



When else – if not now?

In just seven months the ACHEMASIA will open for the sixth time, and rarely has the event promised to be so successful as this one at this point in time. Currently China is the sole driving force of the world economy. No other country in the world can boast so much as comparable growth rates at present as China. In other words: the attention of international investors is focused to a man on China.

The breathtaking development taking place in China these days has been given a boost by the country's admission to the WTO and it is mirrored by prestigious projects, such as the Olympics in 2008 or the World Expo in 2010. All this reflects the self-esteem of the Chinese – and the esteem in which they are held by the world's business community.

As far as the economy is concerned, the decisive role played by chemistry and biotechnology and the pertinent supplier industries for the future development of China's economy leaves no room for doubt. Moreover, after a promising start, the new technology-oriented Chinese government can be expected to pursue its course of substantial and successful reforms. The changes triggered off by China's admission to the WTO clearly indicate such a trend. The finally adopted resolute approach to the SARS problem even strengthened the position of the innovative forces within the political class.

And, last but not least, DECHEMA's newly opened representative office in Beijing means that the organizer is now represented on the spot, thus ensuring close contact with new trends.

With more than 400 exhibitors from about 20 countries and regions expected, the ACHEMASIA is China's most international event for the process industries. It is the one event which opens the door to the tremendous and yet vastly untapped Chinese market.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to Beijing from 11 - 15 May 2004.

Dr. Arthur Ruf

Chairman, ACHEMA Exhibitors' Committee