

Optimizing efficiency through digitalization in chemicals, petrochemicals and refining
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SPEAKER INTERVIEW



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1. What does the subject of digital transformation and IoT mean to you?

“Digital transformation” is not about digitalizing existing processes but changing those processes to make them more efficient (thanks to capabilities provided by digital platform based technologies). It can lead to a real and fruitful “Business transformation”. The paradigm to achieve transformation is to move from a vertical silo existing approach to a transversal lifecycle approach provided by digital continuity. This is relevant to downstream facing competitive environment and looking for CAPEX and OPEX optimization.

2. How do you see the role of the Industrial Internet of Things in refining, petrochemicals & chemicals? What are the key benefits and opportunities of using IIoT solutions in downstream operations?

IIoT is the most effective way to connect the digital world with the real world, get them in sync so that they can get advantage of each other. The real world can help to tune digital models to let them behave the same way as if real. And the digital world can help understand a past event, monitor and support the current operations, prepare a future operation, predict future event.

3. What are the latest technology adoptions by downstream operators in Asia? Are there any success stories that other operators can learn from?

Some downstream Asian operators already adopted advanced digital transformation technologies. Other Downstream operators can leverage these success stories as well as others provided by industries operating similar continuous process capital facilities.

4. What are your views on Asia's downstream industries rate of digitalisation as compared to counterparts in other regions i.e. America, Europe and the Middle East markets?

Thanks to the growing Asian economy, most of the worldwide capital facilities greenfield projects are located in this geography. These new projects are real enablers to adopt the most efficient new digital technologies to get successful projects results. These are the same digital technologies that can apply to operation and maintenance. Consequently we think that Asia rate of digitalization is at least the same as in other markets.

5. What will be the highlight of your presentation at Asian Downstream Summit 2018?

My presentation will describe what digital transformation means for downstream operations such as:

- Manage (Modify/Retrofit/Revamp/Extend Plant) project
- Simulate (Plan & Optimize) modification project
- Commission (New equipment, new unit)
- Operate (Asset information cockpit)
- Maintain (Turn around management, Risk based inspection, Predictive maintenance)