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Welcoming Speech

at the 6th Angewandte Chemie Symposium

15th of February 2017

Dan Panoama Hotel, Tel Aviv

Dear Udi, dear Eva, dear Peter, dear colleagues and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The very inspiring Annual Meeting of THE ISRAEL CHEMICAL SOCIETY is just lying behind us, -it ended yesterday-, and today we continue with the first *Angewandte Symposium* that takes place in Israel.

The world-leading chemistry journal *Angewandte Chemie*, is owned by the German Chemical Society, it is a GDCh Journal and we are very proud of it. With every issue it shows which expectations GDCh has in the quality of chemistry. Speakers of the symposium of the ICS symposium and today's speakers have helped to make "Die Angewandte" great, however the greatest contribution to the success of the journal *Angewandte Chemie* during the last 35 years is due to Peter Göllitz. This has been often recognized over the years, but today I take the opportunity of this number 6 *Angewandte Symposium* to deliver my presidential thank-you which is filled with great respect and appreciation!

As we heard yesterday, *Angewandte Symposia* within a short time, have become a world-wide appreciated GDCh brand and I promise, that GDCh will continue this brand at the highest level. The next *Angewandte Symposium* is already scheduled and planned: It will take place on September 11th in Berlin as part of the 150 year anniversary celebrations of GDCh, as I have explained on Monday here in Tel Aviv. Please join us in Berlin on this very special occasion!

I will not repeat my speech on Monday. Let me just come back briefly to "Wertedenken", -thinking about values in chemistry. This can never come to an end for a chemist: thinking about values in chemistry.

Yesterday during the ICS symposium, many of you have followed the panel discussion entitled "How can we raise the next generation of Israeli Nobel laureates in chemistry?" It has been an intriguing discussion about how to foster and to achieve the best science and the best scientists in a society! Let me remind you of the contribution of Lia Addadi from Weizman Institute, -we will have the pleasure to listen to her again this morning-, she said yesterday on the podium:

You can't aim at a Nobel Prize. But for the sake of the highest quality in science, one has to get people acquainted with science, -early if possible, GDCh supports this actively!-, then of course teach them expert knowledge and the necessary accuracy and precision but more difficult: Raise curiosity, provide inspiration and foster creativity! And what is required especially: passion! (A 4th "P" in a line of People, Partnership, and Performance (Wiley-VCH).

WHAT IS PASSION? Maybe passion means constant striving for understanding and then, on the basis of what we have understood, make things good for all. In order to achieve a better world. (This is not necessarily applied science, I do not want to say this.) Passion implies to use knowledge and turn it into good things as much as we can. This can be a painful struggle, and if we do not surrender and face it over and over again: That's passion!

I am personally very optimistic and very enthusiastic about passion in chemistry and science. And I am sure, we will be able to learn more about passion from today's talks. Don't forget, everyone of our distinguished speakers today could be a Nobel prize winner of tomorrow. We are looking forward to a splendid event. Enjoy it!