

# Report to Council and Bureau: CHEMRAWN Committee

## ***I. Summary***

Recent efforts by the CHEMRAWN Committee, conferences and workshops planned for the next few years, significant follow-up activities, and the development of a strategic plan have been reviewed in the March-April 2003 issue of *Chemistry International*. This review is attached.

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 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.

## ***II. Support for the Six IUPAC Goals***

The work of the CHEMRAWN Committee and the way it works directly support all six goals:

### **Address global issues:**

Each 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.

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

Conferences on advanced materials for sustainable development, greener manufacturing processes, 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.**

Most conferences have dealt with issues of major import to the developing world. We have been successful in having Committee members from developing countries, and continue to plan a much delayed conference in sub-Saharan Africa.

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

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

**Increase the diversity in IUPAC bodies.**

The membership for the CHEMRAWN Committee in 2004 should accomplish this objective.

***III. Closing Comments***

It has certainly been both an honor and a pleasure to serve on the CHEMRAWN Committee for the past ten years and chair the Committee for half that time. The Committee remains strong and enthusiastic, with a number of interesting and significant conferences and workshops on its agenda. As I step down from the Chair, I hope to remain a “friend” to the Committee.

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### New Directions for CHEMRAWN

It all started in 1976 as *the dream that came true*,\* when the CHEMRAWN—CHEMical Research Applied to World Needs—Committee was established following suggestions and plans for how IUPAC might help solve world problems through chemistry. A quarter century later, CHEMRAWN, and the series of conferences that bears the same acronym, is one of the most renowned activities of IUPAC.

The committee develops periodic conferences around the world to explore issues relevant to meeting human needs where chemical research and the products of chemical research can help to meet those needs. In doing so, the committee involves other organizations, public- and private-sector scientists, politicians, regulators, environmentalists, and other opinion leaders in developing and carrying out conferences. For each conference, a Future Actions Committee develops perspectives and actionable recommendations. The committee then tries to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

The most recent CHEMRAWN Committee meeting was held in Paris in September 2002. *CI* asked its chair to review the committee plans and current activities.

\* History of IUPAC 1919-1987, by R. Fennell (IUPAC, 1994), p. 263.

[by Parry Norling](#)

The CHEMRAWN series of conferences has been an essential way for IUPAC to address issues that transcend pure science and have important socio-political aspects. Over the past quarter century, 12 CHEMRAWN conferences have been held that brought together experts in science and technology, including industrial leaders, government policymakers, academic scientists, and members of the general public. Together they have explored, discussed, and debated how chemistry, chemical research, and chemical resources can help meet a major human need or solve a major problem.



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Each conference has a Future Actions Committee that develops a set of perspectives and recommendations that can be widely distributed and in some cases catalyze follow-up actions. Following CHEMRAWN XIV, a training session in green chemistry was held in Thailand and several new green chemistry networks were established around the world. Following CHEMRAWN VII, a cooperative atmospheric monitoring effort—involving government, academia, and industry—was launched in the Peruvian Amazon Basin to gain a better understanding of carbon dioxide fluxes to and from the forest canopy.

At its September 2002 meeting in Paris, the CHEMRAWN committee discussed plans for five additional conferences:

- XII—Senegal or South Africa (2005) Chemistry, Sustainable Agriculture, and Human Well Being in Sub-Saharan Africa ([See page 8](#))
- XIII—Pune, India (2003-2004) Cleaner Energy
- XV—Paris, France (June 2004) Chemistry and Water
- [XVI—Ottawa, Ontario, Canada \(August 2003\) Forum: Innovation—from Pure to Applied Chemistry](#)
- XVII—Kingston, Ontario, Canada (2004-2005) Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Several of these will be smaller, less expensive workshops, possibly "virtual conferences" or "thinktank" studies, given the difficulty in funding large conferences, such as some past events that cost as much as USD 400 000.

## 12 CHEMRAWN Conferences Since 1978

I—Toronto, Canada (1978) Future Sources of Organic Raw Materials

II—Manila, Philippines (1982) Chemistry and World Food Supplies: The New Frontiers

III—The Hague, the Netherlands (1984) Resources Material Conversion

IV—Keystone, Colorado, USA (1985) Modern Chemistry and Chemical Technology Applied to the Ocean and its Resources

V—Heidelberg, Germany (1986) Current and Future Contributions of Chemistry to Health

VI—Tokyo, Japan (1987) Advanced Materials for Innovations in Energy, Transportation, and Communications

VII—Baltimore, Maryland, USA (1991) The Chemistry of the Atmosphere: Its Impact of Global Change

VIII—Moscow, Russia (1992) Chemistry and Sustainable Development

IX—Seoul, Korea (1996) Advanced Materials and Sustainable Development

X—Budapest, Hungary; Washington, DC, USA; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Brisbane, Australia (1999-2000) The Globalization of Chemical Education - Preparing Chemical Scientists and Engineers for Transnational Industries

XI—Montevideo, Uruguay (1998) Latin American Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry

XIV—Boulder, Colorado, USA (2004) Toward Environmentally