THE EDUCATION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS IN EUROPE AND IN THE USA

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Abstract

The purpose of this presentation is to compare educational approaches and systems applied at Departments of Chemical Engineering in Universities in America and in Europe. The curriculum in Europe includes more subjects not directly connected with chemical engineering as compared in the US. For example it includes mandatory foreign languages. Also, it requires much more chemistry and chemical technology as compared to the US. The number of hours per week is significantly higher in Europe as compared to the US. Nevertheless American graduates are more proficient in chemical engineering as the curriculum is more narrowly focused on engineering subjects. Economics, which must be an important part of any engineering education, is at a higher level in the US as compared to Europe. European and US prerequisites to get into courses are compared. Methods applied in lecturing are also demonstrated.

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Dr Wiewiorowski serves currently as a consultant and lecturer for industry and universities, mainly in Europe. His educational background and work practice are in chemical and metallurgical engineering and technology. His research interests are in pollution abatement and in particular, recycling of metals and silica. Dr. Wiewiorowski has Ph.D., D.Sc. and Habilitation degrees in Chemical Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer in Louisiana and Poland.