

**Speech of Pr Alexandre Dolgui, General Scientific Chair at the banquet
May 17, 2006**

Monsieur le Directeur,
Mesdames, Messieurs,
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for coming to St Etienne
I hope you stay's pleasurable, informative and productive.

It is rare when there is assembled such a wonderful collection of scientists at the same time and place. All of you have contributed so much to the success of INCOM'06. Thank you a lot.

I salute also this elite group sitting at the tables near me. I am speaking, of course, of our International Program Committee (IPC) and the IPC chair Professor Gérard Morel. While being respected world wide and with other great and various responsibilities, all of you found the time to accomplish the very difficult task of reviewing and selecting articles for INCOM.

I would like to express my gratitude to the National Organizing Committee, and especially Doctor Xavier Boucher the Committee chair, for two long years of hard work and sacrifice, and, of course, for putting up with me. It is thanks to them that all the details, arrangements and logistics were carried out.

Ladies and gentlemen, could you please raise your glasses? I would like to make a toast: to all the people present and every one who contributed to the success of INCOM, now and in the future.

The first day is finished. But we have two very full days ahead of us, filled with exhibitions, posters, presentations and speeches. Fantastic! ...

I hope the food and the drink are extraordinary, after all we are in France. In addition I expect this occasion to be informal and a good way to get this party started.

Thank you