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PRESS RELEASE

World Corrosion Organization will present a workshop at the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference at UN Headquarters, New York. The workshop, entitled, "Enhancing Sustainability of Infrastructures and Reallocating Resources to Improve Sustainability of the Populous," will take place on Thursday, August 28, 2014.

Corrosion is naturally occurring phenomena that results in the destruction of materials. Under some conditions corrosion may destroy materials relatively quickly, but in most, the effect may not be evident for years or even decades. Unchecked, corrosion destroys infrastructures such as bridges, tunnels, pipelines, piers, buildings, automobiles, production facilities and many, many other things. It shortens the economic life of infrastructures, damages the environment, endangers the public and causes loss of resources through leakage. The annual cost of corrosion is more than 3% of the worldwide Gross Domestic Product. It is comparable to the worldwide cost of commercial distribution of food.

Yet because of the slowness of its progress, corrosion fails to garner sufficient attention from our business and political leaders who are driven by the need for near instant gratification – quarterly results for investors, annual results for governments, etc. Today, corrosion is treated mostly as a maintenance problem rather than a serious threat to the preservation of assets. While it may not be possible to totally stop corrosion, proper application of existing technologies in design and operation can significantly slow its progress, thus saving a significant portion of its annual cost to society, which is now in excess of US\$2.7 trillion worldwide.

The speakers will include Professor Dr. Willi Meier of Dechema, the German Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Eugene Lienes, The Dow Chemical Company and a Director of the Materials Technology Institute; Dr. Narasi Sridhar of DNVGL and Jonathan Witt, a graduate student in chemical engineering at Lehigh University. The moderator is George Hays, Director General of the World Corrosion Organization.

For additional information contact George Hays (wco@corrosion.org).