Conference announcement

Kekulé Cycle 2011–2012

Chemistry, part of your life

Rudolf Vanheertum

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One hundred years after Marie Curie received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the organizations UNESCO and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) proclaimed 2011 the “International Year of Chemistry”.

Today, chemistry is seen as a key science responding to worldwide challenges, such as climate change, food supply and health care for a growing world population. Chemistry also plays an essential role in the transition to a sustainable society with renewable resources. Yet many people hardly realize that chemistry is necessary for the products they use today: micro electronics, photovoltaic, pharmaceuticals, insulation, clothing, cosmetics, and much more.

In six evenings, Kekulé cycle XIV aims to make this more evident to a broader public and focuses on the importance of chemistry in daily life, now and in the future.

The pursuit of a longer and more agreeable life is the topic of several lectures, besides the use of new smart materials in textiles and food. Also, the relevance of natural products for health and food is to be shown.

New technologies such as “microprocessing” will make it possible to design more efficient chemical processes. The transformation of an oil based industry to renewable will also be discussed. Key questions include: Does catalysis offer an answer? How can we valorize spent materials and side streams? The challenges and the opportunities of chemical industry in Europe will be discussed, e.g., how does chemistry contribute to our economy and what will it have to look like in order to fulfill future needs?

With these cutting-edge scientific lectures, the organizers want to draw a fascinating picture of chemistry and its contribution to future development. The Kekulé cycle invites reflection and discussion. It offers a platform for students, academics, professionals and interested people from education, research and industry to meet.

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Topics

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 *Innovations in Chemical Technology*

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Volker Hessel (Micro Flow Chemistry and Process Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, Nederland) on “Gateways to New Chemical Paths, Speeding up Reactions and Process Integration.”

Prof. Dr. Ferdi Schüth (Director Max Planck Institut für Kohleforschung, Mühlheim, Germany) on “The Role of Chemistry in a World beyond Oil.”

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 *Towards Sustainable Chemistry*

Speakers: Ir. Denis Goffaux (Chief Technology Officer, Umicore) on “Closing the Loop, a Sustainable Way to Address Resource Scarcity”.

Ir. Frank Coenen (ceo Tessenderlo Chemie) on “Duurzame chemie als deel van een totaaloplossing.”

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 *Breakthroughs in Pharmaceutical R&D*

Speakers: Ir. Onno van de Stolpe (ceo Galapagos) on “Hoe kom je door de *Vallei van de dood* als Biotech...”

Wim Parys, MD, VP (Head of Development and Developing World Projects, Infectious Disease and Vaccines Therapeutic Area, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson) on “Ontwikkelen van geneesmiddelen voor de toekomst. Uitdagingen en opportuniteiten”.