



73th Meeting of GDMB Copper Committee, September 17 to 19, 2014

Chairman: Dr. Bernhard Hanusch, Düsseldorf

The Copper Committee's meeting 2013 in Stolberg, Germany, was attended by almost 50 participants from ten European countries. This year's conference started at the RWTH Aachen University, where we had the opportunity to visit the IME Institute of Process Metallurgy and Metal Recycling. Dipl.-Ing. Kilian Gisbertz introduced to us the institute's activities and guided us through the premises. All participants got an overall impression of applied research in the fields of pyro- and hydrometallurgy.

1 Technical Session

The technical session was held on the 18th of September in the Hotel zum Walde in Zweifall near Stolberg. The program was composed of 13 presentations covering all aspects of copper production, processing and recycling:

- Challenges in copper production: From cathode to application. – Dr. Bernd Langner, Understanding Copper, Germany.
- Challenges posed by the recycling of other metals contained in brass and copper alloys. – Dirk Goris, Metallo-Chimique N.V., Belgium.
- Chemical detinning of copper alloys. – Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Stelter, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany.
- Application of a slide gate system for copper anode furnaces. – Dipl.-Ing. Klaus Gamweger, RHI AG, Austria.
- Cast bronze-carbon composites – microstructure and tribological properties. – Dipl.-Ing. Witold Mallec, Institute of Non-Ferrous Metals, Poland.
- Copper alloys for seawater applications. – Dr.-Ing. Dirk Herrmann, Wieland Werke AG, Germany.
- Integrated recycling strategies for flue dust from the secondary cop-



Fig. 1: The Copper-Committee at Schwermetall plant, Stolberg

- per production. – Dipl.-Ing. René Rumpold, University of Leoben, Austria.
- Transportation of concentrate into Europe and its share of the GHG emissions of the copper smelting, rough estimates. – Dr. Ilkka V. Kojo, Outotec Oyj, Finland.
- Renewable energy growth in Europe – potential market for copper. – Victor Hadzhiyski, Aurubis AG, Germany.
- Possibility of using the “Hull Cell” to control the additives level in the electrolyte. – Irene Ruiz Oria, Atlantic Copper, Spain.
- Introduction of Schwermetall and technical update. – Dr.-Ing. Karsten Neumann, Schwermetall Halbzeugwerk GmbH & Co. KG, Germany.
- Introduction of Aurubis Stolberg and change-process in Stolberg. – Dr. Jürgen Jestrabek, Aurubis Stolberg GmbH & Co. KG.

- Scrap to wire – limits of pyrorefining. – Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.h.c. Bernd Friedrich, IME, RWTH Aachen University, Germany.

2 Metallurgical Evening and Fieldtrips

Our host Aurubis Stolberg kindly invited us to the Metallurgical Evening in the Ratskeller in Aachen. We all had a pleasant time with delicious food and intense discussions.

On the 19th of September the participants of the Copper Committee's meeting had the opportunity to take part in two fieldtrips. The first one led us to Schwermetall Halbzeugwerk in Stolberg. Dr. Neumann explained to us the whole manufacturing line of pre-rolled copper and copper alloy strips. The second destination on our tour was Aurubis Stolberg. Also here we had the chance to get a closer look into highly developed processing lines. Dr. Jestrabek guided us through the plant, where high precision copper and copper alloy strips and wires are manufactured.

Finally I would like once again to thank all who contributed to the success of the conference. The Copper Committee's meeting 2015 will take place in Pori, Finland, also during September. We are friendly invited by Outotec Oyj, Finland.

Bernhard Hanusch