

# 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)

# 2005

Dear colleagues and friends,

at the end of last year, the images of the aftermath of the tsunami in the Bay of Bengal, and more recently those of the hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, went around the world and showed once more the terrible force of water. And again it was obvious that, for those who survived, safe drinking water was one of the most precious goods. Water had to be treated and delivered under pressing circumstances, and it was good that reliable technology was available. The victims got hope - and water - with the help of specialists from many nations. On a smaller scale, thunderstorms and hail taught us that climate change is going to become one of the major challenges in our daily life. It is not clear whether water chemistry and water technology will have the power to change the whole scenario for the better, but it is sure to play a significant role in the problem solving.

With this background, our team from the Engler-Bunte-Institut is happy to present you some results of the major activities in the past year.

Most enjoyable was that two PhD-theses got a special recognition: Margit Müller obtained the prestigious *Promotionspreis* from the Water Chemical Society, and Andreas Gorenflo was awarded the Willy-Hager-Price of the DECHEMA. A Poster award was obtained by Thomas Glauner, and Florencia Saravia got an invitation to present her work at the International Congress on Membranes and Membrane Processes 2005 (ICOM 2005) in Korea.

Our Senior scientists received invitations to several congresses and workshops all over the world, more than they could accept without neglecting their teaching duties. Last but not least, Christian Zwiener added with his successfully finished *Habilitation* (Dr. habil.) an important step to his academic career. All this is a result of the fine work which has been done in our institute and adds to the international visibility of our group.

I am specially proud to announce that, despite the ageing of the population in Central Europe, our group is getting

younger. Luis Tercero and his wife Maren got a son named Elias, and Florencia Saravia and her husband Yves welcomed Marielle as new member of the earth's population. So far, all is growing well, babies and science.

Learning and teaching is also the core of our international student exchange activities. The ERASMUS program is working nicely. On the other hand, the International Seminar found its final end this Summer after 40 years of bringing us young scientists for one year's period. As a substitute, we will offer a M.Sc. course on Utilities and Waste in the future.

Success in these actions requires enthusiastic co-workers and students engaged in teaching and research. Fortunately we have these high quality staff and we also have support from outside the university. This is a prerequisite for advanced scientific work nowadays, and much of our work would not have been possible without this help. Therefore, I want to thank all our friends and funding organizations for moral and financial support. We were funded by the State of Baden Württemberg, the DVGW, the DFG, the BMBF, EU-programs, GIF, the Willy-Hager-Stiftung, the Max-Buchner-Stiftung and the LAWA. In addition, the "Fond der Chemischen Industrie" and the DAAD helped us to host scientists from abroad. Let me also thank our good and loyal friends, colleagues and former students for their support, fine cooperation and encouragement in our work.

I would be delighted if you made it to Karlsruhe in 2006 when we host the 13th IHSS-Conference from July 30 to August 4.

Any questions or comments? Send us an email!

Kind regards,

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