

## A few words from the new president of the World Corrosion Organization

As the new President of the World Corrosion Organization (WCO), I have the great honour to follow in the footsteps of Professor En-Hou Han of the Institute of Material Research-Chinese Academy of Science (Shenyang, China). The WCO is an original organization as it is the only one in the corrosion field recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations (UN). With Professor En-Hou Han as President and Professor Willi Meier of DECHEMA (Frankfurt, Germany), as Director General, the WCO became more effective and efficient these last years. The WCO has a major role in: (i) raising the corrosion awareness of governments, corporations and the public, (ii) Identifying the world's best practices of corrosion mitigation, and (iii) facilitating provision of corrosion control expertise. To reach these goals, the last General Assembly in Nashville (TN, USA) on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019, decided five main actions

- To continue the lobbying at UN with the monthly meetings. Great thanks to George Hays (WCO Director, UN Relations) and his team for the time spend, and the great job done in New York.
- To increase the impact of the Corrosion Awareness Day, 24<sup>th</sup> of April.
- To finish the work done on corrosion issues and protection in water supply facilities.
- To be involved in big data and artificial intelligence regarding corrosion protection and control.
- To start a new action on corrosion issues and green energies with the objective to organize workshops and to write a white paper on the subject.

In these opening words edited for Corrosion Awareness Day, I would like to highlight some events linked to this day. Thanks to Professor En-Hou Han, many activities occur during the Corrosion Awareness Day in China, including meetings, articles in newspaper and TV reports. In Europe, since 2010, the European Federation of Corrosion edits an EFC e-newsletter for the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and several national societies inform their members. Many thanks to EFC and to the national societies for these actions. Nevertheless, the people who are not daily involved in corrosion do not know this event. An inventory of the various actions taken in different countries will be a first step and will give some visibility to the event and some ideas for those who would like to do something. In many countries, including European ones, the NGO status, which the WCO has, is important to put pressure on government or local authorities to become involved in corrosion issues like protection of infrastructures, educational opportunities, academia and research programs. I invite all of you to be proactive for the Corrosion Awareness day (April 24th), to increase the awareness of the public concerning the need to control corrosion for safety and financial considerations. Please, do not hesitate to inform or to report if you participate or if you initiate a specific event for the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. We need to know all the efforts made in various countries. If you, or your society, were planning activities, it would be nice if you could inform us so that we can promote your activities within the WCO community.

The heart of the WCO beats strongly due to active Directors, Administrators and UN DPI Representatives who devote their time and talent for the Organization. I would like to express my thanks to all of them. With their help, and with the support and the efforts of my colleagues' worldwide, corrosion researchers and engineers, post-docs and PhD students, I look forward to these coming years with confidence.

Damien Féron