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**International Activities in AIChE**

AIChE's international programs are growing. There are several reasons for this expansion of effort outside the United States. First, the strength of the U.S. chemical engineering industrial/academic enterprise puts AIChE in a strong position to provide proactive leadership on today's societal problems in areas such as energy and sustainability, which are global in nature. Second, the current AIChE strategic plan calls for the Institute to become a global organization in order to more effectively serve its members. Chemical engineers work in industries that are global, and the world economy and its key markets (oil and gas, biofuels, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer products) continue to grow and benefit from numerous technological advances. Third, all major chemical manufacturing and processing companies are operating on a global basis, taking advantage of the rapid growth in countries like Brazil, India and China. Fourth, innovation and research, as well as chemical engineering education, are also global in nature. Many U.S.-based firms are conducting research overseas, and many foreign firms are hiring U.S. workers, both overseas and in the U.S. itself. There is much to be gained by understanding international issues, which can lead to new business and job opportunities.

AIChE's international involvement with individuals, companies and chemical engineering societies in other countries has been increasing. For instance: There has been significant growth in international membership and attendance at AIChE meetings. Among the new companies joining the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) in the last five years, more than 25 are international. Half of the AIChE website traffic is international. More than 65% of the papers published in *AIChE Journal* are written by authors affiliated with foreign institutions. Agreements promoting membership, meetings, and other joint activities have been signed with organizations in more than 15 countries in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. And, AIChE has participated in an increasing number of joint international meetings.

We expect AIChE's international activities to continue to experience significant growth. The Institute and its members can look forward to forming and maintaining relationships with engineers and societies in other countries. It is important to note that these international activities do not require AIChE to invest significant resources — they are being accomplished by leveraging the work of a relatively small but active group of volunteers that includes members of the International Committee, the three Operating Councils (Career and Education [CEOC], Chemical Engineering Technology [CETOC], and Societal Impact [SIOC]), and the Board of Directors, as well as many staff members.

The Institute is in a position to positively influence major global challenges, such as energy, water, environment, and healthcare. AIChE should be actively engaged and involved in solving these challenges, and it should play a major role in the global problems facing industry and the world at large. We invite all our members to support AIChE's international activities, and we look forward to receiving your suggestions for increasing and improving the scope of current international programs. Contact us at [intlteaminput@aiche.org](mailto:intlteaminput@aiche.org).

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