

Topics in Water Chemistry and Water Technology

2013

Annual Report of the Chair of Water Chemistry and Water Technology
and the DVGW Research Laboratory at the Engler-Bunte-Institut

ENGLER-BUNTE-INSTITUT



Dear colleagues and friends,

After two years in Karlsruhe, our community of postdoctoral scientists and PhD students has increased to 23. As you can see on the next pages, the number of projects which have been granted in the last 12 months is high. Not only is the funding itself a good message, but we are also very excited about the research topics being funded as they are highly interesting and innovative.

The scope of the granted projects ranges from water quality in reservoirs to high-end research with 3D printers, which will allow us to “print” microbial fuel cells and control them. In most of the projects the interest lays in understanding processes in aquatic systems, independent of whether they are natural or technical. The range of methods available at our institute and in general at the KIT is overwhelming. Especially the possibilities to visualize and/or analyze structures at biological interfaces are still not completely used in our research. On the other side, the number of researchers who are also in the field of water research at KIT is extremely high. At the top, Karlsruhe has the DVGW Water Technology Center with a high competence in this field. The concept on how to organize water research at KIT and in Karlsruhe is formulated and the collaborative efforts between these groups are gaining speed.

The participation of our group members at national and international conferences has been very high this year. For me the biofilm conference in May in Paris has been a highlight as we could present the final results and outcome of a project on aerobic granulation, which has been very successful. Not only has the exchange at conferences been intense this year, several of our group members (PhD and postdoc) have been at universities abroad for some months in Delft, Aalborg, and Montreal. This exchange is highly appreciated as the knowledge on modeling skills and analytical methods can be learned more easily when working with groups who have more experience with such techniques. On our side in 2013 we hosted two researchers from the Lomonosov Moscow State University who are interested in advanced oxidation processes and nanotechnology.

For all of you who have been at the Engler-Bunte-Institut within the last decades I have to report that the main building (40.11) will be torn down and we will receive two new buildings with office and lab space by 2015/2016. This is partly good news. Nevertheless, there will be a period of roughly two years where we will have limited access to lecture and seminar rooms. For me it is an opportunity to move closer to our labs and thereby to the people working at the Chair of Water Chemistry and Water Technology. I will move in spring 2014 and my office will then be in building 40.04, at the far north end of the Engler-Bunte-Institut.

We hope you enjoy this report and we are looking forward to receiving your feedback.

My best wishes

Harald Horn