



## REGIONAL PROCESS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE GALVESTON, TX, OCT. 7–8

Hundreds of chemical engineers and other professionals in the chemical processing and petrochemical industries are expected to convene at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, TX, Oct. 7–8, when AIChE and its South Texas Local Section present the Institute's 2nd Regional Process Technology Conference. The conference will build on the success of the inaugural regional conference, which attracted more than 400 attendees from the Texas Gulf Coast region and beyond.

The conference location on Galveston Bay is a boon to engineers and technologists in the region. Many companies have cut travel budgets and professional development funding due to the current state of the economy. Against this backdrop, one goal of the conference organizers is to provide an easily accessible, high-quality technical program for chemical engineers in the Greater Houston area and across the Gulf States — home to the largest concentration of petroleum refining, chemical processing, engineering and technology firms in the U.S.

This year's technical program will cover an array of topics relevant to industries in the area, with sessions devoted to:

- Developments in the field of process safety — an issue of utmost importance to the chemical industry. The session will cover practical applications of process safety, as well as the history and status of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) compliance programs. Additional talks scheduled for this session include Process Safety for the Smaller Company; A Process Engineering View of Safety Automation; and Safety Culture: A Conduct of Operations and Operational Discipline System.



- Opportunities and challenges in the refining industry — Experts in the field will discuss the current status and future trends in refining technology advancements, including catalysis and processing schemes to handle heavy and sour crudes, novel ways to optimize refinery configurations, and operational strategies to address environmental challenges — including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improvements in overall energy efficiency. The impact of carbon cap-and-trade legislation on refinery energy conservation economics will also be considered.

- Catalysis and reaction engineering — In this session, industry experts will discuss recent advances in catalyst development and reactor design. The speakers will also cover such topics as catalytic treatment of refinery off-gas and new developments in tail-end selective hydrogenation.

Other key subjects that will be covered in the conference include: advances in petrochemical technologies; distillation and separation; thermodynamics; process simulation; energy efficiency; and environmental issues impacting the industry. Attendees can receive PDH credits for their participation in the technical sessions.

Conference attendees can also benefit from an exhibition featuring service and equipment vendors. The expo will offer excellent opportunities for

◀ The Aquarium Pyramid at Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX — site of the Regional Process Technology Conference.

providers and users of equipment and services to meet and develop mutually beneficial relationships. Companies can further raise their professional profiles by becoming a Process Technology Conference sponsor — with a variety of benefits available for different levels of sponsorship.

Registration fees for the conference have been kept low: AIChE members who register before Sept. 3 pay \$125 for one-day attendance, or \$175 for the full two-day conference. Registration and complete program information for the Regional Process Technology Conference, as well opportunities for exhibitors and sponsors, are available at [www.aiche.org/Conferences/2010Regional/Galveston.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/Conferences/2010Regional/Galveston.aspx).

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### "GALVESTON, OH GALVESTON"

An added bonus of the Regional Process Technology Conference is the city of Galveston itself — a destination with many historic and cultural attributes and outdoor activities. The Moody Gardens complex offers attractions of its own, and is dominated by three steel and glass pyramids: the Aquarium Pyramid, housing one of the world's largest collections of marine life; the Rainforest Pyramid, containing tropical animals and plants; and the Discovery Pyramid, which features science exhibits and activities. Adjacent to Moody Gardens is Palm Beach — a sandscape with a freshwater lagoon, a golf course, high-tech simulation thrill rides, and a waterpark. Nearby, Galveston's Historic District, "The Strand," offers an eclectic variety of shops, restaurants, pubs and art galleries.