



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first biennial Industrial Green Chemistry Workshop, IGCW-2009.

At a time when global warming and negotiations at Copenhagen are capturing the world's attention, it is easy to be distracted from another equally important objective in the sustenance of our lifestyles – namely, sustainable and efficient manufacturing.

IGCW-2009 seeks to address pollution and inefficiencies in the chemicals industry. In particular, it seeks to introduce industrial participants to the maturity and potential of Green Chemistry practices in industry. A substantial attendance from the private sector, governmental bodies and academia promises a fruitful exchange of ideas with a highly applied and practical focus.

One important objective of IGCW-2009 is to highlight case studies that debunk the myth that investments in Green Chemistry exacerbate the industrial cost burden. On the contrary, in many cases when Green Chemistry principles are integral to product development, costs can be substantially lower due to diminished use of raw material, energy or water, or the preclusion of effluent treatment or safety equipment and procedures. If one considers that impending industrial pollution regulation will inevitably increase waste treatment and disposal costs (and, in many situations, forbid present practices altogether), the appeal of Green Chemistry becomes abundantly clear.

The coming of age of Industrial Green Chemistry is, in essence, reflected in the practice of pollution and waste prevention at the start of the product pipeline rather than treatment and clean-up at the end of the pipeline. Considerations at product conception of inefficient material and energy consumption, of the toxic nature of effluents and of workplace hazards, positively affect the design and economics of products and process engineering.

This conference has been organised around our 9-Eye Theme to promote a collaborative exercise to uncover and expand these possibilities. Attendees will be amply rewarded by the depth, diversity and the rich experience of the speakers, while delegates will have a platform and many networking opportunities to broach their specific requirements. The exhibition showcases numerous examples of innovations in Green Chemistry and Engineering that have been put into practice on large scales.

To keep up with the times and to effectively engage participants, we have also made liberal use of Internet based social media before, during and after this event. We hope that these platforms will make for fertile grounds for productive discussion in Green Chemistry applications well into the future.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our industrial sponsors and the zeal and perseverance of a tireless team in bringing you IGCW-2009, with special thanks to Dr. John Warner and Prof. Paul Anastas for their big-hearted and enthusiastic mentoring roles in the organisation of this event. The effort has brought its rewards in bringing together a constellation of luminaries in this field, a respectable attendance of decision makers from the private sector and from government and, to sustain a culture of Green Chemistry thinking in the next generation, it has kindled the spirit of a large number of students who will be our future scientists and engineers.

I am confident that this event will herald a movement towards efficient, cost-effective and clean manufacturing technologies in chemicals manufacturing.