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Biorefinery 1 crete – Editorial



“Biorefineries” is a term used to depict the future way to produce nearly everything from biomass which is now obtained from fossil resources. Although not all of the actual technologies are techno-economically sustainable, there are worldwide continuous R&D endeavours funded by both governments and the private sector and conducted by academia, research institutes and industry. Some technologies are already emerging as industrial units and some others require additional R&D and finally piloting efforts.

Biorefinery I was the first international symposium within a new series proposed and introduced by a group of enthusiastic scientists and engineers who devoted their career in this area. This highly successful event provided an international forum for presentation of commercial and emerging technologies and scientific advancements focusing specifically at the area of chemicals and materials production from renewable resources. The speakers and attendees came from academia, industry and other research organizations (e.g., institutional and government). More specifically, Biorefinery I targeted the following focal areas:

1. Light oxygenates, Phenols & aromatics
2. Adhesives & lubricants
3. Feed/food & additives
4. Specialties, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals and fibrous products
5. Synthetic fuels, Charcoal (derivatives) and other Commodity chemicals
6. Plastics

This special edition is composed of the 14 contributions which

have successfully passed the strict review procedure characterizing the high quality of the Biomass & Bioenergy Journal. The topics extend from the consideration of converting biomass mills into biorefineries to evolving thermocatalytic processes for homogenizing the various heterogeneous biomasses and either extract useful products or process further their streams towards the production of valuable chemicals and, more generally, materials which are now available only from fossil resources.

Hopefully, there will be some additional papers from this symposium, which are delayed and cannot be along with this special edition.

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