



We were all deeply touched and saddened that Professor Stefan Ernst has passed away on January 28th. This is truly a loss for the worldwide community of chemical technology and zeolite science in particular. He studied Chemical Engineering in Karlsruhe and obtained his Ph.D. with Jens Weitkamp. After a short stay in Oldenburg, he finished his habilitation at the University of Stuttgart. Since 1997, he has been Professor of Chemical Technology at TU Kaiserslautern.

Stefan Ernst is known as one of the pioneers of zeolite science in Germany, having undergone mentoring by G.T. Kokotailo and he has made outstanding contributions to the synthesis of zeolites and their application in industrial catalysis. A landmark example is the synthesis of phase-pure ZSM-20 in 1987. His pioneering work of synthesis and catalytic evaluation paved the way into understanding this large pore zeolite well ahead of the much later on structure elucidation. Equally unique was his contribution of siliconitride decorated zeolites and its use as basic catalyst – on first glimpse a paradigm for zeolites. More recently again he went to extremes and for the first times touched the challenging field of combining zeolites and ternary metal Heusler-phases. In industry Stefan Ernst was a key partner in the field of teaching and consulting ‘shape selective catalysis’ - we all still remember his efforts in September 2018 when he was teaching 25 students during a DECHEMA zeolite workshop.

Moreover, Stefan was closely connected with scientific organizations such as DGMK, DECHEMA and the German Zeolite Association. He served on the board of the International Zeolite Association (IZA), was chair of the catalysis commission of IZA and was active in the commission of the German Catalysis Society (GeCatS). He organized and contributed to many national and international conferences in fields of zeolites and petrochemistry.

Whenever we met him, we could feel his passion for zeolites and catalysis. His large profound knowledge and friendly encouragement made him a well-respected advisor for students, co-workers, colleagues and industrial partners.

We will certainly memorize his ability of networking and connecting people across regions, cultures, faculties and generations. His unselfishness, kindness, strong support and advice shurely will be missed around the globe.

Our thoughts are with his family in these difficult times.