

IPI International Packaging Institute – Crossroads of the Packaging Industry

Interview with Chairman of IPI Dr. Renate Neumann-Schäfer



What was your motivation for becoming Chairman of the IPI?

As chairman of the board, I am committed to ensuring that the competent young professionals of the packaging sector are provided with a broad, multidisciplinary education. Experience has shown that there are less and less specialists and executive staff that look at a company as a whole entity. The engineer says: I'm a technician; I'm not responsible for matters concerning business. The businessman on the other hand claims to lack the understanding for technical issues.

With my former colleagues Dr. Wilfried Jud, now the managing director of the Alcan packaging plant in Teningen near Freiburg, and Dr. Gerd Springe, a former managing director at the Alcan site in Singen, as well as Dr. Ingo Büren, an internationally active lecturer on packaging technology, we together developed the idea of founding a packaging institute offering an international accredited Master study at the highest academic level. A cluster initiative «Strengthening the Packaging Industry around Lake Constance» was the basis for this concept. Alcan became a founding member of this public private partnership.

How will the IPI influence the packaging industry?

The IPI considers itself to be the crossroads where packaging manufacturers, packaging machine producers and packaging companies meet. Our goal is to make IPI the internationally leading centre of expertise for modern packaging technology.

Through a combination of different branches of study, the IPI offers a unique bundle of lectures focused on the packaging industry, something that traditional universities cannot provide in one course.

Who benefits from the IPI and in what way?

Companies, which have IPI graduates as their employees, profit from the connections established during the course, in which the exchange of information in partnership is encouraged and a profound understanding for other industries is developed. The students come from different areas of the packaging sector; they work for firms packaging foodstuffs or pharmaceuticals, for companies making packaging machines and for manufacturers of packaging materials.

And of course the students benefit: They receive an education which provides them with an excellent position to carry out their job later in life, since the course is focused on their chosen field of work. Non-technical subject matter, e.g. concerning standardisation, protection of intellectual property, marketing or corporate strategy, opens up a whole new perspective for engineers. Businessmen on the other hand gain access to the technical know-how.

How does Alcan Packaging Singen GmbH profit from the IPI for example?

Our trainees receive an additional education at the IPI, complementing our in-house trainee program. They gain contacts in other industries, which provides a basis for future cooperation. This makes asking an expert from the food or pharmaceutical industry a lot easier when it comes to innovative packaging solutions.

And finally Alcan Packaging Singen GmbH profits from the ideal connection to the International Packaging Institute thanks to the geographical location.

Start of the Third Certificate Course in «Packaging Technology» on October 23rd, 2006

The third Certificate Course in «Packaging Technology» is due to start on October 23rd at the IPI International Packaging Institute.



The new participants from Germany, Austria and Switzerland are employees of manufactures of packaging materials, resources and machinery of Alcan Packaging Singen GmbH, Alcan Technology & Management AG in Neuhausen, SIG Combibloc GmbH & Co KG in Saalfelden (A) and The Valspar (Switzerland) Corp. AG in Grünigen. The new participants intend to extend expertise gleaned in professional practice, augmenting in with state-of-the-art knowledge, modern methods, tools and processes related to packaging technology at university level. Depending on entry requirements and initial training, the course comprises a total up to 48 seminar days in the form of six-day block seminars (Monday to Saturday) spread over a period of up to 12 months.

The newly initiated new structure of the Certificate Course with four independent modules of 12 seminar days offers more flexibility and increased efficiency to the participants. The studies in the Certificate Course can be started in each quarter of the year. It is also possible to choose selected modules according to the participant's level of knowledge and the prescribed objectives for future professional activities. The first participants choosing a single module of the Certificate Course work at Hydro Aluminium Deutschland GmbH in Grevenbroich and Cilag AG in Schaffhausen.

IPI Launches the Second Master of Engineering in Packaging Technology

The second course of the «Master of Engineering in Packaging Technology» is now ready for application and will start on March 5th 2007

The content of the course is focused on the area of lightweight primary packaging with the emphasis on interaction between the fillgood and the primary packaging, food & life science applications, flexible multilayer composites and plastics-based packaging, process orientation and packaging management.

Interested in further information about the IPI study courses?

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The aim of the course is to greatly extend the participants' knowledge and to expand their research and development expertise in the various areas of packaging technology, to develop their managerial expertise even further, and to put the knowledge and skills that have been obtained into practice in business as part of scientifically sound practical projects.

The Master degree covers four semesters, which run in conjunction with the participant's normal work activities. The course is conducted in English. During their study, the participants will spend one week at the Michigan State University – School of Packaging in Lansing (USA) and one week at the University of Reims – ESIEC (Ecole Supérieure d'Ingenieurs en Emballage et Conditionnement) in France. On successful completion of the course of study, students are awarded the academic degree of «Master of Engineering in Packaging Technology» by the University of Applied Science, Constance.

IPI International Packaging Institute Presents its Services at Scanpack 2006

Scanpack 2006, a trade fair for the packaging industry, will be held in Göteborg from the 24th to the 27th October and will present the machines, materials and processes that are required for a modern packaging production.



Scandinavia's biggest and most important packaging fair, Scanpack 2006, is only few days away. Well established, well developed and well attended, Scanpack attracts most of the important companies on the supplier and customer side. The entire exhibition area was fully booked months before the fair. Over 500 exhibitors from more than 20 countries will soon be arriving in Göteborg in order to present their innovations and product news to the packaging industry: New types of material, methods, machinery and increasingly integrated production solutions. The trade fair has been developed and improved in close collaboration with all sides of the packaging industry, and has grown almost beyond recognition. Scanpack's uniquely strong position makes it the most efficient meeting place for everyone who wants to develop his business on the packaging market.

IPI International Packaging Institute will be presenting at the Scanpack Packaging trade fair (Stand F04:80) from 24th to 27th October 2006. The focus will lie on the presentation of the IPI school services and on the formation of partnerships with proactive customers.

IPI supports the first international symposium «Barrier Packaging» 27th & 28th November, 2006 in Böblingen (Germany)

Research and development show that the future lies in comfort and flexible packaging.

The new international conference BarrierPackaging for the food and packaging industry will be presenting new trends and film packaging. It is focused on improving barrier properties, functional coatings and long-term storage without compromising the freshness. Professor Doctor Ingo Büren, Director of Science and Technology of IPI will moderate one part of this symposium and will speak about «Barrier Free Packaging».

The following seminar topics are scheduled:

- Barrier technologies and applications for PET-bottles
- New developments in packaging materials
- Prevention of microbiological risks and antimicrobial packaging
- Nanotechnology in packaging
- Flexible packaging processes

For further information and registration, please refer to www.hanser.de or contact Doreen Müller, phone +49 89 / 998 30-427, or mail to seminare@hanser.de