

IUPAC CHEMRAWN COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Puerto Rico Conference Centre, San Juan, Puerto Rico from Sunday - Monday, 27-28 July 2008.

Present: Leiv K Sydnes (Chairman), Richard Durst, Stanley Langer (Secretary), Toshio Sasaki, Carlos Tollinche and Ayhan Ulubelen.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all those present and took the opportunity of recording his thanks on behalf of the Committee to the local organisers for arranging the facilities.

2. Review of Agenda

With the addition of item 7.3 concerning the numbering of ChemRAWN conferences, the Committee agreed that the agenda as circulated should form the basis for discussion.

3. Housekeeping Issues

3.1 Attendees must send an e-mail or letter to the Chairman with details of expenses before they can be reimbursed.

3.2 It was agreed that a Committee dinner should be held on Monday evening.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

In paragraph 1 of minute 7, Piet Steyn's name should be replaced with that of Vladyslav Goncharuk. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held in Turin, Italy on 6 August 2007 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

Arising from minute 6.1, Professor Sydnes explained how ChemRAWN surpluses could be used, including the establishment of Future Action Committees to identify and implement ideas. The surplus from ChemRAWNs VII and XIV would, in part, be used to establish a biennial prize of \$5,000 for a young person from the developing world. The adjudication panel would include the Chairman of ChemRAWN and the President of the Organic Division but the prize had not yet been advertised.

6. Recent Chemrawn Conferences

6.1 ChemRAWN XII: The Role of Chemistry in Sustainable Agriculture and Human Wellbeing in Africa (Langer, Steyn)

The Secretary spoke about this conference held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 2-5 December 2007 and referred to the circulated report. It was noted that the conference had been scheduled back-to-back with two other related workshops dealing with food safety in Africa and biofuels. The conference had attracted about 230 participants and the scientific programme consisted of almost 50 lectures and over 100 posters. It had been difficult to organise but was ultimately a success, with much interaction between contributors and delegates.

A final surplus of almost £20,000 was anticipated and it had been suggested that this be used to fund a workshop on the role of chemistry in sustainable agriculture and food security, and on a postgraduate scholarship on that topic for an African student. However, the Committee felt that some of the surplus might better be used, for example, on a series of regional ChemRAWNs that would disseminate the conference outcomes to the benefit of other African countries, perhaps with the help of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa.

7. **Future Chemrawn Conferences**

7.1 **ChemRAWN XVIII: Science, Ethics and Development** (Langer, Sydnes)

It had been proposed that a one-day ChemRAWN conference on this topic should be held during the 2009 Congress in Glasgow. The Committee agreed that the idea should be investigated and the Chairman and Secretary were given authority to develop an appropriate programme.

7.2 **Other Proposals**

In response to the Chairman's appeal for ideas in advance of the meeting, only Kew-Ho Lee had responded (see 7.2.6 below). However, many other suggestions were forthcoming at the meeting as follows.

7.2.1 **Reducing Carbon Footprints**

This would include the transformation of CO₂ to other chemicals and its stability under storage. Richard Durst would discuss with Gary van Loon with a view to producing a document before next April for subsequent discussion at the next meeting in Glasgow.

7.2.2 **Biofuels**

This might involve chemical challenges in biofuel production, waste as a feedstock, changes in land use, hunger, poverty and ethical issues. The Chairman would explore this further with the aim of producing a paper before April for discussion in Glasgow.

7.2.3 **Chemistry in Latin America**

Carlos Tollinche explained that he was involved in the formulation of a proposal to establish an IUPAC Project on this topic that would lead to a book being published in English and Spanish. The Committee agreed that the proposal would receive its full support during the review process and that the Chairman would follow up the idea of a conference when appropriate.

7.2.4 Vegetable Production and Hydroponics

Ayhan Ulubelen agreed to investigate this topic and report by December for consideration in Glasgow.

7.2.5 Solar Energy

This topic should include silicon- and organic-based technology, the role of solar energy in the future, waste problems and the involvement of the developing world. This could be a part of 7.2.6 below and the Chairman would discuss with Alf Bjørseth and produce a paper by April for discussion in Glasgow.

7.2.6 Chemistry and Materials for Clean Energy

Kew-Ho Lee had proposed this topic for consideration as a conference with a view to holding it in November 2010 or May 2011. The Chairman would discuss with Vladyslav Goncharuk in connection with the latter's interest in nuclear energy for peaceful use. Kew-Ho Lee would explore the idea further and liaise with the Chairman with the aim of producing a proposal by January for discussion in Glasgow.

7.2.7 Herbal Medicines

70% of the world depends on herbal medicines rather than pharmaceutical products and this theme is actively discussed in many countries, especially within Africa, Latin America and Asia. It was thought that a group of dedicated researchers would be eager to be involved in such a conference, with a key person being Mohammed Mosihuzzaman in Bangladesh. The Chairman would take this subject on board with a view to establishing a group of stakeholders. An initial report should be available by November for subsequent discussion in Glasgow.

7.2.8 Water

There was a project currently under review within IUPAC dealing with water in the Middle East (see minute 8.1 below). The Chairman and Secretary would follow this process closely and interact as required with the aim of using the outcome as a platform for a water conference in that region.

7.2.9 Chemistry and Sustainable Development

The suggestion for a conference on this topic had arisen during recent meetings between the Secretary and others from an IUPAC project team with SAICM, UNEP and WHO in Geneva (report circulated). The Committee felt that the proposal was excellent but not one that ChemRAWN could carry through alone. The Secretary would follow up by contacting other members of the project team.

7.2.10 Nanomaterials and Health

This topic was under active discussion in several areas of the world. It was agreed that Richard Durst would approach Gerald Moy (WHO), the Chairman would speak with Dag Høvik (Research Council of Norway) and Toshio Sasaki would look into the situation in East Asia. The Chairman would coordinate this activity and report in Glasgow.

7.3 Numbering of Chemrawn Conferences

It looked as though one designated conference would not take place and others had occurred long after originally instigated. This resulted in an irrational numbering system and it was agreed that no number would be allocated until a conference would definitely take place.

8. Chemrawn Involvement in Other Conferences

8.1 Drinking Water Quality in the Middle East

This suggestion arose out of one of the workshops held during the Malta III conference on Frontiers of Chemical Science: Research and Education in the Middle East. This series of conferences received IUPAC sponsorship and the topic was considered particularly appropriate for ChemRAWN involvement. The Committee expressed its very positive support and hoped that it could be actively involved.

8.2 Phytoremediation of Metals and Metalloids

This was considered a most interesting topic and it was agreed that the Secretary would put Hemda Garelick in touch with Ayhan Ulubelen to investigate the possibility of a future ChemRAWN conference.

8.3 World Congress on Food Science and Technology

The Chairman reported that he would be attending this IUoFST Congress in October in Shanghai on behalf of IUPAC. However, it was felt that the topic was only of peripheral interest to the Committee.

9. Membership of Committee

It was noted that the Committee comprised a Chairman, a Secretary, six TMs and up to six Ams. Several of the current members never attended meetings or contributed to the work of the Committee and it was agreed that removing them should be investigated. As a point of principle, new members should join the Committee as AMs and proceed to TM status in due course. Members were appointed by the IUPAC President on advice from the Committee Chairman. It was important to have adequate representation from developing countries, including Latin America. There had been four nominations from Bangladesh, Cuba, India and Malaysia to serve for the 2010/11 biennium and the Chairman would progress the matter. It was also agreed to investigate bringing on others as National Representatives.

10. Update of Chemrawn Committee Strategic Plan

The Terms of Reference for the Committee were noted, as was the SWOT analysis conducted recently. There was no desire by the Committee to redefine the Strategic Plan as no constraints were evident. In particular, it was noted that the activities of the Committee were not restricted to the organisation of conferences.

11. Thanks to Retiring Members

The Chairman recorded his thanks to all those present for their help and assistance throughout the past year.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date and Venue for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held during the next General Assembly in Glasgow from 31 July - 6 August 2009.

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