

Water Chemistry at the EBI

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DVGW Research Institute at the Engler-Bunte-Institut,
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Dear colleagues and friends,

glaciers are melting away and time seems to fly faster than ever. Most of us complain about the hectic days. Reason enough for a contrast, to lean back at last at the end of the year, to think of good friends and to report on activities which might be interesting to them.

There were two major highlights this year which I want to address. At the end of last year, our university obtained the status of excellence in an evaluation process of the International Science Council. Only three German universities were awarded this honor. The quality of science, teaching and future developing plans were the criteria for the evaluation. Needless to say, the international visibility of our water sciences research was a significant contribution. A great challenge has to be seen in the plans to merge our university with the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK) and by this found the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), aiming to become world class in natural sciences and engineering.

The second major highlight was the celebration in July of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Engler-Bunte-Institut. At the beginning of the last century, when it all started, most activities were centered around gas production and distribution in the public domain. After World War II, water issues emerged with the increase of industrialization and chemical production. The quality of the River Rhine and drinking water in general made its way into the international journals, and the green environmental movement started to lay the ground for discussing sustainability. In the meantime, responsibility and care for the heritage of the next generations has opened the doors for new concepts of water management and energy use. The molecular dimension and the nano- and microscale of matter play a central role in this challenging world of innovation, and I am happy to share with you in this newsletter some of the results obtained by our group.

Once again our activities would have been definitely less fruitful without the support of many institutions and all of our friends. I want to thank them all for their help and interest in our work. Special congratulations and thanks go to the colleagues and members of the institute who surfed so successfully on the waves of science.

Looking forward to your responses,

With all good wishes,

Fritz H. Frimmel



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