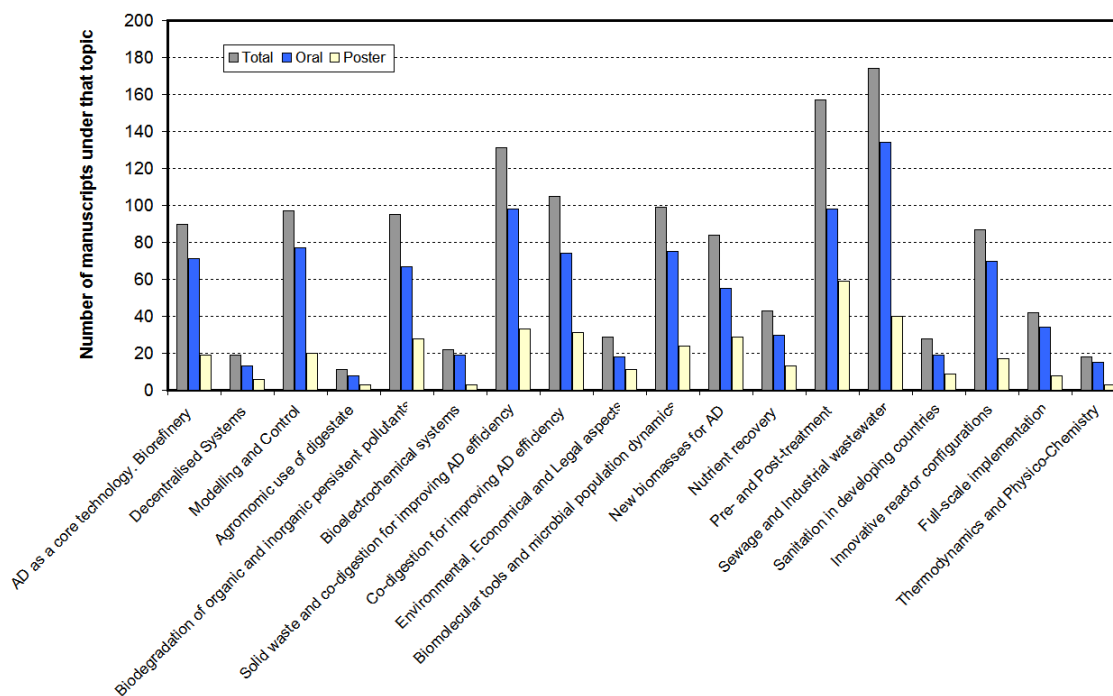


Figure 3a. Submissions per topic (Total, Oral and Posters)
(Submissions may be classified in more than one topic)

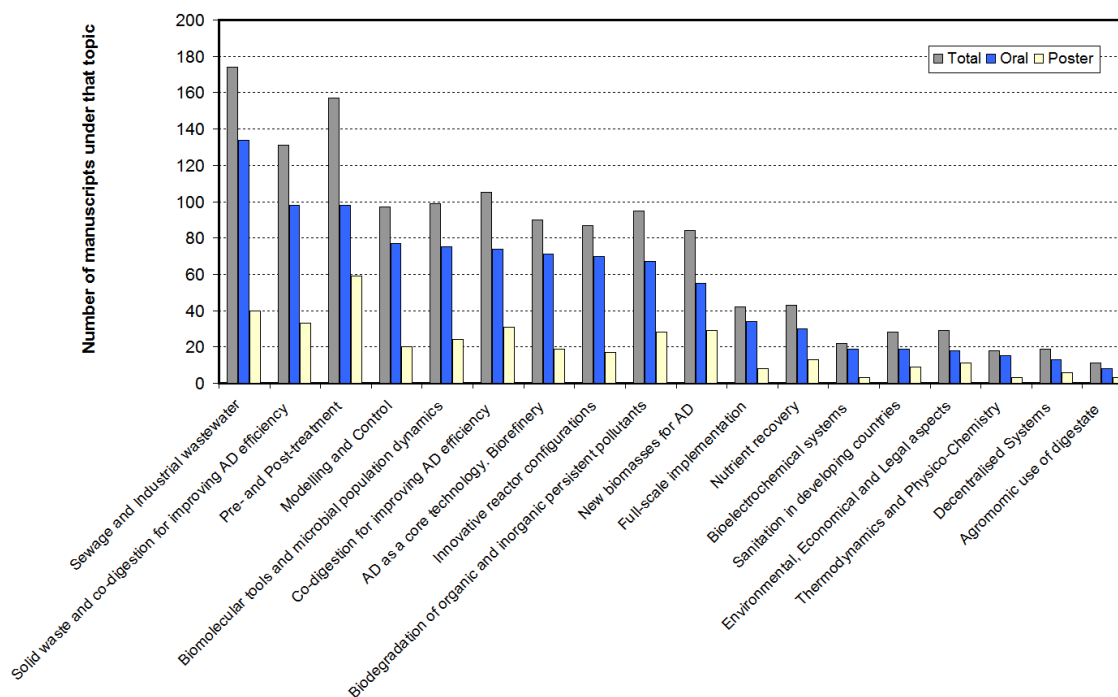


Figure 3b. - Submissions per topic (Total, Oral and Posters)
(Submissions may be classified in more than one topic)