If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.

(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "The Wisdom of the Sands")

When we chose this citation as the motto for this issue of the Lenzinger Berichte we had two reasons: It is a good motto for people doing research and development on wood and the products made from it. Moreover, it inevitably crosses one's mind if asked to congratulate Haio Harms on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. Since sixty years is a long time and Haio Harms is a person who does not spend his time idly, we will highlight only a few aspects of his (professional) life.

Haio Harms, born 1950, studied chemistry at the University of Vienna with the focus on physical chemistry. Since he deemed an education in natural sciences a little one sided he counterbalanced it by studying law. Needless to say that he finished both with a doctoral degree. He started his industrial career in the research department of the Lenzing AG in Austria in 1983 and worked for Lenzing AG for 25 years, holding management positions in Asia (Technical Director, then CEO of the Lenzing subsidiary P.T. South Pacific Viscose) and in Austria (amongst others: Head of Strategic Planning, Head of R&D, Head of Legal Services). He held the position of an Executive Vice President before he became managing director of the Kelheim Fibres GmbH in Kelheim, Germany.

In addition to his many managerial obligations he always found time to give passionate talks (he was one of the first to promote the wood refinery concept) at many occasions. Moreover he was/is lecturing at the universities of Graz and Leoben (both Austria), the University of Stuttgart (Germany) and at the Ecole des Mines de Paris (France).

He is a leading member of many organisations because of his leadership abilities and his resoluteness to promote and realise his ideas.

Past and present memberships are:

- advisor at the Forschungskuratorium Textil (Eschborn Germany);
- FP7-Theme 2 member of the Advisory Committee, DG Research, Brussels;
- value chain leader "Specialities and New Businesses" of the European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP);
- member of the governing council of the European Technology platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing;
- president of the Austrian Chemical Society; member of the senate and the board of trustees of the Christian Doppler Society (Vienna, Austria) and
- chairman of the board of the Competence Centre of Wood Composites and Wood Chemistry (Wood K plus) Linz, Austria.
He worked and works with many people and we asked a handful of them to contribute to this honorific article.

Mr. Herbert Sixta, Professor of Chemical Pulping Technology, Helsinki University of Technology (TKK) and former colleague:
I experienced Haio as a well-educated personality with a clear attitude and a sense of humour.
It was 1985 in Indonesia when I first met Haio on the occasion of a preliminary environmental assessment of SPV’s viscose manufacture. I remember our open discussions and his effective support, which clearly contributed to a successful conclusion of our task.
Ten years later, when Haio was appointed as R&D director, I became a member of his team and our close collaboration started.
He immediately understood that successful research in an industrial environment of no or very little dedicated research at universities requires the initiation of own basic research and the close collaboration with international institutions. Within a very short time Lenzing’s R&D succeeded in the participation of several EU projects in prominent and leading positions.
Finally, with the successful application of the two Christian-Doppler laboratories on “Pulp Reactivity” and “Textile and Fibre Chemistry in Cellulosics” the basis was created to initiate both basic and applied research on cellulose chemistry and technology, relevant for the current and future business of the company. With this initiative Haio managed to line-up with the pioneer times where so prominent researchers like Kleinert, Mark, Treiber, Kratky, Schurz, and Krässig contributed to Lenzing’s research.
He continued his efforts in establishing highly funded fundamental and applied research when he realized the opportunity of the newly established funding programme KPLUS. He promoted the application of a wood chemistry programme tailored to Lenzing’s needs, which was approved and realised within the Competence Centre of Wood Composites and Wood Chemistry (Wood K plus) in 2001 and successfully re-approved in 2008.

Mr. Boris Hultsch, managing director of Wood K plus:
Mr. Haio Harms has been a major player in the positive development of the Competence Centre of Wood Composites and Wood Chemistry because he is a man of vision and of high commitment to a chosen task, who also exercises due care for the important details. He is a reliable partner as the chairman of the board not only for the centre but also for its network. Our subjects wood composites and wood chemistry gained the proper place in the Austrian and European research communities owing to his tireless promotion in various bodies, work groups etc.

Mr. Bruno Lindorfer, managing director of the OÖ. Technologie- und Marketinggesellschaft m.b.H. (TMG):
Dear Haio,
it is a great honour for me having been asked to write some lines for you on the occasion of your 60th birthday! I have known you for approximately 15 years. I met you at many conferences on R&D strategy and of course many many times in "our" CDG.
I do intentionally say "our" CDG, because I really feel, that persons like you, Prof. Krieger, Prof. Affenzeller, Dr. Hribnerik, and myself have not only been members of the CDG Senat and the CDG Kuratorium, but have really designed and formed the CDG over the years. What I always have admired and valued has been your clear logic of argumentation in research discussions, may the subjects be as difficult as IPR regulations between a CD-Lab, the university, and the industry partner. You have been the ultimate obstetrician ("Geburtshelfer") for the new Rahmenvertrag between the CDG and the
universities in 2007.
In addition to that you always kept your sense of humour (even after we had to tell you in 2003 that it had been decided, that LENZING was not admitted to join the Knet MET with its fibre solidification project).
You have been and will always remain an enthusiastic and igneous promotor of (application oriented) basic research and you are not becoming tired of pointing out the importance of both, basic research and applied R&D. I know you have been running on a high workload for many many years. Be it in Lenzing, in Indonesia, in Germany, or in the Sensengasse in Vienna.
So please take some time now and relax and celebrate your 60th Birthday with your family and close friends. I do wish you all the best! Bruno (Lindorfer - to distinguish from Bruno Hribelnik)

Mr Erich Leitner, managing director of the Austrian Chemical Society:
At first glance he is one of the 1800 members of the Austrian Chemical Society, who started his membership early in his career. He came into focus when he participated in the working group for renewable raw materials, where he impressed the participants and the chairman by his charming way of clearly stating his position and his ability to represent the interest of his company in his unique style without neglecting the viewpoint of others.
These skills recommended him to be the best candidate for the presidency of the Society. It is important to mention that he received acceptance and support by the leading academic members, who normally are very critical of (not only) the scientific qualification of those, who do not continue their academic career at university.
So he managed the challenge by sacrificing a lot of his leisure time.
He has enormous energy to realize a project and to finalize it in a short time without pressuring others. He analyses a situation very fast, reacts flexibly, selecting the right words to convince people what’s necessary and to set priorities to maximize the outcome of his actions. The following is a very typical example of his efficiency: the traditional Monatshefte für Chemie nearly collapsed due to inadequate actions by certain employees of the publishing house.
Attempts to solve this problem by different interventions and discussions failed. Then he decided to intervene personally. He organized, even neglecting his own holidays, all the steps immediately necessary in order to make the future for this journal certain. Today the stage for further success is set.
One of his most admirable talents is his ability to be a careful listener and to integrate other’s points of view into his concept in such a way as if it has been part of the plan right from the start. He respects every co-operative person and lets them know his appreciation. Very few can claim this character trait.
To sum up, the Society values his down-to-earth creativity: He is no dreamer, he’s a man of action, he doesn’t have a heavy hand. Like Saint-Exupéry who recommended, if one wants to build a ship one should not explain how to do it, but better one should awaken the yearning to sail over the sea – Haio Harms fosters enthusiasm in others in the same way. In addition he uses friendly encouragement to reach the goals. There are a lot of them to mention. He showed the path to renew the journal for members in the Nachrichten aus der Chemie. He started the active participation of Austrian neighbouring countries at the Austrian Chemistry Days and convinced the Austrian members to dare to use the language of science exclusively at those events. In addition during his presidency financial consolidation continues to proceed.
At least: How does he handle mistakes and difficulties of others? He never assigns blame. In every case he steps up to the plate and finds a solution. So working with
him and for him is always pleasant and productive.

Mr. Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld, manager of the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP)

From the beginning Haio Harms took a very active part in the set-up of the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) and its subsequent development. The implementation of the value added chain Biorefinery/ Specialities/New Businesses became a success because of his many years of experience and knowledge in this area.

A very important field of action, namely the cooperation within and the development of fractions of the forest-based sector has been initiated thanks to his invaluable work. Haio Harms stands out due to his great commitment, his diplomacy and ease on the international stage, and due to his ability to motivate.

Ms Hedda Weber, area manager Wood K plus and former co-worker:

There are so many things already said, which I assent wholeheartedly, that I will add just a few.

I worked with Haio Harms during his time as head of research at Lenzing. I experienced him as a man of great leadership abilities as well as a mentor. During this time span he was not only the head of research department he also led a small working group on innovative cellulosics. He set the general direction trusting that we will do the right things and hence he refrained from meddling. He challenged our ideas, results etc. but he refrained from nagging. During our meetings he brought forward many new ideas, which we of course felt free to challenge as well. In conclusion it was a very fruitful time for all of us.

Haio sparked my interest in wood (bio-) refineries and paved my way for entering the international wood refinery community.

Last but not least we very often had a good giggle since he has a splendid sense of humour.

Haio, all the best for the years to come and enjoy your birthday!

Hedda (on behalf of all of us)