

Message from the President

Just back from another great Mini-Conference, again with a record participation, it is a pleasure for me to be able to update you on what happened at the OGM and at the conference, not at least for those of you who were not present in Como on the 14th and 15th of June.

First of all, I would like to thank our Members on behalf of the Board for the trust and confidence shown in the voting which resulted in a re-election of the outgoing Board, as presented below.

Secondly, I am pleased to inform you that we have received one new member since the OGM last year, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome **GAPUMA Switzerland AG**, to IMPCA who now has 76 full members.

This year's Mini-Conference took place in Como, Italy, and the delegates were enjoying a wonderful dinner cruise on board the Steamship CONCORDIA. The crews, catering as well as maritime, have all reason to be proud of themselves. The service was impeccable, the food and drinks were excellent and when the weather also was perfect, I can very well understand why the guests were so generous with their compliments during the steaming along the beautiful landscape of Lago Como. It will be difficult to repeat such a nice evening, but we will give it a try.

Information about Friday's Business Session can be found below.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Monika Hoppe-Hoeffler of EVONIK for her years of service on the Board of IMPCA. Monika informed the Board during our meeting in Como that she has received changed responsibilities within EVONIK and will therefore no longer deal with methanol. Consequently, a new official representative of EVONIK will be appointed shortly to take over the seat on the IMPCA Board.

I am wishing you all a nice summer!



René Butzelaar, President

OGM 2018

9 members attended this year's Ordinary General Meeting which was held in the HILTON Como Hotel, Italy, prior to the 30th Mini-Conference.

A new Board was elected, and the Accounts for 2017 as well as the Budget 2018 and 2019 were approved.

The present Board was re-elected with a one-year mandate and is composed as follows:

Member Co.	Representative	Member Co.	Representative
AMPCO	Mr. Edson Jones	Mider-Helm	Mr. Thorsten Heinicke
BASF	Mr. Wolfgang Schlindwein	Mitsubishi	Mr. Chikara Jitsumatsu
CELANESE	Mrs. Nicole Daly	Perstorp AB	Mr. Urban Svensson
EVONIK	Dr. Monika Hoppe-Hoeffler	Solvadis	Mr. René Butzelaar
HELM AG	Mr. Norbert Baum		

The newly elected **Executive Committee** consists of:



Chikara JITSUMATSU
Vice President



René BUTZELAAR
President



Thorsten HEINICKE
Treasurer

30th IMPCA European Mini-Conference 2018 – C O M O

Around 230 persons were present at the Thursday night Dinner Cruise and they appreciated a wonderful view of the beautiful Italian landscape whilst enjoying fine food and wines on board the Steamship CONCORDIA on the Lago Como.

IMPCA thanks the following companies for sponsoring this year's conference:

IMPCA thanks
CHIMITRADE, metachem & metmed, Solvadis
for their support for this year's Mini-Conference



The Friday morning **Business Session Programme** consisted of 6 presentations:

All presentations are available at the IMPCA website: www.impca.eu

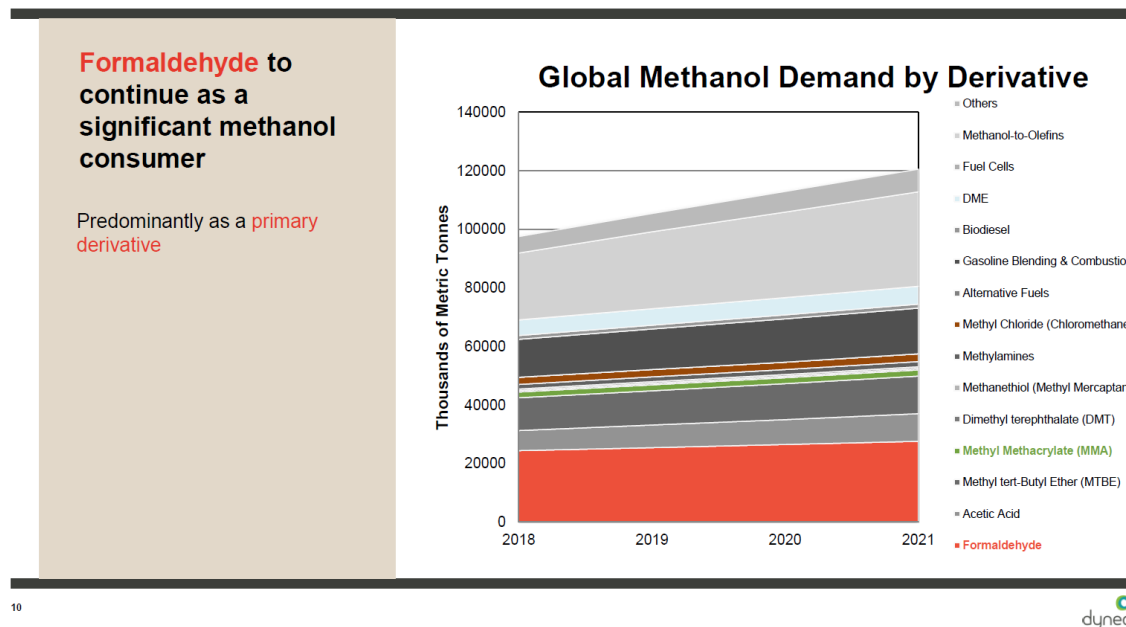
Mike Nash of IHS Markit talked about: **“Methanol: A Global Overview”**, and these were his conclusions:



Conclusions

- A detailed understanding of integrated MTO economics is key
- MTO operating rates have fallen due to challenged economics; the next MTO unit is due to come onstream in late 2018/early 2019
- Global methanol prices have remained high:
 - > Consistent demand
 - > Delays to start-ups of new methanol units in US and Iran
- Global methanol prices are likely to remain volatile

“FORMALDEHYDE Update 2018” was the title of the presentation given by **Lars Axelsen** of **DYNEA**. His statement that “Formaldehyde to continue as a significant methanol consumer” was well received by the audience:

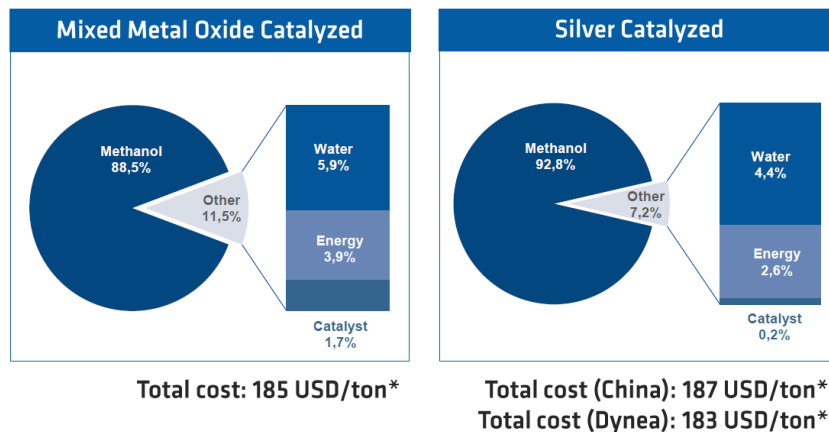


Formaldehyde was also the subject of the presentation of **Dr. Sebastian Eckstein** of **Alantum Europe GmbH**. **“ROI Boost for Formaldehyde Production”** was the title of his presentation. Among the

information he gave the audience was a comparison between the production cost of metal oxide catalysts and silver catalysts:

How do the Production Cost Differ?

ALANTUM
Innovations in Alloy Foam



*Product: 37% formaldehyde solution

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The first paper after the coffee break was presented by **Jeremy Belbin**, of **NEXANT**. His paper was the first of three focusing on **Methanol as Maritime Fuel**, and his final slide on the subject was;

Methanol has a long list of strengths but a major challenge

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low sulfur, nitrogen, GHG, particulate matter, and carbon emissions No methane leakage (LNG has leakage) Ready availability Low costs of fueling (fraction of LNG) Safer and easier to handle than LNG Cost to convert relatively low Low maintenance operations Deep industry experience Can be renewable Spread of ECAs could drive demand for non-conventional fuels in general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not comply with TIER III NOx Storage volume Different physical properties Methanol still developing as marine fuel (since 1973!) Upfront cost/time to convert LNG is a formidable competitor

Jack Jordan of S&P Global Platts had given his paper the title “The narrow window of opportunity for methanol bunkering”. His conclusions were:

Conclusion

- Challenge for methanol is to take market share promptly in the next few years, so retrofitted vessels can be run on methanol for another decade; zero-carbon vessels will be needed by early 2030s
- Advantages vs LNG look good on paper, but suppliers, ship owners/operators and port authorities will need to work together quickly to develop infrastructure
- Any watering down of the IMO GHG deal will make the market more receptive to alternative fuels

S&P Global
Platts

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The conference ended with a presentation by **Greg Dolan**, CEO of the **Methanol Institute** with the title “**Methanol: An Emerging Alternative Marine Fuel**”, and he concluded as follows:

Methanol...

- is plentiful, available globally
- can be made 100% renewable
- runs well in existing engine technology and has potential for further optimization
- complies with increasingly stringent emission reduction regulations
- requires only minor modifications to current bunkering infrastructure
- is biodegradable!
- safe handling can rely on long history and experience in shipping and industry
- shows slight regional price variation
- **NEEDED: Vessels, guidelines, standards**

The presentations given in the Business Sessions are available for consultation / download in the meetings area of the website www.impca.eu to all participants of the mini-conference.

IMPCA would like to thank the speakers, sponsors and the participants for their valuable contribution in making this year's conference a success.

21st IMPCA Asian Methanol Conference 2018

The 21st IMPCA Asian Methanol conference will be held in Singapore from November 6th to November 8th 2018.

The organisers, **MMSA, Methanol Market Services Asia**, have opened the registration for the conference and the hotel link will soon be available.

Registration for the conference is available at <https://www.methanolmsa.com/21st-impca-asian-methanol-conference/>

Please contact MMSA, www.methanolmsa.com for further details, or for any questions related to registration.

The 7th IMPCA MississippPi Conference America 2019

The Board of IMPCA has decided to continue to organise this American event with a view to increase the level of awareness of IMPCA in North America as well as in Latin America. The event next year will take place in Miami on February 7th and 8th.



*a.i.s.b.l. International Methanol Producers & Consumers Association
Avenue de Tervueren 270 Tervurenlaan - 1150 Brussels - Belgium*

Phone: + 32 (0)2 741 86 83 – Fax : + 32 (0)2 741 86 84 – e-mail : impca@epca.be - VAT: BE 0434 211 194

31st IMPCA European Mini-Conference 2019

Several venues have been proposed for next year's Mini-Conference. Crucial for the choice of venue is of course that a ship suitable for our Thursday evening Welcome Buffet Dinner is available. At time of writing, Wiesbaden, Germany seems to be top of the list.

As always, the Mini-Conference will take place on the second Thursday and Friday of June, therefore please ensure that you mark your calendar for the 31st Mini-Conference which will take place on the 13th and 14th of June 2019.



***Sponsorship opportunities are available for next year's Mini-Conference.
Your company's logo could be here!***



Editorial Team:

Trond R. Tenold, IMPCA Director/Secretary

Eleanor Conway, IMPCA Secretariat

a.i.s.b.l. International Methanol Producers & Consumers Association

Avenue de Tervueren 270 Tervurenlaan - 1150 Brussels - Belgium

Phone: + 32 (0)2 741 86 83 – Fax : + 32 (0)2 741 86 84 – e-mail : impca@epca.be - VAT: BE 0434 211 194