

## Message from the President

As many of you will have noticed, our web-site, [www.impca.eu](http://www.impca.eu) now appears in a new and smarter version. Our members and the participants at the recently held **4<sup>th</sup> IMPCA Mississipi Conference America** will be able to download the presentations given at that conference when logging in at the web-site.

Further details of this successful conference are given below.

I hope to see you at one or more of our other events later this year, the first one being the **28<sup>th</sup> IMPCA Mini-Conference** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Porto on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016.



René Butzelaar, President

## IMPCA Methanol Reference Specifications

The Technical Committee, chaired by Dr. Simon Froom, BP Chemicals, has issued an updated version of the Reference Specifications, including an amended version of IMPCA -004, "UV scan on Methanol"

The updated version including an explanation of the amendments is now available on our web site as well as having been sent to our members as a pdf-file.

## The 4th IMPCA Mississipi Conference America

took place at Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, Louisiana on 11-12 February 2016.

Prior to the conference, on Thursday morning, a Golf Outing was organised.

Close to 70 persons had registered for the conference and Thursday evening they could enjoy the networking dinner at the IMTT River Camp close to the Mississippi river. Guest of Honour at the conference was Mr. Jim Crocco from Houston, Tx, who organised his first World Methanol Conference 32 years ago.

At Friday morning's business sessions the audience had the opportunity to listen to 5 speakers on various issues of importance to the industry.

**Marc Alvarado** of IHS gave a global overview of the methanol market. His conclusions were:

- Demand growth in 2016-2017 depends heavily on the MTO market:
  - New MTO capacity start-up
  - MTO Operating rates/profitability
- Prices forecast to recover slightly but stay in a narrow range in 2016-2017
- New North American projects announced but unlikely to come on stream between now and 2020
- If the Iranian sanctions are permanently suspended:
  - Iran will be free to export to countries other than China and this will reduce regional price differentials
  - Iran will progress its methanol projects and potentially develop new projects

**Kimberly Wise White** of the **American Chemical Council, Formaldehyde Panel** gave an update on formaldehyde. Her Take Away were:

## The ripple effects of decisions made during chemical assessment development can be staggering

- ❖ Assessment should be health-protective and based on relevant science
- ❖ Assessment must do a better job communicating risk and uncertainty to the public and to policy makers

### We must:

- Ensure the continued safe use of formaldehyde
- Support the development of timely scientific research
- Promote science based legislation and regulation
- Communicate and collaborate with stakeholders

“**Impact of US Gas Developments on Methanol**” was the title of the presentation given by **Eric Bober**, a **Nexant** principle.

His conclusions were:

- The advent of shale technologies has increased natural gas supply in the United States
- As a result, U.S. natural gas prices have declined to globally advantaged levels and are driven by regional supply/demand dynamics
- Low cost natural gas yields low (cash) cost methanol production
- This has attracted investment in methanol capacity increases in the United States (supported by strategic decision-making)
- But Project execution is arduous and time-consuming (supported by Independent Engineers and Feedstock/Market Consultants)

**Sean M. Duffy Sr.**, Executive Director of **Big River Coalition** and Executive VP of **Louisiana Maritime Association** was highlighting the challenges of the **Mississippi River Ship Channel**.

His presentation gave a good back-ground for the final speaker at the conference, who was:



The Senator was introduced by **Greg Dolan**, CEO of the **Methanol Institute**.

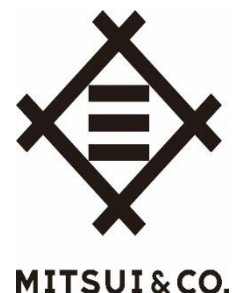
Having represented Louisiana in the Senate for 18 years, the Senator had of course an excellent background for her views on the attractiveness of available shale gas to the methanol and other industries who already have been or who are considering investing in Louisiana.



*IMPCA President René Butzelaar, Senator Mary Landrieu, IMPCA Director Trond Tenold and MI CEO Greg Dolan*

IMPCA thanks the speakers for their valuable contribution in making the conference a success.

Likewise, IMPCA thanks the following companies for their support for this year's conference:



**28<sup>th</sup> IMPCA European Mini-Conference 2016 PORTO**

The Mini-Conference in 2016 will again be held in Porto, Portugal. Crucial for the choice of venue is of course that a ship suitable for our Thursday evening networking buffet dinner is available, and the ship in 2016 will be MV Esplendor Do Douro. From the ship one can admire the six bridges which link the city of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia and the mouth of the river Douro. Along the river mouth there is also a nice view of the picturesque fishing village "Afurada".



***Sponsorship opportunities are available for this year's Mini-Conference.***



***Your company's logo could be here!***

## 19<sup>th</sup> IMPCA Asian Methanol Conference 2016

**Methanol Marketing Services Asia** will be organising the 19<sup>th</sup> IMPCA Asian Methanol conference in Singapore from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016.



As this conference has become the most important Asian event when it comes to methanol conferences, you should definitely mark this event in your calendar.



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