



Sustainable relationship: Heike and Hermann Butting celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August 2014

## Editorial by Hermann Butting

# Sustainability

What do you think of when you hear the word “sustainability”?

Of your pension payment, legislation in your home country or German cars? Or of bringing up children, education policy, environmentally friendly energy and protecting the environment?

How do you feel your company is dealing with this topic? And how do you behave within your own area of responsibility? Is it all about rapid success and achieving a top result in the short term? How long is your personal success horizon? A quarter, a year, five years or longer?

On this issue, I consider it a positive development that modern management systems support the construction of sustainable structures and actions.

BUTTING's Integrated Management System today includes officers responsible for the integrated management system, quality management, occupational health and safety, energy management, environmental protection, for waste products, incidents, security and dangerous goods as well as for data protection, radiation protection, laser protection, emission protection and fire protection. We also have a compliance officer, responsible operators, a coordinator for suggested improvements, a company doctor,

representatives of the severely disabled, addiction counsellors, addiction assistants and first aiders.

If all these persons assume their responsibility in the best possible sense by being aware of the regulations and using their judgement, and we as responsible managers in the company understand the implementation of these management systems as an opportunity for sustainability, this will take us all a great step forward.

## Thinking in terms of generations

At BUTTING we think in generations. We want to hand over a healthy company to the next generation. I can say without exaggeration that sustainability is firmly established in our corporate philosophy. We have attempted to convey this attitude with our slogan “Progress by Tradition – for our customers and employees for this and the next generation”. In this issue of our “Perspectives” too, we will report on facts that demonstrate this corporate culture.



The participants of the university scholarship programme form a stable network for a sustainable development of the company



Farewell after 37 years at BUTTING: Richard Brandes and his colleagues started operations of BUTTING Canada: Stefanie Schüller (left) and Silke Fuhlbohm

## 25 years of the university scholarship programme

I look on our university scholarship programme, whose 25th anniversary we celebrated last year, as a very visible example of this. Apprentices with the German university entrance qualification, good performance and great social skills are supported with scholarships, re-integrated and assisted within the company, to everyone's advantage. You will certainly have already heard names such as Thomas Schüller and Dirk Meinecke (both members of the Management Board), Andrea Kiel (Head of Marketing and Communications), Joachim Banse (expert on clad and BuBi® pipes) and Henning Lütkemüller (Head of BuBi® and Pipe Production from plate and Surface Technology), in connection with our company. I could continue this list for a long time, and I feel glad about this fact. You can read the report on this anniversary on page 44.

## Long-term relationships

At the end of last year, we had 1 334 active employees in our parent plant at Knesebeck, of whom 315 have been working for BUTTING for more than 25 years. On average, employees spend 14.42 years working for our company, and their average age is 40. These are the prerequisites and the basis for "Progress by Tradition".

One of these longstanding employees is Richard Brandes, who is now retiring after 37 years at BUTTING as a member of the Technical Sales staff, a pioneer in Canada, Global Business Development Manager and Managing Director of BUTTING Brasil. You can read a short look back at his work life on page 41.

## Honest dealings

One very important aspect of sustainable behaviour for us are honest dealings with our customers and other business partners. BUTTING is interested in long-term relationships and takes responsibility for its services and products, including for any unfortunate errors we may make. As a little "Thank you" we celebrated an "Oktoberfest" with some of our customers and business partners, under the motto "The Key to Success". Please find impressions on page 12.

As a businessman, I set particular store on sustainable investment. We do our utmost to use state-of-the-art technology and to invest wherever markets are developing in our view, that is, in line with the needs and requirements of our customers. Two years ago, as part of the expansion of our production facilities for 12 m pipes from plate, we invested in Knesebeck in a new type of calibration system that we developed ourselves. This was three times more expensive than a standard machine. At the end of last year, we gained the largest order in our history, a replacement pipeline for an exploration project in the Caspian Sea, comprising 130 km of clad pipes. The pipe tolerances for ovality of 2 mm, for a pipe ID 679.2 x (15.9 + 3.0) mm in size, could only be achieved thanks to the possibilities offered by the new system.

The BUTTING Advisory Board too is intended to provide security and contribute to good and sustainable decision-making by me as the owner and by the Management Board of the BUTTING Group, thus ensuring the future of our family business. We are pleased to have gained Dr. Albrecht-Früh as a new and competent Advisory Board member with experience of our industry.



Management systems as an opportunity for sustainability – inspectors of DNV/GL and management representatives during a certification audit in February 2015

## Bearing visible fruit

As a Christian, the topic of sustainability also makes me think about how my life will continue after this time on God’s earth. Last year, my father-in-law passed away. Another occasion to think hard about the sustainability of our lives. But it is good and also comforting to know that “Jesus has prepared a place for us”.

Would it not be wonderful if our lives could bear visible fruit and leave positive traces of sustainability? The best thing would be fruit and traces that are relevant also in the eyes of God.

I wish you an enjoyable read, good relationships and sustainable professional and personal activities.

Hermann Butting

