

# OPENING CEREMONIES

## Welcome

K.T. ZILCH, Conference Chairman, Emery Industries Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Ladies, gentlemen, colleagues, and guests – it is a privilege to welcome each of you to the first World Conference on Soaps and Detergents. We are truly honored by your presence.

The excellent attendance here today certainly confirms the importance of the subject to which this conference has addressed itself.

We are currently experiencing changes in the soap and detergent industry throughout the world because of governmental regulations, environmental problems, toxicological problems, energy problems, increases in raw material costs, availability of raw materials, new chemical technology, and the ever existing desire by individuals and organizations to produce a better product at a more economical price.

The conference program, designed by members of the Technical Program Committee and the various chairpersons, spotlights many of the changes that are presently taking place in our industry. It is also current and practical so that each and everyone will take away from the conference some concept or idea which can be used by the organization which you represent.

We have assembled here one of the largest groups of experts in the field of soaps and detergents ever brought together. You represent industrial, governmental, academic, and private consulting organizations. Also represented are leaders in management, marketing, manufacturing, and research of both small and large organizations. Hopefully, this diverse group of people will find it possible to exchange freely thoughts and ideas. In this way, each of us will get a better understanding of the changes that are occurring and inspire us to contribute to the growth of the soap and detergent industry.

The chairpersons of the conference did an outstanding job in selecting speakers for their sessions. These speakers represent a broad spectrum of the industry. Each one is an entrepreneur in his or her field and in many cases represent the world's most outstanding authority.

It is important to the success of this conference that everyone participate in the program. To encourage your participation, we are allowing time after each talk for questions and answers. In addition, at the end of each day, we will meet in smaller discussion groups to talk with the speakers from the different sessions.

Those of us representing the American Oil Chemists' Society express our appreciation to the many other organizations that have assisted us in developing this conference. Included in this group are the individual national organizations comprising the Association Internationale de la Savonnerie et de la Détergence; the Soap and Detergent Association of the United States; the Institut des Corps Gras; the Soap and Detergent Association of Canada; the Japan Soap and Detergent Association; and Comité Européen d'Agents de Surface et Intermédiaires Organiques (European Committee of Organic Surfactants and the Intermediates).

We also express our appreciation to members of the Steering Committee, the speakers, and especially to Dr. Tom Spitzer of The Netherlands who as cochairman supported me here in Europe.

A special thanks goes to the Union der Seifen- und Waschmittelfabrikanten der Schweiz for allowing their secretary general, Dr. Kurt Gehri, to be the local chairman. He is a splendid host and has planned to make your stay in Montreux a pleasant one.

We are fortunate in being able to hold this conference in Switzerland and that Montreux has the facilities to accommodate us.

It is my personal wish that this conference will expand upon your knowledge of the soap and detergent industry, that you will become better acquainted with your colleagues from other organizations and countries who have similar objectives in life, and that we can separate ourselves from our usual hectic pace and relax so we can all enjoy the beauty of Montreux and its surroundings.

