

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

News and Events

REPORT FROM THE EFCE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND EFCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The EFCE Executive Board and the EFCE General Assembly meetings were held in Copenhagen on 16 September 2007 in conjunction with ECCE-6 (European Congress of Chemical Engineering-6). The agenda was rich and touched all the important aspects of the EFCE activities, including the elections of the EFCE executives.

The Executive Board recommended the present President of the EFCE, Professor Jiří Drahoš, Prague, Czech Republic, and the present Executive Vice-President, Professor John Garside, Penrith, Cumbria, UK, to stay in their positions for a second two-year term of office. Subsequently the General Assembly unanimously elected Professor Jiří Drahoš and Professor John Garside to these positions for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009. In June 2006, the EFCE Member Societies had decided by postal vote on the next Scientific Vice-President. They agreed to prolong the term of office of the present Scientific Vice-President Professor Ryszard Pohorecki until 31 December 2007. Furthermore the Member Societies elected Dr Hermann Feise, BASF AG, Ludwigshafen, Germany, as the successor to Professor Pohorecki in the position of Scientific Vice-President for the period of office 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009. The General Assembly also elected a new Executive Board for the next three-year term of office (1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010).

Following recommendations of the recent EFCE presidential meeting in Manchester, the Executive Board discussed thoroughly the most important factors influencing the current situation in chemical engineering (and society at large). These are for example exponentially increasing impacts of new and emerging scientific disciplines, extremely rapid and effective communication possibilities, and the availability of all kinds of information on the web for almost everyone. All these and many other factors must also have a deep impact on the EFCE. They have to be taken into account when revising the future strategy of the EFCE after more than five decades of its successful existence. Some steps in this direction have already been taken – for example the formation of the Task Group on Public Relation, which should help in increasing the visibility and value of the EFCE to the chemical engineering community and to the general public. However, the problem is much more complex and thus the Executive Board has decided to make a thorough analysis of the EFCE activities. A SWOT analysis (SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threads) will be performed with the aim of developing objectives and strategies that reflect the above-mentioned factors so that the EFCE will be perceived as the real voice of European chemical engineering of the 21st century.

The General Assembly approved new Guidelines for Sections and asked the Executive Board to prepare an updated version of the EFCE Statutes which takes into account the revision of the guidelines for Working Parties and Sections. The General Assembly also agreed to the winding-up of the Working Parties on Filtration and Separation and on Industrial Rheology. Based on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the General Assembly approved the transformation of the WP on Membranes to a Section on Membrane Engineering.

A new Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties held its inaugural meeting in Copenhagen in conjunction with ECCE-6. This Working Party has been formed thanks to the initiatives of several leading persons in the field and was formally approved by Member Societies by postal vote in March 2007.

The General Assembly highly appreciated a recent activity of the Task Group on Public Relations which prepared a first issue of the EFCE E-newsletter. The aim of the E-newsletter is to inform rapidly and regularly EFCE members and many other interested persons about the activities of the Federation. The E-newsletter will be published quarterly. The Task Group also proposed a range of new financial support for the ECCEs and for Working Parties and Sections, and the extension of the Excellence Award scheme for outstanding PhD theses to include all Working Parties.

The Executive Board proposed and the General Assembly agreed with the following EFCE Awards:

Jacques Villermaux Medal 2007 was awarded to Professor Dr -Ing. Gerhart Eigenberger, Germany, in recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions to chemical and process engineering, his support of the Federation's Working Party on Chemical Reaction Engineering as a member and chairman and of the International Symposium on Chemical Reaction Engineering (ISCRE).

Honorary Membership of the Federation was awarded to Dr Trevor J. Evans, United Kingdom, in recognition of his commitment to the Federation, and his contribution to international friendship and understanding.

The Student Mobility Award 2007 – the winners are Mr Daniel Weber, Germany (1st prize), Mrs Sefanie Demming, Germany (2nd prize) and Mrs Anna Carvalho, Portugal (3rd prize).

The awards to Professor Eigenberger and Dr Evans were presented at the opening ceremony and the Student Mobility Awards at the closing ceremony of ECCE-6.

The Spanish EFCE Member Society Asociacion Nacional de Quimicos (ANQUE) has decided to award its highest distinction, the **Golden Medal of ANQUE**, to the European Federation of Chemical Engineering. Professor Jiří Drahoš, the EFCE President, will receive the award on behalf of

EFCE at the annual ANQUE General Assembly in Madrid, Spain.

To avoid undesirable competition with, and to support the 8th World Congress of Chemical Engineering which will be held in Montreal in 2009, the EFCE decided to organize ECCE-7 in Prague, Czech Republic, in conjunction with the congress CHISA 2010. It was also decided to keep the two-year schedule of ECCE and to organize ECCE-8 in 2011.

Jiří Drahoš

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NEW WORKING PARTY ON THERMODYNAMICS AND TRANSPORT PROPERTIES OF EFCE

The inaugural meeting of the new Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering was held on 19 September 2007 in Copenhagen, Denmark during ECCE-6. Thermodynamics and Transport Properties are core elements in chemical engineering research, practice and education. Consequently, the creation of the new working party was decided unanimously by the EFCE Executive Board in its meeting in August 2006. The major objectives of the WP are:

- (a) To promote thermodynamic, transport and physical property measurements, correlations, predictions, and simulations in the academic and industrial chemical engineering communities, the national societies, as well as the national and international funding agencies,
- (b) To promote concerted education activities to chemical engineers in the areas of thermodynamics and transport properties,
- (c) To offer a suitable forum to chemical engineers for exchange of ideas, the development of new basic and applied research projects and collaborations through the organization of conferences, workshops and other activities,
- (d) To coordinate research activities at the European level by identifying chemical systems and conditions that are important for novel chemical processes and for which data and/or correlations are non existent or inaccurate so that further work is required,
- (e) To make available recent developments in the area through an electronic newsletter.

Delegates from 14 European country member societies have been nominated and approved by the EFCE Executive Board so far whereas delegates from another eight European countries are under approval. During the inaugural meeting, delegates elected unanimously the executive board of the new working party:

- WP Chairman: Dr Ioannis Economou, Research Director of the National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos" in Aghia Paraskevi, Greece,
- WP Secretary: Dr Richard Sass of Dechema in Frankfurt, Germany,
- WP Vice-Chairman for industrial affairs: Professor Ralf Dohrn, Director, Reaction and Polymer Technology of Bayer Technology Services in Leverkusen, Germany,
- WP Vice-Chairman for academic affairs: Associate Professor Georgios Kontogeorgis of the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, Denmark.

Further information concerning the new WP and its activities can be found at: <http://www.efce.org/wpttp.html>. Inquiries concerning the new WP can be addressed to Dr Ioannis Economou at: economou@chem.demokritos.gr.

Ioannis Economou

2ND BUSINESS MEETING 2007 OF THE EFCE WORKING PARTY ON EDUCATION

The Second Business Meeting in 2007 of the Working Party on Education of the European Federation of Chemical Engineers (WPE-EFCE) took place in Copenhagen, on the 16th of September during ECCE-6 – European Congress of Chemical Engineering-6.

The meeting was attended by 26 delegates and three guests.

The first main point of the agenda was the handover of chairmanship from Martin Molzahn, who has chaired the WPE for the past 6 years, to Sebastião Feye de Azevedo, Portuguese delegate elected Chairman for the period 2007–2010. The new Chair will be assisted in his job by his colleague Manuel Alves (mmalves@fe.up.pt), a contact that will be always open to listen to colleagues that may want to contribute to the WP.

At this point the new Chair and all delegates praised the remarkable work developed by Martin Molzahn, as well as by Peter Plegniere in his role of WP Secretary, work that led to a significant number of successful initiatives, namely the one that conducted to the EFCE Recommendations for Core Curriculum of First and Second Cycle programmes, published in September 2005.

All members were happy with the fact that Martin will continue contributing to the WPE in his new condition of Guest member.

Significant time of the agenda was used for analysing and reviewing examples of curricula and good practices in promoting chemical engineering.

Professor Anker Jensen (Chairman Educational Committee, Chemical Engineering Department, DTU) presented an overview of Chemical Engineering Education in Denmark and of the specific education system at DTU – Danmarks Tekniske Universitet. The implementation of new initiatives, such as the CDIO or the new grade scales, was described and discussed.

Jan Degrève described initiatives in Belgium to attract new students to the Chemical Engineering field. Andrew Furlong (ICChemE, UK) presented the activities developed by ICChemE for the same purpose. The 'Whynotchemeng' initiative was described briefly and the repercussion on the number of Chemical Engineering applications was analyzed. Antje Hansmeier described the KJVI - Kreative Junge Verfahrens/Ingenieure – initiative, where the goal is to make a link between industry, schools and universities.

In the next point of the agenda, the Chair reviewed recent developments of the Bologna process, this having been followed by a Group Discussion. It is clear that this is a reform that is at its early stages and the WPE will in the future pay significant attention to its evolution at national level.

Indeed, much work is still to be done in many of the signatory countries of this process, in defining national qualifications



Past Working Party on Drying Chairman Professor Michel Roques (third from left) among his family and colleagues (among them AFSIA Chairman Professor Julien Andrieu, first from left) at the banquet of the Jubilee held in his honour (Biarritz, France, 24 May 2007).

frameworks with their descriptors at global, sectoral and specific levels, in defining and implementing quality assurance procedures, in defining new course structures based on learning outcomes and mainly in bringing into practice concepts of student-centred learning.

The issue of the Journal *Education for Chemical Engineers* was then discussed. David Shallcross presented an overview of the Journal *Education for Chemical Engineers* (ECE), IChemE's online journal, launched in May 2006 atACHEMA. ECE is also an official journal of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (Part D). It aims to be the principal international journal for the publication of high quality, original papers in chemical, process and biomolecular engineering education. A description of the first volumes of the journal was presented and David Shallcross encouraged the members of WPE to promote within their closer circles that colleagues both read and publish in ECE.

The final point was the reviewing of developments concerning the WPE website (<http://www.efce.info/wpe>). The site is now on a stabilized format. Most countries have their links active and this should represent a good way of interchanging information and promoting cooperation in development of best practices in chemical engineering education.

The WPE-EFCE is currently constituted of 34 delegate members and three guest members, representing 22 countries. Six of the delegates and 1 of the guest members are from industry.

During this first semester of activity of this new three-year cycle the WPE will discuss and prepare new activities and initiatives, they will be discussed during the Forum meeting to be held between 1–22 February 2008, and will be approved in the next Business Meeting that will take place in Maribor, Slovenia on April 12, 2008.

Independently of details, two main objectives of the Chairman for the next cycle of activity will be to enlarge country participation and also to enlarge the participation from industry.

Also, the WPE will pay significant attention to the evolution of the reform that is taking place at national level with relation to the Bologna Process.

The WPE-EFCE will continue its efforts for contributing to this changes of paradigm that are taking place all over the world, but in particular within this European Higher Education Area that is under construction.

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo

EFCE WORKING PARTY ON DRYING ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Working Party on Drying held its annual business meeting on 24 May 2007 at the *European Drying Conference* in Biarritz, France. This scientific meeting of the working party was co-organized by the French Drying Association (AFSIA) as a Jubilee in honour of working party member and past Chairman Professor Michel Roques who can look back on 30 years of research in the field of drying. With more than 80 participants and about 50 scientific contributions, gathering many of Prof. Roques' former colleagues and PhD students, the two-day meeting was a big success.

During the business meeting, Chairman Professor Tsotsas was re-elected unanimously for a second term of three years. He expressed the wish to hand over to a new Chairperson before his energy will be needed as the organizer of International Drying Symposium 2010 to be held at Magdeburg University, Germany.

The invitation of Professor Tsotsas to present current working party activities to the EFCE Executive Board in March 2007 had raised the question about the history of the working party which started back in 1980. During and after the meeting, a list of past Chairmen and meetings was gathered, including many minutes. It has been decided to make this information available on the working party

homepage in order to show and help to honour the contributions of past members in making the working party what it is today.

Concerning future meetings of the working party, the idea was put forward of holding *European Drying Symposia* as parallel conferences to ECCE which are held alternating with the biannual IDS series. This would help in enforcing the European drying community and allow regular annual meetings without further burden on agendas.

A final major topic of the meeting was the book series *Modern Drying Technology* which was initiated by working party Chairman Professor Tsotsas (co-editor with Professor Mujumdar, founder of the IDS series) and is a real achievement of the Working Party as a whole, with its members being authors of most of the contributions. In the preface of the book, the role of the working party is clearly pointed out and the complete membership list is given. The first volume on *Computational*

Tools at Different Scales was launched by Wiley-VCH at ECCE-6. Currently, the contributions to the second volume on experimental techniques (to appear in 2008) are being finalized, and the author contracts for the third volume on product quality and formulation are being prepared.

Several working party members also met informally at ECCE-6, after which important information was circulated by a newsletter. Specifically, the next working party meeting was agreed to take place at the dryer producing company Niro in Copenhagen from June 12–13, 2008. Besides technical sessions and business meeting, a tour of the company and a visit to a production site with operating dryers are planned. The kind invitation by Niro offers a suitable possibility to meet in Europe before IDS in November 2008 in Mumbai, India.

Thomas Metzger