



MIDDLE EAST PROCESS ENGINEERING CONFERENCE (MEPEC 2013) WILL FOCUS ON SMART ENGINEERING — SEPT. 29–OCT. 2, IN BAHRAIN

Overcoming Future Challenges through Engineering Excellence will be the unifying theme at the 2nd Middle East Process Engineering Conference (MEPEC 2013), to be held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.R.H. Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, 2013, at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

MEPEC, with AIChE as its main supporting organization and in collaboration with AIChE's Saudi Arabia Local Section, will host an estimated 1,500 process industry engineers, researchers, and business and technology leaders — including owners, contractors, consultants, technology providers, equipment suppliers, and policy-makers — from around the world. At MEPEC, attendees will find a forum where they can share best practices and explore potential solutions to some of their industries' most pressing concerns.

More than 200 experts will share innovative ideas and feasible solutions to challenges faced by the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas, petrochemicals, and hydrocarbon processing industries — at technical sessions, in plenaries and keynote talks, at roundtable discussions, and during social events.

MEPEC 2013 builds on the success of the inaugural MEPEC, which was established by AIChE's Saudi Arabia Local Section and held in Bahrain in 2011. Now expanded into a truly international conference and exhibition for the process engineering community, MEPEC 2013 will feature:

- a 150-exhibitor trade exposition devoted to the oil, gas, and petrochemicals industries — the first of its kind in the Arabian Gulf region
- 15 keynote speakers
- six plenary sessions by key industry decision-makers
- a digital poster plaza, where selected speakers will present their research using electronic media
- a student component to foster participation by young people in the process engineering sector, including opportunities for students to meet and network with representatives of major companies
- new programs devoted to process safety
- a dozen preconference workshops.

With its focus on “smart” engineering in the process industries, MEPEC 2013 will be built around seven topics:

Manufacturing and Operational Excellence — This session will address a variety of continuous-improvement initiatives and methods to improve organizations' competitiveness.

Capital Project Efficiency — This session will delve into project-scope optimization, improvements in engineering

standards, and designs that ensure that projects are delivered to specifications at minimum lifecycle cost.

Talent and Technology Development — Investment in human capital, education, research, technology, and strategic planning are keys to a company's prosperity. Topics include patenting, technology licensing, and commercialization.

Process and Molecular Modeling — This session will present models of heavy-hydrocarbon processes that integrate molecular and structural details with accurate predictive capabilities, with the goal of improving the performance of conversion processes.

Clean Fuel, Environment, and Sustainability — Innovations in alternative fuels, along with projects related to electric drive technologies, natural gas, and renewable fuels, will be discussed as means of confronting a carbon-challenged future.

Process Safety and Risk Mitigation — This session will offer techniques and best practices for minimizing the likelihood and consequences of catastrophic incidents at facilities that handle, use, process, or store hazardous materials.

Process Automation and Optimization — Aimed at improving overall plant performance, this session will cover techniques for minimizing costs and maximizing throughput, plant efficiency, and profits.

Also on the agenda are interactive roundtable discussions devoted to “Project Financing and Economics: Future Outlook,” “Shale Gas and Shale Oil: A Game Changer,” “Technology Development, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship,” and “Talent Pool: Workforce in the Energy Sector.”

In addition to being MEPEC's main supporting organization, AIChE is making several contributions. Phillip Westmoreland, AIChE's 2013 President, will be one of the opening-ceremony speakers on Sept. 29. Leaders of AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) will also contribute, with a talk by Scott Berger, Director of AIChE's Industry Technology Alliances, and a technical session devoted to process safety. CCPS will also present two preconference workshops — “Recognizing Catastrophic Incident Warning Signs and Conduct of Operations” (Sept. 28), and “The Leader's Toolbox for Process Safety Management” (Sept. 29).

H.R.H. Prince Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, or his designee will also deliver a speech, and other featured talks will be presented by H.E. Abdullatif Al Othman, Chairman of the Board and Governor of SAGIA; Abdulrahman Al-Wuhaib, Senior VP Downstream at Aramco; and Audah Al-Ahmadi, Chairman of MEPEC 2013.

For up-to-date program and registration information, visit www.mepec.org.

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