

## Report to Bureau: CHEMRAWN Committee

### I. Summary

A meeting of the CHEMRAWN committee took place on June 24, 2004 in Paris at the Maison de la Chimie. Members and associates of the committee reported on the following activities:

- **CHEMRAWN XII: “African Food Security and Natural Resource Management; the New Scientific Frontiers”**, A workshop on Soil Fertility and African Food Supplies was held at the August 2004 International Congress on Chemistry in Africa, in Arusha, Tanzania (I. Onyido).
- **CHEMRAWN XIII: Chemistry for Clean Energy**. The committee heard a proposal to reschedule the conference to a new venue, in China (F. Kuznetsov)
- **CHEMRAWN XIV: “Toward Environmentally Benign Products and Processes.”** The Future Actions Committee meets regularly and is sponsoring a variety of projects (J. Malin).
- **CHEMRAWN XV: “Chemistry for Water.”** The conference was held successfully in June 21-23, 2004 in Paris at the Maison de la Chimie. An article was published in *Chemical and Engineering News*, (July 19, 2004, p. 25 – 30) with a forthcoming article in *Chemistry International* (R. Hamelin, A. Smith).
- **CHEMRAWN XVI: “Innovation and the Chemical Industry”**, was held in Ottawa during the IUPAC Congress and General Assembly. The Proceedings of the conference are being readied for publication (J. Kopytowski).
- **CHEMRAWN XVII: “Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Strategies”**. The conference is proposed to be held in Canada in 2006 (E. Buncel)
- **“Solving the Problem of Arsenic Contamination in the Water in Bangladesh”**, CHEMRAWN representatives reported on their visit to Bangladesh to plan for a workshop addressing the problem (S. Ahuja, J. Malin)
- **Frontiers of Chemical Science: Research and Education in the Middle East**, The CHEMRAWN committee was represented among the organizers of this conference held in Malta in December 2003, and assisted in obtaining UNESCO funding for the conference. (J. Malin)

### II. Support for the Six IUPAC Goals

The work of the CHEMRAWN Committee and its methodology directly support all six goals:

### **Address global issues:**

Each CHEMRAWN conference focuses on a major issue. Examples include food security; mitigation of greenhouse gases; sources of cleaner energy; chemistry as a tool for sustainable development, pollution prevention through the redesign of chemical processes; and adequacy of supply of pure water and sanitation.

### **Advance Research through scientific discussion**

The findings and recommendations that come from each conference usually include instances where advances in research are warranted or have made significant contributions. CHEMRAWN XIV highlighted the advances being made in Green Chemistry and where research in the emerging field could have a major impact. CHEMRAWN XV described numerous research advances relevant purification of water.

### **Assist Industry toward sustainable development, wealth creation, and improvement of the quality of life.**

CHEMRAWN Conferences on advanced materials for sustainable development, greener manufacturing processes, innovation in industry, and chemistry and water have all focused on the needs in industry and have been attended or anticipated to be attended and supported by major chemical firms.

### **Foster communication among chemists and organizations with special emphasis on needs in developing countries.**

Virtually all CHEMRAWN conferences have emphasized issues of major import to the developing world, most recently organizing a workshop on soil fertility and food supplies in Africa.

### **Enhance education and the appreciation of chemistry globally.**

One of the most challenging conferences to develop and hold was focused on educational issues (CHEMRAWN X); especially the education of industrial chemists who will work for “trans-national” companies. We seek to include an education component in all future conferences.

### **Increase the diversity in IUPAC bodies.**

The CHEMRAWN Committee works continually to include underrepresented minorities in its membership and also to organize its conferences with diverse partners worldwide.

Members of the Council and Bureau can help support the work of the CHEMRAWN Committee by:

- Recommending individuals to serve on the Committee or act as “friends” in organizing conferences or carrying out a CHEMRAWN study or workshop.

- Calling upon the Committee to provide a “Future Actions Committee” for one of your conferences where major issues are discussed and a set of findings and recommendations should be developed and disseminated and
- Urging the Committee to address a particular issue with a conference or workshop where there is broad interest throughout the chemical community.

As has been the case in previous reports, the Committee continues to deal with the issues of 1) obtaining funding of major conferences or finding less costly ways to carry out our mission and 2) increasing the impact of conferences, workshops and studies through practical and actionable recommendations by the Future Actions Committee, many of which can be implemented by the Committee or individuals and organizations which it can directly influence.

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