

Global News Update

Content

- 1 Editorial:
Time to look back... and ahead!
- 2 "An essential contribution to
a sustainable world"
- 2 WCC General Assembly:
intense activities in all regions
- 4 Book: Water disinfection and the
fight to save lives

A message from the WCC Secretariat – Dolf van Wijk

Time to look back... and ahead!

Dear WCC friends, members and colleagues,

We're in the last quarter of our first WCC secretariat year, with the year rapidly drawing to a close. Time to look back (a bit) and to look ahead!

WCC becomes truly global

After reaching a representation of more than 90% of the global chlor-alkali production capacity (with the membership of China, India and Russia in the last few years) the World Chlorine Council® (WCC) is a truly global Council whose attention has shifted towards efforts in the improved sharing of best

practices in advocacy, science, communication and particularly in safety.

As a basis for continuously enhancing the safety performance of the chlor-alkali industry, the WCC Global Safety Team started to reinforce incident sharing practices. Regional-level incident reporting schemes are already in place, but

sharing of information throughout the WCC can still be improved to encourage mutual learning and further improve general best practice guidance. A safety seminar is to be organized in 2016 in Argentina and the quarterly WCC Safety Newsletter is another useful channel to exchange learnings between the regions.

The key theme of the recent AMAI-WCC Seminar was '*Chlorine for Disinfection of Drinking Water and Sewage*' which was held on October 14th in New Delhi, India. The Seminar was well attended by Indian industry and government representatives and provided an excellent communication opportunity for our WCC Global Advocacy and Science Team; enabling them to share knowledge on the benefits of chlorine as the premier disinfectant for key sanitation applications.

This seminar was part of a productive and successful WCC Annual Meeting and Governing Council (13-16 October 2015). On the communications front we initiated a WCC action plan to enhance dynamic interaction between the regions.

On a more personal note, I have really enjoyed my first year of managing the WCC Secretariat. I have felt strongly supported by all of you in tackling the challenges of WCC and of our global industry. It is extremely rewarding to work with all of you in our global community, across so many different cultural backgrounds, all bringing their specific strengths. As our chairman of the Governing Council Mr. Anibal do Vale said with typically Brazilian flair, 'our members provide not only their expertise and dedication to support the chlor-alkali industry but also their passion!'

I would like to thank all of the WCC membership for your support and I am sure you will allow me a special thank you to my Euro Chlor colleagues,



Global News Update

in particular to my assistant, Isabelle Coppens for help in running the WCC Secretariat over the past year.

I wish you and your families a wonderful, peaceful holiday season and good health. I am confident that next year we will consolidate our forces even more in supporting the global 'chlor-alkali chemistry' which provides so many benefits to society.

With warm regards,

Dolf

WCC Chairman Anibal do Vale:

“An essential contribution to a sustainable world”

At this year's World Chlorine Council General Assembly in Delhi, Chairman of the Governing Council Anibal do Vale highlighted that WCC promotes the use of the 'residual chlorine content' as an easily measurable, science-based indicator for assessing the safety of drinking water.



A major topic for some regions remains the phasing out of the use of mercury as an electrode in chlor-alkali production. Today, some 4.9 million tonnes of

mercury-based capacity exists at a global level but all use of mercury by our industry must be phased out by 2025 according to the Minamata Convention.

The WCC Chairman concluded that *“chlor-alkali chemistry is making an essential contribution to a sustainable world”*. Mr. do Vale also underlined

that the organization represents more than 90 % of globally installed chlor-alkali capacity. He noted that one of the core businesses of the organization is the development of science-based global communication and advocacy and to share best practices on process safety.

General Assembly reveals intense activities in all regions

During the 2015 General Assembly, all WCC member regions reported on their activities deployed in the last year. Special attention was given to a broad variety of communications activities. This international sharing of successful actions is particularly inspiring for all participants and many of them returned home with useful ideas to be tested in their own region.

Mr. BS Gilra of the Alkali Manufacturers' Association of India (AMAI) explained why the use of chlorine for disinfecting drinking water is of utmost importance for India. In 2014, the country started a nationwide programme for systematic drinking water treatment in order to provide adequate and affordable quality water to the population, including the rural areas and during the whole day. Furthermore, Mr. Gilra reported on the key working areas of the Indian alkali industry: numerous safety (Chlorine Emergency Response Network) and SHE promoting actions, energy matters like the costs pressure and the aggressive national pledge for more renewables and clean energy.

The China Chlor Alkali Industry Association (CCAIA) was represented by Mr. Zhang Peichao and Mr. Kat King Lo. They gave a presentation on the Chinese chlor-alkali industry situation (176 chlor-alkali producers and 88 PVC manufacturers). They reported on industry policies and adjustment, on the use of mercury and on

Global News Update

development trends (Responsible Care, improving domestic raw material supply, etc.).

As Marion Axmith was unable to join the WCC meeting in New Delhi, Mary Ostrowski kindly reported on a few key regulatory issues for **the Canadian chlor-alkali industry**, including rail transportation issues, Chemical Management Program III and conferences & trade shows underlining chlorine's key role in disinfection.

Judith Nordgren reported on the core activities of **ACC's Chlorine Chemistry Division (CCD)**. She informed the audience about recent US transportation matters and chlorine chemical and product management, disinfection, communication & advocacy including social media use and sponsored contributions to important media like Politico.

Judith also kindly reported **on the Chlorine Institute** core activities as Frank Reiner was not able to join the WCC meeting in New Delhi. She presented the Jack Rabbit I and II four-year testing programmes studying actual chlorine releases in an urban grid.

Martim Penna reported on the activities and priorities of **Clorosur** including energy, mercury phase-out for which disposal solutions are needed, asbestos and safety (performance enhancement and safety self-assessment tool).

Dolf van Wijk reviewed the issues and challenges facing the European chlor-alkali industry represented by **Euro Chlor**, including the European Emission Trading System (ETS) that increases energy costs and poses challenges for the industry's competitiveness. He also discussed the future strategic focus that will be on safety, sustainability and competitiveness.



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Honda-san gave an update on the activities and priorities of the **Japan Soda Industry Association JSIA** including energy security and costs, and safety: incident reporting in Japan.

Boris Jagud and Peter Mironov presented the activities and priorities of **RusChlor** in Russia, including business dynamics: flat performance since 2009 and negative impact due to poor economic conditions. Rail transportation tariffs increases and the Government Industrial Policy pose challenges, although he saw opportunities for a long-term strategic growth. The key priorities comprise ensuring that the government accepts the BAT concept: Best Available Techniques.

Finally, Executive Director Dolf van Wijk announced that the **2016 WCC Team meetings and General Assembly** will take place in Antwerp, Belgium from October 11 to 14, 2015.

Global News Update

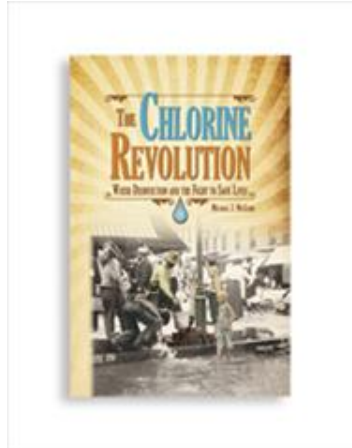
Top reading:

‘The Chlorine Revolution: Water Disinfection and the Fight to Save Lives’

This is the title of a book written by Dr. Michael J. McGuire and edited by the [American Water Works Association](#). It is the first book to tell the incredible true story of the first use of chlorine to disinfect a city water supply, in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1908. After this milestone, the fascinating history of chlorine use for drinking water disinfection in the United States of America started.

At the turn of the 20th century, most scientists and doctors called the addition of chloride of lime, a “poisonous chemical”, to public water supplies not only a “preposterous idea” but also an “illegal act. Today, the chlorination of drinking water is accepted worldwide as an effective way to kill deadly pathogens.

Perhaps no other advancement of public health has been as significant. Yet, few know the intriguing story of how a (retrospectively) simple idea, disinfecting public water systems with chlorine could, in just 100 years, save more lives than any other single health development in human history.



Dr. McGuire’s book also tells how, during the American Civil War which started in 1861, waterborne disease killed more soldiers than the bullets! It also illustrates how in 1915 child death rate in the US was at 10 per cent and up to 30% in some cities due to contaminated milk. Life expectancy in the US was 47

years in 1900 but by 1984 it already rose to 70 years all due to chlorination.

Read [here more about this important book.](#)

WCC Global News Update Contacts

Editorial Team

Dirk Clotman, dcn@cefic.be
Richard Mariner, rma@cefic.be
Isabelle Coppens, ico@cefic.be

Secretariat:

WCC Editorial Team
c/o Euro Chlor
Av. E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4 box 2
B-1060 Brussels
Belgium

Contact: Isabelle Coppens
Tel: +32-2-676 73 91
E-Mail: ico@cefic.be