



MeetingPreview

Spring Meeting and Global Congress on Process Safety Will Address Critical Needs

Energy and inherently safer design will be among the topics at the top of the agenda when AIChE's 2011 Spring Meeting and its associated 7th Global Congress on Process Safety convene at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL, Mar. 13–17. A program schedule, a list of meeting highlights, and registration information are available at www.aiche.org/spring.

Chicago — with its deep roots in the chemical industry and many active AIChE members — last hosted an international-level AIChE conference in 1996. Chicago Local Section leaders and Spring Meeting Program Co-Chairs Dennis O'Brien and Shannon Brown collaborated on a wide-ranging technical program, bringing back many successful and long-standing topical events. They also added new opportunities for networking and learning, including a revamped poster session for professionals and graduate students, a Tuesday evening networking reception, and sessions devoted to public and K–12 outreach — an area of active involvement for the Chicago Section.

Energizing opportunities

This year's Spring Meeting program includes more than 125 sessions and many special events, including nine topical conferences. Headline events include the 23rd Ethylene Producers' Topical Conference, the 14th Topical Conference on Refinery Processing, the



11th Natural Gas Utilization Topical Conference, and topical conferences on Advanced Fossil Energy Utilization and Advances in Sustainability. Another, the Dr. James Fair Heritage Distillation Symposium, will focus on advances in distillation and absorption, with the career and contributions of the late Dr. Fair as its inspiration.

Spring 2011 also marks the debut of two new topical conferences. The University Research for Industry Conference will provide a venue where researchers and industry participants can discuss the direction of academic research to better serve the needs of both society and industry. Another new conference, Waste and Biomass Valorization, includes examinations of thermal and nonthermal processes for waste utilization and biomass conversion, developments in alternative bioenergy and biomass-to-fuel conversions, and system modeling.

The Spring Meeting keynote address will be delivered by F. Emil Jacobs, Vice President, Research and Development, at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Co. On Monday, Mar. 14, Jacobs will present “The Energy

Challenge: Providing Sustainable Supplies to Meet Growing Demand.”

A highlight of the Ethylene Producers' Conference will be a keynote speech by Brian Ames, Business Vice President for Olefins, Aromatics, and Alternative Technologies, at the Dow Chemical Co. His Mar. 14 talk, “Global Olefins Outlook,” will examine the factors that determine the direction of the olefins industry and Dow's strategy for the future.

At the Natural Gas Utilization Conference, Heinz Bauer, Vice President of Technology for LNG and Gas Processing at Linde Engineering, will deliver a keynote speech on the history of Linde and liquefied natural gas development in Germany.

Mohamed El-Genk, professor of chemical, nuclear and mechanical engineering at the Univ. of New Mexico and the recipient of AIChE's Transport and Energy Processes Div.'s 2009 Donald Q. Kern Award, will present the Kern Memorial Award Lecture, entitled “Nucleate Boiling Enhancements on Porous Graphite and Micro-Porous and Macro-Finned Copper Surfaces.”

Another presentation of note will take place at the Fuels and Petrochemicals Div.'s Welcome Session. Samuel Thomas, CEO of Chart Industries of Garfield Heights, OH, will discuss the ramifications of shale gas production in his talk, “What are We Going to Do with All this Natural Gas?”



▲ Jacobs



▲ Ames



▲ Bauer



▲ El-Genk



▲ Thomas



▲ Melo de Azevedo



7TH
**GLOBAL
CONGRESS
ON PROCESS
SAFETY**

Inherently safer, by design

Rounding out the Spring Meeting program in a big way is the 7th Global Congress on Process Safety (GCPS), Mar. 13–16. The GCPS constitutes the largest gathering of process safety professionals in the world, covering the information needs of process safety practitioners more broadly and deeply than any other conference.

Presented by AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and the AIChE Safety and Health Div., the annual GCPS is comprised of the coordinated sessions of the 26th Center for Chemical Process Safety International Conference, the 45th Loss Prevention Symposium (LPS), and the 13th Process Plant Safety Symposium (PPSS).

The 2011 Global Congress will focus on the concepts and philosophy behind inherently safer design (ISD) — an approach to process safety that focuses on eliminating or reducing hazards. GCPS organizers have planned sessions on a wide variety of

topics from risk assessment, to case histories and lessons learned, to process safety management systems, and much more.

According to Roxy Schneider, the Global Congress manager, this year's GCPS received a record number of abstracts from authors around the world, and the program will have something for practically everyone.

Schneider points out a few new activities for 2011, including a poster session and reception, featuring more than 70 presentations, on Tuesday evening, Mar. 15. "We've also planned a special one-day extra program track dedicated to risk assessment, since we received so many top quality abstracts on that topic." Schneider, an AIChE young professional, adds, "I'm personally looking forward to the 'Bring a Young Colleague' program, in which GCPS attendees are encouraged to bring someone from their company under the age of 35 to the meeting, at a significantly reduced registration price." This initiative is one of many programs that AIChE has created to generate greater involvement at its meetings by younger chemical engineers.



▲ The Chicago River at dusk. © 2010 Cesar Russ Photography

Several special guest speakers are among the Global Congress's other highlights. On Mar. 14, the GCPS keynote address will be presented by José Orlando Melo de Azevedo, President of Petrobras America (Houston, TX), one of the world's fastest growing oil companies. He will share his views on "Global Process Safety Programs Now."

Other speakers of note include GCPS luncheon speakers Rafael Moure-Eraso, Chairman and CEO, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; Christopher Hart, Vice Chairman, U.S. National Transportation Safety Board; and Larry J. Moore, Assistant Vice President and Principal Engineer, FM Global.

Exhibits and sponsorships

Organizations that wish to promote their goods or services to some 1,500 chemical engineers — including an audience of over 500 process safety leaders — can take advantage of exhibit and sponsorship opportunities at the Spring Meeting and Global Congress on Process Safety. For Spring Meeting exhibits and sponsorships, visit www.aiche.org/conferences/exhibitsponsor.aspx or contact Doris Deutsch at dorid@aiiche.org. For exhibit opportunities at the GCPS, visit www.aiche.org/gcps/exhibit.aspx

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR MEETING ATTENDEES

Registration for the Spring Meeting is open, and available online at www.aiche.org/spring.

The Hyatt Regency Chicago (151 East Wacker Dr.) will serve as the meeting headquarters and guest hotel. Attendees should make their hotel arrangements as soon as possible by using the information posted at the Spring Meeting website.

Guests traveling by air will arrive at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport or Midway Airport. Shuttle transportation between the airports and the Hyatt Regency is provided for a fee by Airport Express between 6:05 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Meeting participants may register onsite and pick up badges and registration materials at the Hyatt Regency beginning Sunday, Mar. 13, at 7:30 a.m.

Guest tours will not be arranged by AIChE. Attendees may arrange tours through the Chicago Visitors Bureau: www.choosechicago.com.

CEP

OTC to Conduct First Arctic Technology Conference, Feb. 7–9

The Houston-based Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) will build on the success of its recent conferences — and address some of the petrochemicals industry's most timely issues — with its first Arctic Technology Conference, Feb. 7–9, 2011, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX.

Managed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG; www.aapg.org) and co-sponsored by AIChE and other professional societies, the inaugural Arctic Technology Conference (ATC) will address the latest technologies and innovative practices needed for petroleum exploration and production in the Arctic. Participants will also receive a comprehensive introduction to the geographic, technical, environmental, regulatory, and human factors at play in this complex area of exploration and development.

A recent analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimated that 20% of the world's remaining oil and gas reserves are trapped north of the Arctic Circle. "The ATC will provide a world-class venue to present creative solutions to this challenging Arctic arena," says Pierre-Alain Delaittre, chair of the ATC Technical Program Committee. "With a highly specialized technical program of over 150 presentations, high-level speakers, networking events, a poster session, and exhibitions, the ATC will provide opportunities for gaining additional experience and expertise to oil and gas professionals who attend."

ATC vice chair John Hogg adds, "The ATC was designed to bring all the disciplines from exploration to production together. The technical program provides something for everyone." He says that the organizers plan to make the ATC a biennial event, and envision the conference growing into an important complement to the OTC.

The technical presentations for



the inaugural conference have been organized into seven key topical areas: resources; exploration drilling; production drilling, facilities and export; physical environment; logistics and marine transport; and regulatory and environment. The sessions will be presented by speakers from a dozen countries — Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States — representing some of the world's top exploration and production companies. Senior explorationists and technical experts will share their knowledge, vision and ideas on the exploration and geology of the U.S., Canadian, Russian, Norwegian, and Greenlandic (Danish) onshore and offshore Arctic basins.

Supplementing the scores of sessions are a variety of plenaries and special presentations. Among these are two plenary sessions on Monday morning, Feb. 7. "Addressing Arctic Aspirations," by Mark Shrimpton of Stantec Consulting (Canada), will help companies planning and implementing Arctic activities learn how to facilitate positive relationships with local people. "Rejuvenating Arctic Exploration: Less Ice, More Hydrocarbons," by Marc Blaizot of TOTAL S.A. (France), will examine the changing Arctic climate and the international cooperation

that will be needed for exploration and potential development.

Feb. 7 will also feature two topical luncheons. Alaska resident John Hopson, Jr., Director of Operations and Community Relations for the Olgoonik Corp., and also a whaling captain, will present "A Message from the People of the Arctic" — a view of Arctic development through the eyes of an Inupiaq Eskimo from Wainwright, AK, the village most impacted by prospective oil and gas development in the Chukchi Sea. The other luncheon features Michael Borrell of TOTAL S.A., who will discuss that company's extensive experience operating in Arctic conditions.

Another highlight is a Wednesday, Feb. 9, panel discussion, where attendees will hear from technical experts about the future of the regulatory framework related to Arctic exploration.

For more details about these and other sessions, for registration information, and to register online, visit www.arctictechnologyconference.org. A \$100 discount applies before Jan 18.

Companies interested in exhibiting at the Conference can obtain information online or by contacting AAPG's Mike Taylor at mtaylor@aapg.org. For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Simmons at jsimmons@aapg.org. **CEP**



▲ Workers monitor the Arctic ice.