

Foreword

The series of Mining Congress and Exhibition of Turkey organized by the Chamber of Mining Engineers has a long and proud tradition in the service of the mining and mineral processing industry. As the congress has taken an international identity since the last one, it is appropriate that the congress be held in Antalya, the well known beautiful Mediterranean resort city.

The 18th International Mining Congress and Exhibition of Turkey (IMCET 2003) which was held on June 10-13, 2003 gave us the opportunity to conduct a world review of the state of art in the science and technology of mining. Scientists and industrial experts gathered to exchange not only experimental results, but also ideas about future developments in mining and mineral processing fields.

The congress technical programme was conducted in fourteen technical sessions in which 55 papers in 7 subject categories were presented. This was complemented by five plenary lectures and by one poster session with some 43 additional papers. The papers were chosen from more than 160 abstracts from twenty two countries and they were compiled into two volumes.

The proceedings of IMCET 2003 are the product of the generous contribution of a large number of people. All manuscripts were reviewed by the members of the scientific committee and most of the papers had to be reformatted. The editor would like to thank all for their tremendous effort and of course, the authors for making these volumes possible. A special word of thanks must be recorded for the staff of Mining Engineering Department of Middle East Technical University.

We are very thankful for generosity of the congress sponsors and invited speakers. The editor also wish to express their appreciation to the session chairpersons and the members of organizing and executive committees.

Prof. Dr. Gülhan Ozbayoglu
On behalf of the Organizing Committee
Chairperson of IMCET 2003 and Editor