

WATER LEADERS SUMMIT – ROUNDTABLE 2



DR ANDREW BENEDEK

CHAIRMAN AND CEO

BENEDEK GROUP OF COMPANIES

Dr. Andrew Benedek is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Benedek Group of Companies. He received his engineering degree (chemical) from McGill University, Montreal, Canada, in 1966. During a brief period in the petrochemical industry, he came to see the effect of pollution on the environment and decided to specialize in environmental engineering for his post-graduate work.

By 1970, Dr. Benedek obtained a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, U.S.A., with a focus on wastewater treatment. He then accepted a professorship at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada where he taught and conducted research to find ways of improving water quality.

In 1978, Dr. Benedek coordinated the internationally

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recognized Wastewater Research Group, an organization known for its excellence in research in the field of water treatment technologies. Recognizing that overuse and contamination seriously threatened the world's water sources, he founded ZENON Environmental Inc., a company dedicated to solving water quality problems, through the use of advanced membrane technologies.

In 1980, Dr. Benedek founded ZENON Environmental Inc., with a vision of a world where cost effective membrane technology would ensure safe and superior quality water. Under his leadership, ZENON has invented many of the key membrane technologies used for water and wastewater treatment and became the global leader in this field. Dr. Benedek continued to be the chairman and CEO of ZENON until its June 2006 sale to General Electric. At the time of the sale, the company had annual sales of approximately CDN \$250 Million and employed 1,500 people.

After the sale of the Company, Dr. Benedek decided to leave ZENON and is currently a Research Associate of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography of San Diego as well as Chairman and CEO of the Benedek Group of Companies. In addition, Dr. Benedek is involved with some business and advisory boards that in his opinion can help to solve global environmental problems.

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