



Hans Müller

*Dear customers, Dear friends, Dear readers,*

*My almost 40 years of association with the pulp and paper industry and, in particular, the cooperation with people from all over the world brought me a great deal of satisfaction and sustained friendships and can best be summarised by the words of Wilhelm von Humboldt:*

*“In principle it is the relations with people that give life its real value.”*

*I am very grateful that so many influential people supported and fostered me in the build-up of my professional life. I never took that for granted and always endeavoured to return the favour by, among other things, investing my time in the development of young, talented people.*

*My special recognition and my thanks go, of course, also to all of you and, in particular, to our customers and suppliers. The pulp and paper industry will, in my opinion, remain an interesting and undoubtedly high-tech industry that will continue to play an important role in the development of mankind. Communication is and remains an important cornerstone in the bringing-together or globalisation of the different cultures. Whether printing, writing or packaging papers, most papers are, in the broadest sense of the word, first a means of communication. Despite growing electronic communication, there is still a lot to discover in paper and its derivatives.*

*Dr Sollinger, as the new Chairman of the Voith Paper Corporate Management Board, along with Mr Staudenmaier and Mr Nettesheim, has already taken over the destiny of Voith Paper and – I am quite certain – together they will professionally and innovatively master the future. The combination of these three gentlemen is the right one at the right time.*

*Thank you very much again for having given me the opportunity of leaving a small mark on the ongoing development process of this fascinating industry.*

*I hope you will all remain favourably disposed to Voith.*

*Yours*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Hans Müller'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.