

**Conference Opening** by Cornelia Spitzer, TÜV Süddeutschland, General Chair

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends,

It is a very great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the PSAM 7 – ESREL '04 Conference in Berlin!

Four years ago we applied to host the PSAM 7 Conference in Germany. After the decision was made in favour of Germany, from the very beginning we aimed at combining the PSAM Conference with the 2004 edition of the ESREL conference for the benefit of the risk and reliability engineering professional communities.

The goal has been to provide, on the one hand, an increased opportunity for discussion across a broad range of industries and technical disciplines and, on the other hand, to reduce the number of related conferences during the calendar year, which is relatively important nowadays.

## **RISK IS THE BOW WAVE OF SUCCESS.**

*Carl Amery, contemporary Essayist and Author*

a quotation from a contemporary German Essayist and Author.

I actually liked this image a lot:

Modern technology is an essential part of society, promising and beneficial; accordingly, its mission is to be put to use and utilised, not to remain unused and dormant. Nevertheless, there are risks associated with modern technological applications – like the bow waves made by a sailing ship. These risks have to be managed and decided upon while taking economic and environmental aspects into account while pursuing the aim of a truly successful utilisation.

The need for an appropriate decision making process, reflecting in an integrated manner all the issues to be tackled is one of the burning topics these days. Societies would like to be supported in making decisions on at least one class of risks, those stemming from modern technological applications.

This Conference intended and in the end succeeded in providing a forum and platform for exactly this important topic.

Having organised this Conference over such a long period of time, with all the energy invested, ups and downs, we are very pleased and content about the exceptional feedback leading to nearly 600 technical presentations from 40 countries in over 160 sessions, together with panel and roundtable discussions as well as plenary sessions given by invited speakers.

674 attendees from 44 countries have registered up to now and 13 participants are represented in the exhibition.

With your Registration, you received the Conference Proceedings and the Final Programme where you will find all necessary information relating to the Conference itself. In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Conference Secretariat; the colleagues there will be pleased to help you.

Now we are all greatly looking forward to an interesting and exciting Conference with you, full of technical presentations and discussions, exchanging experiences, insights and views across a broad range of application areas and technical disciplines.

I hereby declare the PSAM 7 – ESREL '04 Conference open.

Thank you very much for your attention.

After the Opening of the Conference, we can look forward to the Keynote Address given by Prof zu Putlitz, the Opening Plenary by the Senior Advisory Board, to be followed by Dr Schmocker, who is introducing the Technical Programme.

The Opening Plenary by the Senior Advisory Board will start with position statements to be presented by the Board members on their respective views about the common topic, which is **QRA, RAM and Safety Management in Decision Making: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Future Prospects.**

Afterwards, the floor is opened to the audience for comments, questions and a – hopefully – lively discussion.

Before that, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to introduce to you our keynote speaker, **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Gisbert Freiherr zu Putlitz**, who will give us **Some Remarks on Risk Assessment and Safety Management**. I am grateful that he has accepted our invitation to address the conference.

His distinguished career spans several decades of technical and organisational leadership internationally. Prof. zu Putlitz has held various positions including

- Professor and Director of the Institute of Applied Physics, University of Heidelberg
- Rector, University of Heidelberg, 1983 - 1987
- Currently Visiting Research Associate, Lecturer and Visiting Professor, Yale University
- Scientific Member, Max-Planck-Institute for Nuclear Physics

Prof. zu Putlitz's scientific contributions have been in the areas of: Atomic Physics, Nuclear Physics, Solid State Physics and Quantum fluids.

He is the author of more than 200 papers in physics and numerous publications on the university, science policy, and technology transfer.

Prof. zu Putlitz is fellow of numerous societies and international academies of arts and sciences and has been Member and Chair of many commissions and advisory boards

He is Editor of the Zeitschrift für Physik, since 1998 European Physical Journal and he has been Chair of several international scientific conferences.

He also received honorary doctorates from 7 universities including the University of Maryland,

Prof. zu Putlitz has been the Recipient of Many Honours and Recognitions, including the Presidential medal of honour Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse 1984.

Currently, he is Head of the Board of Management of the Gottlieb-Daimler and Karl-Benz Foundation.