



7th International Copper/Cobre-Conference 2010 in Hamburg, Germany

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From June 6-10, 2010, the 7th Copper/Cobre Conference (CCH) was held at the Congress Center Hamburg. Technicians, business people, and suppliers from the copper industry as well as scientists and university staff from all over the world met here to exchange experiences, obtain current updates, and to distribute their own latest findings and knowledge.

With more than 650 participants from approx. 40 countries, the conference, which for the first time was held outside of the Americas, was a huge success for the participants as well as for the organizers. Once again, it emphasized the importance of copper in modern life.

The heart of the conference was the 225 individual lectures held Monday through Wednesday, in which the experts from the different branches of industry provided information on their specific topics, discussed about them, and sometimes critically analysed them with their colleagues.

Six plenary lectures (Figure 1) and a session on ecological questions analysed the global situation of the modern copper industry as well as its status in national and global matters.

Fig. 1:
The plenary auditory, one of seven lecture halls, always was frequently visited by the participants



Further lectures included topics such as downstream activities and minerals processing. With a total of 65 lectures, the emphasis is still being placed on pyrometallurgy, the melting and refining of ore, concentrates, and scrap into metals. This comes to no surprise as, even today, approx. 80 % of all new copper is produced this way. However, major progress was also made in recent years in the field of ore preparation and wet metallurgical processing. Particularly important were also the fields of new processes, process improvements, and optimization, especially by means of computer simulations, which today are a substantial

aid in finding solutions to complex questions, which just a few years ago could only have been handled empirically or not at all. Recycling and environmental protection are also crucial topics in today's metallurgy, and their importance is increasing, especially in countries with few natural resources.

All of the presentations from this conference have been compiled in seven conference transcripts with a total of more than 3,000 pages. These "Proceedings of Copper 2010" are still available from the GDMB (ISBN 978-3-940276-32-2).

In the run-up to the conference, particularly interested participants were offered three "Short Courses" on Saturday on slag purification, gas purification, and the production of sulphuric acid - one day introductions with discussions on the specific topic. These kinds of events are very popular in the Anglophone areas of the world but are hardly known at all in Germany. The courses enjoyed a good number of visitors and were regarded as very well done and rather informative.

The exhibitors from the industry presented themselves in the foyer of the CCH. (Figures 2 and 3) As early as Sunday, the more than 30 international



Fig. 2:
The exhibition within the foyers of the CCH



companies from every continent of the world were able to present themselves in this renowned setting, and the conference participants used the opportunity, e.g. during breaks, to gather information about the exhibitor's activities, products, and current projects. Furthermore, on this occasion the participants socialize with the other attendees to become familiar among each other and get new contacts. It was evident as to how intensively the global involvement in copper mining, production, and processing is being pushed today.

The fact that copper production is not only a matter of interest for insiders, but especially in Hamburg where



Fig. 4: The Senate of the Hanseatic City Hamburg was represented at the opening of the conference by the Senator for Science and Education, Mrs. Herlind Gundelach, here with Dr. Bernd Drouven (CEO of Aurubis AG) and Prof. Dr. Hans Jacobi (President of the GDMB)

Aurubis is headquartered, plays a very important role for the city and the entire country, was demonstrated by Hamburg's senate with a reception in the city hall by privy council Peter Wenzel and by a greeting from the senator for science and education, Herlind Gundelach (Figure 4), at the opening of the conference, in which she demonstrated remarkably detailed knowledge on copper, its production, and its importance.

The conference was also covered by the international technical press. On Monday, a press conference organized by Aurubis and the GDMB explained the importance of this conference and the general prospects for the copper

Fig. 3: One highlight of the exhibition within the foyers of the CCH: The bronze figures of the candlelabrum of the German Reichstag in Berlin, bewared of meltdown by courageously employees of the Norddeutsche Affinerie while 2nd World War



market to national as well as international correspondents. Of particular interest for the journalists, some of them from London, England, were the explanations by the CEO of Aurubis AG, Dr. Bernd Drouven.

The conference program also included a social part. In addition to the exhibition beginning on Sunday, on Monday night, there was a casual get together in Groeninger's rustic brewery and, on Tuesday night, the festive banquet evening was held in the wonderfully decorated and illuminated trading floor of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, a feast for the senses (Figure 5). As part of the greetings and speeches for the conference, Dr. John E. Dutrizac was awarded the GDMB gratitude medal (Figure 6) for his long, intensive co-operation with the GDMB and his support during the

preparations for the European Metallurgical Conference (EMC).

The supporting program for the conference offered opportunities for visits to the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg and Luebeck during the three conference days. The reports from the participants were so impressive that many others wished that they could have participated!

Parallel to these events were some private invitations from renowned copper producers and suppliers that were not part of the official program, but that also contributed to the participants getting to know each other. In general, the copper conference not only offered opportunities to exchange knowledge but also for the members of large and small companies to get to meet each other again, or for the first time, and introduce

Fig. 5: The Trading Floor of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Hamburg was magnificently decorated and illuminated at the occasion of the banquet evening





Fig. 6: Dr. John E. Dutrizac was honoured with the GDMB gratitude medal at the banquet evening

the “youngsters” to the large “copper family” (Figure 7).

The organizers of the technical program met after the conference was over on Wednesday night for a “Thank you dinner” onboard the Rickmer Rickmers, an old, decommissioned traditional sailboat in Hamburg’s harbour. The organization and execution of a conference of this size and importance is quite a significant task. The dedication of all organisers, sponsors, and helpers was a key element in making this conference such a success. Already in the early stages of the conceptual planning, but also during

the execution, the commitment of all those involved paid off and was honoured not only in the speeches but also in the many individual statements of the participants who considered the Copper/Cobre Conference 2010 a huge success. The GDMB employees, who were responsible for the main part of the organization and execution, were especially acknowledged.

Following the conference, the international as well as all other participants had the opportunity to visit Aurubis AG in Hamburg or other companies in Poland, Belgium, and Austria. These “Post Conference Tours”, some of which lasted for up to three days, included visits to Cablo Metall-Recycling & Handel GmbH, Hutmen S.A., KGHM Polska Miedz S.A. in Poland, KME Germany AG & Co. KG, Deutsche Giessdraht GmbH, Aurubis Belgium and Umicore Precious Metals in Belgium, as well as the Gebrüder Kemper GmbH + Co. KG, Leoni AG, Wieland-Werke AG, and the Montanwerke Brixlegg on the way to and in Austria.

The next Copper Conference will be held on the South American continent again, in Chile in 2013, probably in late autumn in Viña del Mar. We are already looking forward to it. The preparations for this conference have already begun



Fig. 7: The exhibition was venue for several meetings between the generations of the attendees

at the conference in Hamburg and the proven team of the six organisations is already working on it. The team includes: MetSoc from Canada, IIMCh from Chile, MMIJ from Japan, SME in co-operation with TMS from the USA, as well as GDMB from Europe. One of the objectives for the future is to further include China and India in the conference, since they are important producers and users of copper.