

REPORT TO CCE ON GLOBAL MICROSCALE PROJECT 2006-2007

Dissemination of the concept of microscale science activities continues, although the emphases are slowly shifting with maturation.

Two introductory workshops were conducted since the last report in cooperation with UNESCO and ISESCO: in Paramaribo (Surinam) on 27-28 September, 2006, and in Ramallah (Palestine) on 27-28 February, 2007. The microscale concept was welcomed, especially in Surinam; in Ramallah their minds seemed perhaps to be more on other things! As is the traditional pattern, Dr Alex Pokrovsky presented DIDAC on the same occasion. UNESCO advises that workshops also took place in Lebanon and Syria during this year, but I cannot provide any details. There may be workshops in Brunei, Bahrain and Algeria later this year.

Translation of example worksheets, which were originally prepared by the RADMASTE Centre (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg), continues. Under Dr Pokrovsky's guidance Russian translation of all available materials has been completed. Portuguese translations of several parts, now extending to electricity and biology, are in progress and will be completed shortly under UNESCO contracts. Translations of a large fraction of the available material into Arabic have now been completed also, by Prof Hassan Albar (Saudi Arabia), and will be included in the UNESCO resource.

In cooperation with UNESCO, an Encyclopedia of Microscience is being prepared. This is the brainchild of Dr Pokrovsky, and it will initially be published in Russian with a view to promoting the microscale science idea to donors and to relevant governments. An English language edition will also be published thereafter. I have written a preface and Dr Julia Hasler (UNESCO) has written an introduction.

An article has been prepared for the UNESCO Newsletter, A World of Science.

A substantial book (441 pp), which demonstrates the world-wide penetration of the microscale chemistry concept, has been published (2006) by The Academic Arab College for Education in Israel under the editorial leadership of Drs Hugerat, Schwarz and Livneh (NR, Israel).

Direct evidence of broadening and deepening penetration could be observed at 19ICCE, where it was gratifying to see several poster papers from local school teachers, reporting on their research into optimizing experimental methods, etc. It would be wonderful if something similar could be achieved at 20ICCE.

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