

**Rede des Präsidenten anlässlich der Eröffnung des
JCF-Frühjahrssymposiums 2014
an der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena**

Dear Prof. Schubert, Dean of the faculty of Chemistry & Geoscience,
Dear participants of this Spring Symposium,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by expressing my excitement to be here today at the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena, a city with a long tradition of science, with famous names like Ernst Abbe, Ernst Haeckel and Carl Zeiss. I welcome all of you to the 16th Young Scientists Spring Symposium and a special warm welcome to our international guests from 26 countries.

An opening ceremony of an international symposium is always a good opportunity to reflect on our discipline and let me do this with a focus on the paradigm “Global Sustainability”. What is the role of Chemistry in the anthropocene, an informal term introduced by the atmospheric chemist and Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen?

The Grand Challenges of our society are the change in the raw materials base, the future of energy supply and – as the key challenge of the millennium – our response to climate change. The United Nations declared the decade 2014 – 2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, underscoring the importance of energy issues for sustainable development. As the next generation of chemists you can recognize these challenges as opportunities, you can contribute with your work to address them and you can make the contribution of Chemistry transparent not only in our community but also to the society.

Your annual meeting is a great opportunity to communicate with many young chemists from various countries and to get inspired by excellent invited lectures. Let me invite you to continue this dialog at the 5th EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Istanbul from August 31st to September 4th in Istanbul. Many topics like catalysis, energy materials and medicinal chemistry will be addressed. And in addition you will have two interdisciplinary symposia, "Chemistry and Society" and "Resources and Environment".

As president of the German Chemical Society I have also selected "Chemistry and Society" as my major topic and I would like to answer the question, how Chemistry as science and industry is perceived by the society in comparison with other natural sciences. As chemists we speak a different language in our special disciplines that is often difficult to understand for the society. So how can we express the fascination of Chemistry towards experts in other disciplines or towards the society? My colleague in the GDCh-board Prof. Lindhorst had the idea, to ask you as young scientists to describe the fascination and vision of your science or individual discipline in one sentence on these cards. I would be grateful if you would follow this invitation.

Finally, special thanks go to those who supported and worked hard for the organization of this symposium, especially the Young Chemists Forum Jena and all sponsors and supporters, they are mentioned in the program. I wish all of you a successful conference and a pleasant stay in Jena. Thank you very much for your attention.