

Fundamentals of the Polymers Business

15 – 18 March 2021

Start time: 6AM GMT | 10AM UAE | 2PM SGT

Agenda time zone: SGT

Module #1:

14:00 – 15:00 Understanding Petrochemicals and Polymers

- What are petrochemicals and where do they come from
- An overview of polymer chemistry explaining what are monomers/polymers, thermosets vs thermoplastics

15:00 – 15:30 Polymer feedstock Part 1

- What are the key polymer feedstocks
- The main routes to making ethylene and propylene

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 16:45 Polymer feedstock Part 2

- The other raw materials – butadiene, styrene
- The ethylene, propylene and butadiene value chains explained

16:45 – 17:00 Interactive discussion

Module #2:

14:00 – 15:00 Polyethylene (PE)

- Brief history and early days of development
- Different types of polyethylene and key applications
- LDPE, LLDPE and HDPE – properties, production process, technologies and grades/applications
- Latest developments
- Overview of global and regional demand/supply, major producers
- Key end-use segments
- Major demand drivers

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:15 Polypropylene (PP)

- Brief history and early days of development
- Production process, catalysts, technologies, types of PP, grades/applications
- Latest product developments
- Overview of global and regional demand/supply, major producers
- Key end-use segments
- Major demand drivers

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16:15 – 16:30 Interactive discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Plastic processing fundamentals part 1

- The different polymer properties (MFI, etc) and their role in processing
- Introduction to major processing techniques and their applications (injection moulding, extrusion, blow moulding, thermoforming)
- Role of additives
- Substitution and inter polymer competition

Module #3:

14:00 – 14:30 Plastic processing fundamentals part 2

14:30 – 15:15 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)

- PET and polyester
- Early days of development
- Production process
- Grades and applications-
- Overview of global and regional demand/supply, major producers
- Key end-use segments and demand drivers
- Recycling and its importance in the PET business

15:15 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 16:15 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

- Brief history and early days of development
- Production process - ethylene and carbide routes to making PVC
- Different grades of PVC and their applications
- Overview of global and regional demand/supply, major producers
- Key end-use segments and demand drivers

16:15 – 17:00 Styrenics

- Brief history and early days of development
- Production process and technologies
- Different grades and their applications
- Overview of global and regional demand/supply, major producers
- Key end-use segments and demand drivers
- Major shifts in the PS business

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Module #4:

14:00 – 15:00 Pricing and markets

- Key price drivers
- Cost structure, influence of feedstock costs and margin analysis
- How pricing is assessed
- Differences in markets and price mechanisms across Asia, Europe and Americas
- China and its influence on markets
- The role of futures markets in China and its influence on the physical market

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:30 Industry trends and company strategies

- Key business drivers
- Major shifts in company strategies
- Investment trends and changes to trade flows
- Growth opportunities and challenges
- Environmental issues
- The impact of Covid-19 on the polymers market

16:30 – 16:45 Interactive discussion

16:45 – 17:00 Summary and conclusion