



AICHE and DECHEMA Launch Global Conference on Energy Sustainability in the Process Industries

Diminishing fossil fuel reserves and concerns over climate change are driving industries and governments to improve energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions. To most effectively deal with such pressing matters, world leaders and decision-makers need guidance from chemical engineers and scientists to more quickly achieve optimal sustainable technology solutions.

Toward that end, AIChE and DECHEMA — the Frankfurt, Germany-based Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology — are bringing together the world's technical and scientific knowledge-base at the first Global Conference on Energy Sustainability in the Process Industries (ESPI), June 5–8, 2011, at Hong Kong Univ. of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR, China.

The inaugural ESPI conference will illuminate emerging technologies and new engineering directions that can help sustain the process industries while improving the global standard of living. Presenters and attendees will strive to answer two critical questions — “What needs to be done?” and “How do we go about it?” — by defining research needs, examining recent technological advancements, and discussing strategies for industry to implement energy-saving technologies. Importantly, the conference will take into account the diverse perspectives and policy objectives of different countries, organizations, and industries to reach the best global engineering solutions using internationally coordinated strategies.

According to conference co-chair Thomas Dietrich, CEO of mikroglas (Mainz, Germany), the combination of leaders from different groups makes the ESPI conference unique. Bringing together scientists and those working on

policy development, the conference will “combine feasible technical solutions with political and policy considerations to point the way to the most practical energy efficient-solutions,” he says.

Critical content

A half-dozen technical sessions, led by experts from academia, industry, and government, form the basis of the ESPI conference, with presenters representing such countries as China, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, and the U.S.

The conference kicks off on Monday morning, June 6, with a keynote address by Dr. C. J. Guo, Emerging Technology Theme Lead for Shell (Beijing, China). In his talk, entitled “Future Energy and the Sustainability Challenge,” Guo will set the stage for the overall conference — with a consideration of short- and long-term prospects for fossil-fuel resources; the future impact of biofuels on the transportation sector; the role of carbon capture and sequestration in pursuing a low-carbon energy future; and the diversity of energy sources that will be needed to meet local as well as global demands.

Following the keynote speech, the technical program begins, with sessions on June 6 and 7 devoted to: innovations in the production and use of fossil fuels and the development of renewable

energy sources, including biofuels; breakthroughs in the design and energy-efficient production processes and applications in the electronics industry; advancements in the design of more energy-efficient products and production processes in the automotive industry, including discussions of innovative drive systems and “green fuels;” and an exploration of energy and feedstock sustainability in the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech industry.

Wednesday, June 8, will be devoted to a consideration of policy issues that are likely to impact the industries explored during the conference. To wrap up the meeting, a panel consisting of the week's session leaders, together with attendees, will draw conclusions about the developments needed to facilitate the wide-scale introduction of more energy-efficient processes, answering questions such as: What are the greatest obstacles to the adoption of new technologies? What can organizations like AIChE and DECHEMA do to increase the awareness of key issues? And, what can governments do to facilitate more-efficient energy use?

AIChE members receive a registration discount, and an additional early-registration discounts applies through May 2. For registration and program details, visit www.aiche.org/conferences/specialty/ESPI.aspx. 

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE AND INSIGHT

One of the strengths of the Global Conference on Energy Sustainability in the Process Industries is the diversity of contributing organizations. Representatives from the following companies will be speaking at the technical sessions: Bayer, Innovation Edge, Linde Group, Mitsubishi Chemical, Shell, SIAC Motor (Shanghai), and Siemens. Speakers from academia represent the following universities: Univ. of Dresden, Univ. of Hong Kong, Jilin Univ. Kobe Univ., Univ. of Maryland (College Park), Osaka Univ., Univ. of Rostock, Shanghai Jiaotong Univ., Tsinghua Univ., and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.