

OMCOS 9

Goettingen
1997

OMCOS 9, Goettingen, July 20-25, 1997

Organizing a major International Conference like OMCOS is not a trivial thing, but it brings the organizer a lot of new experiences, and great pleasure after all. The last six weeks before the conference date are the worst. They go along with sleepless nights and stomach ache in fear that the budget would not be balanced, because attendance might not be as expected. After all, OMCOS 9 came out well with an overall of 928 participants, 475 of which were full-paying delegates and around 400 subsidized students.

Here are some excerpts from my e-mail correspondence during 1997:

Dear Professor de Meijere:
I regret to inform you that I wish to remove myself as a lecturer for the OMCOS in Gottingen. This decision is due to a need to decrease my travel for personal reasons. It is largely the result of the recent birth of my first child and my need to spend more of his first year at home.

(Received on Feb. 2nd, 1997)

Dear Armin:
I think OMCOS makes you very busy this

year. The 2nd circular has not reached me yet. You may have already sent it to me but, if not, I should be grateful for an early reply.

(Received Feb. 7th, 1997)

Professor de Meijere,
..... called me this morning and inform me that you obtain from me email of June 10 where I "would have to withdraw my registration". This situation is so ridiculous that I feel my secretary mixed up something. I really did not sign such message and therefore didn't send it to you.

I'm sorry if this has happened.

Really I would like to attend the Meeting in Goettingen; I've received your kind letter concerning the financial support for me. Thank you for your generous activity doing this.

Would you be so kind to send me as soon as possible the official invitation to make visa application.

Please send me it by fax and by mail.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

(Received 11th June, 1997)

Hi Armin:

Glad to hear that things are picking up in terms of attendance. It should continue for another few weeks. Also, there surely will be those that will come and register on site, although not too many of these that are full-paying. Some students are likely, though.

Yes, I have raised half of my airfare, thanks to your letter, which I appreciate very much.

Since you did not mention your budget situation, I can offer a few comments about where some costs might be saved. I found that providing everyone with pads and pens can really add up. You may not chose to do this depending upon the costs for such items in Germany. I would not find it offensive if I had to use my own supplies, which I suspect everyone brings anyway. From every previous OMCOS I have given these away.

At OMCOS 8, I saved money by using students to 'man' the desk during busy times, which saved me \$ that would go to hiring staff people beyond Sally and the person who handled the money. I know that you hired the GDCh, but maybe you can save on that bill by using your own helpers at peak times.

Just a thought.

Hope all is progressing well and that your

health is holding out.

(Received June 13th, 1997)

Dear Professor Armin,

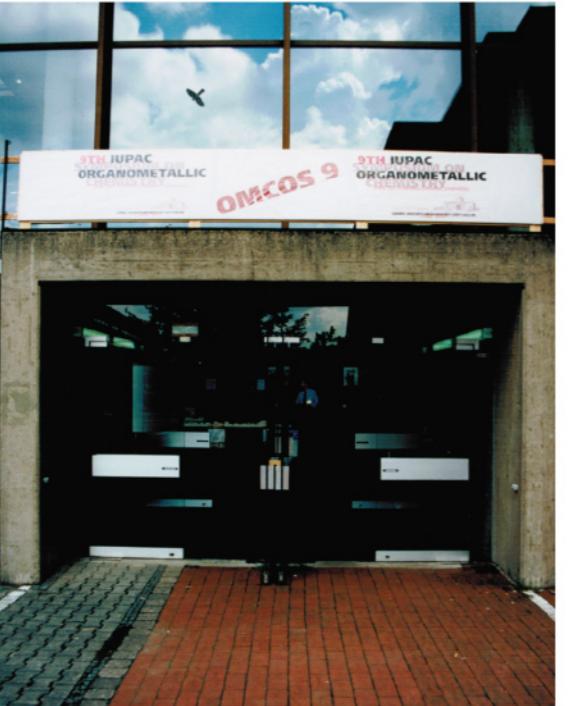
Thank you once more for your help. I would not like to be so demanding on my needs regarding my trip! But since the OMCOS9 will be a nice opportunity for me to present our work, to meet people and to see what is hot in this field I accept your kind offer to cover my travel expenses with funds from the VW Stiftung. I would also like to discuss with you

(Received June 17th, 1997)

Dear Armin:

It was very good news indeed to hear that the predictions for attendance have come to be reality; I am sure you are resting a lot easier and can now focus on items that are more of a practical rather than financial nature.

Choosing the short talks is surely one of the most gut-wrenching aspects to the job of running an OMCOS meeting. That is why I left it to to call the shots on this one! I think the politics do need to be considered at this level, especially if they can balance a tough decision made at the plenary/invited talk level. Thus, I hope you have this balance of chemistry/countries/sex within your list-





**OMCOS 9
Menu**

*Pâté of guinea fowl
with apple-fig salad
cumberland sauce
butter and pastries*

*Oxtail soup
with sherry*

*Salmon steaks and scampis
on morel sauce
with snow pea pods
and curcuma rice*

*Parfait of blackberries
in a ring of multilayered (Baumkuchen) cake
with grappa sabayon*

*1994/95 Oberbergener Baßgeige
Müller-Thurgau, quality white wine
- dry -
Wine growers association Oberbergen*

*1994/95 Oberbergener Baßgeige
Pinot Noir, rosé wine
Quality wine - dry -
Wine growers association Oberbergen*

*1993 Bönnigheimer Sonnenberg
Pinot Noir, red wine
Quality wine - mild -
Wine growers association Bönnigheim*

*Beer, mineral water, coke, orange drink
Apple juice, orange juice*