

## Press release

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### Obituary: Professor Hanns Hofmann

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It is with great sadness that the European Federation of Chemical Engineering announces the death of Professor Dr. Hanns P.K. Hofmann on 4 January 2006 at the age of 82 years. Professor Hofmann was professor emeritus of the Institute of Technical Chemistry at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany.

Professor Hofmann was one of the world's foremost technical chemists and a well-known personality in the scientific community. He enjoyed an outstanding reputation in chemical engineering. With great competence he made a substantial contribution towards shaping chemical engineering and modern reaction engineering in Germany and Europe.

Born on 18 December 1923 in Frankfurt am Main, Professor Hofmann studied chemistry at the Technical University of Darmstadt where he obtained his doctorate with a thesis on problems encountered in designing chemical production plants and in simulating chemical processes. In 1965 he was appointed to the chair of Technical Chemistry (Reaction Engineering) at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, a position he held until 1993.

Professor Hofmann was deeply involved in the European Federation of Chemical Engineering, its administration and its scientific activities. From September 1993 to December 1997 he was the first EFCE President, a member of the EFCE Executive Board (by December 1998) and later on its Honorary President.

Professor Hofmann's national and European commitment to chemical engineering has been recognised by several awards: theACHEMA Plaque (1973), the Ernest Solvay Prize of 'Stiftungsverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft' (1982), the German Order of Merit ('Verdienstkreuz am Bande', 1982), the DECHEMA Medal (1994), and *Chemical Engineering's* Award for Personal Achievement in Chemical Engineering (1999). In 2003 on the occasion of EFCE's 50th Anniversary he was awarded the EFCE Certificate for his contribution to the development of chemical engineering in Europe, his service to the discipline and profession of chemical engineering and as a teacher and researcher, and his leadership of the Federation. For many years he was a member and vice chairman (1985-1992) of the board of DECHEMA (Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology) and in 1999 he was made an Honorary Member of DECHEMA. Furthermore he received numerous Honorary Professorships.

The European Federation of Chemical Engineering is highly indebted to Professor Hanns Hofmann and will cherish his memory.