

Water Chemistry at the EBI

*Annual Report of the Chair for Water Chemistry and the
Research Institute of the German Gas & Water Works Association
at the Engler-Bunte-Institut, Universität Karlsruhe (TH)*

2006

Dear colleagues and friends,

At the end of 2006, it is again time to reflect on some of the activities of the Water Chemistry group at the Engler-Bunte-Institut. This year was marked by the Soccer World Cup. Visitors from all over the world enjoyed fine games and experienced European hospitality. One of the basic prerequisites for running such large events smoothly are well functioning systems for transportation, for the supply of daily life essentials and for the safe discharge of wastes. We are happy to be engaged in the academic and practical aspects of water and wastewater management and by this to help make those mega-events work.

In addition to spectacular sport events, there were transnationally visible meetings in water sciences which our institute hosted or to which its members contributed significantly.

In May, there was a workshop on the fate of pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment and on the methods for their elimination. The subject has become one of the challenges for the years to come, and it is timely to plan the joint efforts of the main actors to prevent a major pollution of the aquatic systems. The main results were published by Springer in a book titled "Heil-Lasten".

At the end of July and the beginning of August, we hosted the biannual conference of the International Humic Substances Society (IHSS), dealing with the material in which all life ends and from which all life comes. The proceedings are available as two volumes of the institute's series on "Water Chemistry and Technology".

There was also a small delegation of three invited to participate in the August Gordon Research Conference in Mount Holyoke, USA, on disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in water. Swimming pool water, which has been investigated extensively in research projects at our institute, turned out to be a highly interesting object to study the formation of DBPs and their epidemiology.

The internationality of our group is also reflected in the students, PhD-students and Post-Docs from many foreign countries working with us. We are happy and proud not

only to offer them our modern laboratory facilities but also to share with them their specific experience and the multinational atmosphere they bring to Karlsruhe. New ideas, good science and the fun of interaction are benefits of the young minds striving for the future and keeping the more mature ones alert.

With the beginning of the winter semester in October, we started our first all-English Master course on "Utilities and Waste". Of course there will also be German lessons for the students to offer them the key to our culture. Since there were many more applicants than could be accepted, we had the possibility of a careful selection process.

All of these activities would not have been possible without the enthusiasm of the team and the students. Many hours beyond the ordinary duties have been spent in research and projects, in organizing meetings and programs, in teaching and preparing courses and in the many things which make a group competitive. In addition to that, the moral and financial support from institutions and friends has to be acknowledged. The state of Baden-Württemberg and our university "Fridericiana" have given us the basic support for our work. The DVGW, the DFG, the BMBF, LAWA, EU-programs, GIF, the Willy-Hager-Stiftung, the Daimler-Benz-Stiftung, the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie and the Wasserchemische Gesellschaft have funded our projects and helped us to bring our students to the forefront of interdisciplinary work and to present them on the international stage of science.

I want to thank also our dear friends, colleagues and former students for their ongoing interest in our work, for their stimuli and support. Let's keep our network alive and let's try to meet in Karlsruhe or somewhere in the world.

Kind regards,

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