

IUPAC CHEMRAWN COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Maison de la Chimie, Paris on Thursday 24 June 2004.

Present: John Malin (Chairman), Sut Ahuja, Erwin Buncel, Jean-Pierre Dal Pont, Pierre Fillet, Raymond Hamelin, Fedor Kuznetsov, Stanley Langer (Secretary), Kew-Ho Lee, Patrick Moyna, Norma Nudelman, Ikenna Onyido, Alan Smith and Ayhan Ulubelen.

1. Introduction and Welcome

Dr Malin welcomed all those present, noting that several were observers or guests at the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Ottawa on 11 August 2003 were confirmed and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising that were not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Approval and Modification of the Agenda

The Committee agreed that the agenda as shown was appropriate.

4. CHEMRAWN Programmes and Plans

4.1 CHEMRAWN XVII. Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Strategies

Professor Buncel tabled an updated proposal for this conference to be held in Canada in June 2006. Considerable discussion ensued on how this meeting would differ from the many others dealing with greenhouse science and how best to advance the aims of the conference. The main themes proposed were noted and it was agreed that there needed to be more time for Panel Discussions. It was considered essential to ensure that the media received the correct message, both scientifically and politically, and BioCap, which had already contributed \$10000, would help considerably in this respect.

There should be a Future Actions Committee (FAC) that would meet prior to the meeting in order to suggest ideas for subsequent ratification. It would also be necessary to plan for a surplus to ensure the continuation of the FAC after the meeting. For this and other CHEMRAWN conferences, it was agreed that a manual be produced in advance that would include financial considerations, time lines, expected results, etc and that this would be reviewed to see if the conference in question was viable.

There was a need to involve scientists working at a political level (Oliver), with the UN (Pokrovsky) and its agencies such as UNESCO (Alam), as well as others such as Hjeressen and Sievers who would be very useful members of the FAC. It would also be beneficial to involve the Chinese and Japanese. Suggestions for members of the Organising Committee, the FAC or speakers should be directed to Professor Buncel.

It was agreed to assign this meeting as CHEMRAWN XVII but this may require formal IUPAC approval.

4.2 CHEMRAWN XV. Chemistry and Water

Dr Hamelin recorded his thanks to all those playing an active role in the organisation of the conference just held in Paris, and also to Pierre Potier and the Maison de la Chimie. He acknowledged that there had been many problems, particularly in obtaining sufficient finance and in involving representation from more countries. He also expressed disappointment with the relatively low number of registrations. It had been difficult to mix those from the water industry with those from chemical industry but the quality of the speakers and the workshops had been excellent.

The FAC would now need to consider how best to carry forward the ideas and proposals emanating from the conference. The Maison itself had offered its premises as the administrative centre for a new Chemistry and Water association and it was hoped to involve CEFIC and the EC. The subject area for the conference had been too broad and it was agreed that there was a need for regional meetings, especially in Africa and Eastern Europe, and also some thematic meetings on topics such as Arsenic in Chile or Bangladesh (see item 4.7 below) and desalination in the Middle East.

There was a need to publicise the outcomes from the conference and Alan Smith agreed to provide information for publication in CEN, RSC News, agencies such as WHO, for NAOs and to *Chemistry International*. It was hoped to produce a CD-ROM and to provide an input to the forthcoming World Water Conference in Cannes. A book of Proceedings would also be appropriate and it might be possible to obtain funds from the Académie des Sciences for this purpose. The establishment of a website to highlight the problems associated with the production of clean water was considered a priority and Dr Ahuja volunteered to Participate in this process.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, Dr Malin expressed his thanks to Dr Hamelin for his enthusiasm and support for what had clearly been a difficult conference to organise.

4.3 CHEMRAWN XIV. Towards Environmentally Benign Products and Processes

Dr Malin reported that this conference held in Boulder, Colorado in June 2001 had achieved a surplus of about \$160000 that needed to be used expeditiously within the next five years. \$10000 had been used to support CHEMRAWN XV and it was likely that a similar sum would be used as a contribution to support CHEMRAWN XVII. Workshops in India and Thailand has also been supported.

4.4. CHEMRAWN XII. Chemistry and Sustainable Agriculture

Dr Onyido reported that it was hoped to hold this conference in 2006, possibly in Botswana or South Africa. It was also anticipated that there would be a half-day workshop during the ICCA conference in Arusha, Tanzania in August for which funds were available. However, the local organisers were had not yet responded to requests and Mr Langer said that he would intercede and approach his ICCA contacts.

4.5 CHEMRAWN XIII. Chemistry for Cleaner Energy

Professor Kuznetsov reported that this conference could not be held in India and would now take place in Guangzhou, China in 2005/6. The topic was of great interest to the Chinese and so the venue was most opportune. Mr Langer suggested that it would be useful to hold a half-day workshop during the IUPAC Congress in Beijing in August 2005 and Professor Kuznetsov would discuss this with Professor Bai.

4.6 CHEMRAWN XVI. Innovation and the Chemical Industry

Dr Malin reported on this one day meeting held in Ottawa during the last IUPAC Congress in August 2003. Some of the submissions for the Proceedings needed editing but a volume would be published in the near future, possibly on the web.

4.7 Arsenic in Bangladesh

Dr Ahuja reported on his visit with Dr Malin to Bangladesh to explore the possibility of a regional workshop on Arsenic in water, perhaps associated with the Bangladesh Chemical Society. This followed Mr Langer's discussions on this topic in Dhaka prior to the Paris Conference on Chemistry and Water. As a CHEMRAWN XV-related activity, it was a most relevant future action and should attract support from WHO and UNESCO.

4.8 Research and Education in the Middle East

Dr Malin reported that this conference held in Malta in December 2003 had received some funding from CHEMRAWN and had been an outstanding success, bringing together about sixty scientists from most countries in the region, together with six Nobel Laureates. Many positive outcomes had been achieved and it was anticipated that Malta-2 would be held in late 2005.

5. Assessment of CHEMRAWN Conferences

Professor Henry (IUPAC Vice President) had asked for an assessment of previous CHEMRAWN conferences and the results from past FACs could form the basis for such a report. Dr Moyna stated that he was trying to revive the proposals emanating from the CHEMRAWN XI FAC. Dr. Malin promised to respond to Dr. Henry's request.

6. IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry (COCI)

Dr Smith noted that David Evans had now taken over as COCI Chairman and it was hoped that the Committee would become even more active. COCI was involved in three main activities at present - the DIDAC scheme for the production of transparencies dealing with various chemistry themes for use in schools (now taken on board by the Committee on Chemistry Education), the safety training workshops for those in developing countries, and attempts to involve more industrial involvement in the work of the Committee.

7. Other Proposed Conferences

Professor Kuznetsov suggested that a conference on new technologies, modelling and combinatorial chemistry might be a suitable topic, and Dr Nudelman proposed Chemistry for Society, encompassing the media and communications in general. There was an IUPAC Project concerned with this topic and perhaps a conference could be associated with the Project - Dr Nudelman agreed to investigate the idea further.

It was also noted that CHEMRAWN was not restricted to conference organisation and that there were other areas in which it could be involved. This would be reconsidered at a future meeting.

8. Strategic Planning

There was a need for the Committee to promote its activities more effectively by improving liaison with IUAC Divisions, Standing Committees and NAOs, and with organisations such as the UN and its agencies such as UNESCO, etc. It was suggested that an e-newsletter be produced and Dr Malin and Professor Kuznetsov agreed to draft a first issue.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held during the IUPAC General Assembly in August 2005. Items for discussion would include plans for future conferences as well as strategies planning referred to in item 8. It was also agreed to invite some Chinese officials to the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

It was agreed that efforts be made not to lose touch with past members of the Committee and they should be kept on an e-mail circulation list. Information about such people should be published on the Committee's website.

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