

EDITORIAL



Globalisation is not a topic that we can vote on in Switzerland – it is a process that we can neither avoid nor influence. But we can – and must – try to harness the opportunities it presents in order to compensate for its disadvantages. For example, Novartis moved its research management and part of its research to the Cambridge/Boston area as a consequence of the incentives for Novartis arising from the globalisation process. As a counter measure we have to try to attract research activities from the US to Switzerland – as we successfully did at the beginning of the sixties with the establishment of the renowned IBM Research Laboratory in Rüschlikon. But this will not happen by chance – the future of Switzerland is to be shaped. This is a long-term task and not to be confused with the short-term measures to counteract symptoms, like decline in personnel, massive reductions of costs and concentration

processes with the sale of substantial parts of companies as has become necessary today in view of the tedious economy in numerous companies, even large ones. Unfortunately, however, long-term thinking and long-term action are not really fashionable these days.

As the result of the long-term actions of some outstanding entrepreneurial pioneers in Switzerland in the 19th century like Alfred Escher, C.F. Bally, Henry Nestlé, and others, our country managed to set the foundation for long-term wealth. This allowed, for example, the financing of the ETH Zürich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich), which has become one of the world's leading technical universities. In other words, our generation profits from the work and achievements of our predecessors. Hence, today it is our duty to contribute to the basis of life of our children's children. This is the long-term task I mentioned at the beginning.

The project TECHNOPARK® Zurich is such a long-term project. Its objective is to link the strengths of our country, namely scientific leadership, entrepreneurial spirit and finances to create economic power for the future. In the first ten years of its operation the TECHNOPARK® Zurich has proven the value and the workability of its concept. This was not accepted or expected *a priori*. Unfortunately, new things are often regarded with great scepticism – in this respect the American spirit in the sense of 'Let's give it a chance!' is often more fruitful.

The concept and model has been multiplied in the meantime by the foundation of two external Technoparks: TECHNOPARK® Winterthur (opened 2002) and TECHNOPARK® Lucerne (opening 2003) in co-operation with the local Universities of Applied Sciences. By this we hope to extend the impact of the idea over a larger area.

This edition of CHIMIA is designated to give you an overview about the results of activities in the TECHNOPARK® Zurich after ten years of operation. The examples chosen are focussed on chemistry in the broader sense. Let me add my grateful thanks to the ETH Zürich for the close and extremely fruitful co-operation with the common goal of helping the Swiss economy to be competitive by innovation.

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