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Cleaner and greener is smarter. One of the earliest example of sustainability was replacement of Le Blanck process for soda ash by the Solvay process in 1860's. Since systematic ammonia process was developed only in 1910's sustainability arose out of conserving ammonia, used in stoichimetric quantities ending as ammonium chloride by regeneration with lime and stripping ammonia to such an extent that the net consumption per tonne of soda ash was of the order of 2 kg. Ethylene oxide via oxidation of ethylene with O<sub>2</sub>, rather than via chlorohydrin where Cl<sub>2</sub> and alkali were wasted was land mark developments. Many examples of the sustainability in chemical industry can be cited but the examples of the replacement of benzene by butane to make maleic anhydride, saving 2 carbon atoms going to CO<sub>2</sub>, and naphthalene by orthoxylene to phthalic anhydride, again saving to 2 carbons going to CO<sub>2</sub>. Manufacture of phenol from benzene via sulfonation – alkali fusion or chlorination high pressure alkaline hydrolysis was replaced by the clean cumene based process, can be cited as a yet another exemplary case.

I am happy that this conference has been organized by the ICT, which has propagated cleaner and safer processes, adopting sustainability, for a very long time and continues to follow the theme aggressively.

I wish the organizers great success.