



HELSINKI CHEMICALS FORUM TAKES A GLOBAL APPROACH AND ANNOUNCES ITS WORLD RENOWNED SPEAKERS

Helsinki Chemicals Forum has announced further details of the programme for its first event, which will take place from May 27th to 29th 2009 at the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre. This multi-stakeholder forum will feature internationally noted speakers and panellists who will contribute to the important discussion in the field of chemicals.

The Helsinki Chemicals Forum agenda will deal with the critical issues facing the participants in their respective positions as chemistry and chemical industry stakeholders. The Helsinki Chemicals Forum agenda will deal with four topical themes: Competitiveness and Innovation, Chemical Industry Regulation, Safety and Sustainability and Chemistry and Consumers. The four themes will be covered, with presentations and panel discussions, by industry experts and global opinion-leaders representing worldwide activities in the field of chemicals.

“The traditional rules of competition are currently changing across industries due to the global financial crisis. Because of the global linkages, the advanced and emerging economies will both have to cope with these changes. However, the crisis also creates new opportunities, which will be explored at the Helsinki Chemicals Forum,” says **Dr Dan Steinbock**, research director at the India, China and America Institute and moderator of the Competitiveness and Innovation session of the HCF.

“The field of chemistry plays a significant role in the search for sustainable solutions in securing the well-being of people and the environment. It is necessary to have a global approach to succeed. As an example, global commitment from chemical industry companies generates results locally, too,” says **Alain Perroy**, Director General of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the moderator of the HCF Safety and Sustainability session.

“Eating, drinking, cleaning house, gardening, wearing cosmetics, or using skincare products bring you in direct contact with the all pervasive chemical industry. But it is very difficult for consumers to get a full picture of the impact of living in this chemical world. Data, often contradictory, on the impact of everyday chemicals is hard to interpret and scientific understanding is still being developed. There is a dilemma: convenience and price are consumer priorities, but so is safety,” says **Hilfra Tandy**, journalist and moderator of the Chemistry and Consumers session.

Four important themes and internationally noted speakers

The Forum will be opened by Mr **Mauri Pekkarinen**, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland, followed by keynote addresses from the EU Commission, Mr **Jussi Pajunen**, Mayor of Helsinki and Mr **Geert Dancet**, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency. Mr. **Matti Vanhanen**, Prime minister of Finland, will be one of the keynote speakers at the Closing Luncheon.

The theme sessions will have the following moderators:

Competitiveness and Innovation
Dr Dan Steinbock, Research Director, India China and America Institute

Chemical Industry Regulation
Mr **Erkki Liikanen**, Governor of the Bank of Finland, ex-Commissioner of the EU Commission

Safety and Sustainability
Mr Alain Perroy, Director General of the European Chemical Industry Council

Chemistry and Consumers
Ms Hilfra Tandy, Editor, Chemical Matters

The Helsinki Chemicals Forum is being organised by the Chemicals Forum Association in cooperation with the EU Commission and its Chemical Agency ECHA, with partners that include the City of Helsinki, the Chemical Industry Federation of Finland and the University of Helsinki.

More details about the programme and speakers will be available on the Helsinki Chemicals Forum web site www.helsinkicf.eu. Online registration for the event www.helsinkicf.eu

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