



Presse-Information

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Statement

Dr. Kurt Wagemann

President of DECHEMA Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Ladies and gentlemen,

the stars are in the right constellation for the 8th AchemAsia. More than 400 exhibitors and more than 80 lectures give proof of how stable and positive the largest exhibition congress for the process industries in Asia has developed - all the more under less than favorable economic circumstances.

Let me give you a short overview on what you can expect over the next days: In the exhibition halls, 413 exhibitors are ready at their booths to present the newest developments and innovative technologies. We are especially happy about the great international interest that AchemAsia has raised: 24 countries are represented, and we expect sizeable visiting groups from India, South Korea and Japan, amongst others. In the exhibition, the PR China accounts for the largest group with 190 exhibitors, followed by Germany (118), France (23) and the USA (11).

The congress program goes hand in hand with the exhibition. Overall, experts offer 89 lectures in 12 scientific sessions and present new ideas from research and development. A range of special and guest events round off this offering and provide a platform for discussing current topics, identifying trends and establishing new contacts.

But what are actually the striking topics and trends in the process industries? In the congress program, an outstanding topic certainly is sustainability. Dr. Wernicke has already shown how important sustainability and accordingly the long-term safe-

guarding of resources is for the future – from the economic point of view as well as with regard to the quality of life and safety of future generations. Professor Geißen has pointed out that sustainability includes the preservation of the global water resources. Raw materials and energy sources might be substitutable, water is not.

Our society DECHEMA who organises AchemAsia together with our Chinese partners from CIESC and with the support of many other organizations worldwide takes an active interest in these questions not only here at AchemAsia but also in our everyday work. Chemical engineering and biotechnology make up the topical framework that brings together scientists, developers and producers for exchange and discussion. Over the last years, we have worked intensively on topics like renewable resources, and we have learned that a very careful analysis of concepts and balances is essential for the evaluation of innovative technologies. At the moment, we are considering for example the potential of algae as a renewable resource. It has become quite clear that they offer attractive opportunities as producers of high value substances for the industry. In addition, the remains can be used for energy generation. Another project in which we are involved is the implementation of a pilot lignocellulose biorefinery in Eastern Germany. From the exchange between science and practical operation, we draw many valuable insights that can be converted directly into technological improvement.

This exchange is what AchemAsia offers as well. In a globalized world, it is more multi-layered and more necessary than ever before. And I am proud to say that we have very early – more than 20 years ago – created AchemAsia as a platform for exactly that purpose. I am convinced that once more important impulses will come from AchemAsia that are relevant far beyond the limits of this event.

My special thanks go to our partners from CIESC and the many other organizations who have made this AchemAsia possible. I hope that everyone of you will have four interesting and fruitful days here in Beijing.