

Topics in Water Chemistry and Water Technology

2015

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,

2015 is for sure the year of consolidation. Personally, my last four years in this new position seemingly passed by with an extremely high velocity. People joined our group and have already left the group to move into new positions. Among them, Susanne Lackner was appointed full professor at the Bauhaus-Universität in Weimar 2015, congrats!

Four new PhD students started their PhD projects this year. The question on what is going on at interfaces (i.e. biofilms) is the main topic which will be addressed in their projects. Productive biofilms will be cultivated in flow cells, and membrane biofilm reactors will be used to transform hydrogen to methane. Furthermore, membrane treatment and the question on how to measure concentration polarization will be an issue in the next years. Additionally, Marius Majewsky succeeded twice in our research field water quality: First of all, we could buy a DFG financed LC-MS/MS for our work on micro pollutants in aquatic systems. Secondly, he won a DFG project on sulfonamides and their potential metabolites.

Postdoctoral researchers from China and Nepal joined our group in 2015. Our postdocs and PhD students attended national and international conferences and workshops. Two PhD students were on short research stays abroad. The ABC (advanced biofilm course) was held at TU Delft this year. The course was overbooked and therefore still seems to be highly attractive after 10 years.

In March this year, I was appointed speaker of the Water Research Network Baden-Württemberg. The network is supposed to bring together researchers from universities in Baden-Württemberg. Beside three joint research projects, which are financed for 5 years, the network will organize workshops and conferences, which hopefully will further trigger the collaboration in the field of water research in Baden-Württemberg. The office of the network is directly located at our chair and Ulrike Scherer will be responsible for the administration and organization (see her report in this issue).

In October this year, we had an Alumni meeting with Doctors and Professors who worked for a while in our group in Munich and/or Karlsruhe. Reports from real life jobs in consulting companies on the one hand and universities on the other hand were extremely interesting to those who are short before leaving us. Thanks to all the Alumni who joined and made this day really unforgettable.

Enjoy this report and maybe pick one or the other idea for your own research.

My best wishes for 2016

Harald Horn