In Memoriam Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jens Weitkamp

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Jens Weitkamp 1942–2019

When Jens Weitkamp passed away on August 25, 2019, the national and international communities of catalysis and zeolites/porous solids lost an excellent and outstanding scientist, mentor, and teacher. For many years, Jens Weitkamp has to a large extent shaped our understanding of the basic principles of hydrocarbon conversions related to the upgrading of crude oil and natural gas, based on heterogeneous catalysis. His ground-breaking contributions gave deep insights into the complex reaction schemes of hydrocarbon conversions. Based on this fundamental research Jens Weitkamp is considered as one of the leading experts worldwide in the field of petroleum refining and petrochemistry. Jens Weitkamp has advanced and promoted these fields to a very large extent and in its whole broadness. His entire research devoted to the industrial processes has been beneficial for industrial companies as well.

Jens Weitkamp was an excellent teacher. As head of the Institute of Chemical Technology at the University of Stuttgart for over two decades, its vice-rector and as founding president of the German University in Cairo, he earned outstanding merits in academic education and research. His scientific oeuvre encompasses a large number of scientific publications, book editions, and lectures. His spoken and written contributions were always clearly structured, well organized and presented in an understandable way. To follow them was of great benefit and an intellectual pleasure.

He invested great efforts in editing scientific journals (*Microporous Materials* later *Microporous and Mesoporous Materials*) and books, like the *Handbook of Heterogeneous Catalysis* and the *Handbook of Porous Solids*. *Chemie Ingenieur Technik* is deeply indebted to him for his many years of meritorious service on the Editorial Board.

Jens Weitkamp was an experienced organizer of conferences, e.g., in 1994 he chaired the 10th International Zeolite Conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, with more than 1000 delegates from all over the world. In addition, he served in a number of offices for scientific associations, societies, and committees, with an always dedicated commitment.

He gained great merits in connection with the German reunification in the early 1990s, founding the German Zeolite Society. The first German Zeolite Conference after reunification was held in Berlin in 1991. Jens Weitkamp strongly supported East-German colleagues to be part of the national and international zeolite and catalysis communities. In addition, he motivated a number of colleagues to return to Germany after their stays abroad.

Thus, Jens Weitkamp's outstanding scientific achievements made him one of the leading worldwide known experts in the field of upgrading of oil and natural gas, which was also acknowledged by his membership on the Board of the German Society for Petroleum and Coal Science and Technology (DGMK) as well as the founder and chairman of its Petrochemistry Division. In addition, he served as the German member of the Scientific Program Committee of the World Petroleum Congress. Finally, he was a member of the Board of DECHEMA and its vice-president for more than ten years.

His highly ranked recognitions include the Alwin-Mittasch Prize and Honorary Membership of the DECHEMA (2010), the Carl-Engler Medal of the DGMK, Honorary Professorship of the Changchun University and Corresponding Membership of the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig.

The scientific communities devoted to the research of zeolites, porous materials and heterogeneous catalysis show great respect for the lifetime achievements of Jens Weitkamp and we regret the loss of this excellent scientist, teacher, and human being.



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