

The History and the Aim of Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences

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Establishment of Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences

Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences (EuAs C₂S) was founded in 1988 with collaboration of three founders, Prof. B. M. Rode (Innsbruck Univ., Austria) Prof. Ivano Bertini (Univ. Florence, Italy) and Prof. Hitoshi Ohtaki (IMS, later, Ritsumeikan Univ., Japan), who are permanent members of International Organizing Committee (IOC).

The Aim of EuAs C₂S

The aim of the international conference is to support the development of chemistry in developing countries in the Eurasia Continent with cooperation of chemists in countries of the Eurasia Continent, with supports of those in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries in the world. In order to organize world-top class international conferences in developing countries, who are usually economically disadvantaged compared with most developed countries in Europe, America and some part of Asia, IOC intends to invite eminent scientists to the conferences held in developing countries through their friendship networks over the world. Chemists, especially young chemists in developing countries in the Eurasia Continent, particularly Asian countries, have relatively less opportunities to discuss with world-leading chemists at various international conferences which are usually held in developed countries far distant from developing countries. Opportunities for exchanging scientific knowledge between young chemists in developing countries and scientists in the world should be brought by the effort of IOC members. The Organizing Committee at the conference country is called National Organizing Committee (NOC), which is closely cooperated with IOC at organization.

International and National Organizing Committees

Members of IOC basically shuffled at every conference except the three founders. In 2003 the 8th EuAs C₂S will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam from October 21 to 24, and IOC consists of the following five members: I. Bertini (Italy) (IOC Chairman), H. Ohtaki (Japan) (General Organizer), B. M. Rode (Austria), Atta -ur-Rahman (Pakistan) (President of the 7th conference in Karachi), and Y. K. Do (Korea) (Secretary). EuAs C₂S has several fellows, who are past IOC members. They are G. Balavoine (France), M.-S. Jhon (Korea), J. Reedjik (The Netherlands), A. G. Sykes (UK), and J. Webb (Australia). Besides the organizing committee members, eminent and active chemists from various countries are appointed to be members of International Advisory Board (IAB). They are E. V. Babaev (Russia), J. Barthel (Germany), F. Dayrit (Philippines), L.-I. Elding (Sweden), H. B. Gray (USA), N. Hadjiliadis (Greece), L-N. Ji (China), S. H. Kang (Korea), T. Kiss (Hungary), H. K. Lee (Singapore), J.-M. Lehn (France), Y. Marcus (Israel), M. Mosihuzzaman (Bangladesh), M. Perizzini (Italy), I. H. A. Rahman (Brunei Darussalam), S. Sabri (Jordan), Y. Sasaki (Japan), B. Satiadji (Indonesia), B. Sener (Turkey), B. S. Siddiqui (Pakistan), H. Sigel (Switzerland), R. Tauler (Spain), Y. Thebtaranonth (Thailand), H. S. Thoang (Vietnam), W. Voelter (Germany), K. Wang (China), and H. Yokoyama (Japan) in 2003. They are requested to participate in conferences to play some roles, which may be delivering lectures, organizing minisymposia, and inviting their friends and acquaintances to the conference to present their papers. If they do not participate in successive two conferences without reasons, they will be asked to retire from IAB.

The Naming of the Conference

The name of the conference is closely related to its history. The conference was first intended to cover the field of solution chemistry, because scientific fields of the three founders are originally solution chemistry. Now, Prof. Bertini is a well-known bioinorganic chemist, Prof. Rode is an excellent computer and theoretical chemist in solution, and Ohtaki is an experimental coordination and solution chemist. Therefore, the conference was entitled Eurasia Conference on Chemistry of Solution when it started in 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand. The logo, EuAs C₂S, was prepared by a Thai chemist, Dr. Sunt Tekachunput, a professor of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand. At the second conference in 1990 held in Seoul, Korea, the areas covered by the

conference became wider than that in the first one, and then, the name was changed to Eurasia Conference on Chemistry in Seoul in order to keep the logo at the change of the name. In 1992 the conference was held again in Bangkok including much wider fields, and the conference became to be an international conference of chemistry in general. Thus the name was again changed, with keeping the logo, to be Eurasia Conference on Chemical Sciences.

Venues of EuAs C₂S

During these 16 years since establishment in 1988, EuAs C₂S has been held in various countries in Asia. In fact, EuAs C₂S received an invitation from a European country, but IOC thought that young chemists in Europe may have better chances to meet eminent scientists in their own countries and more chances to participate in international conferences in Europe with less difficulties compared with those in Asia.

The role of the IOC chairman is very important, because he/she should invite good chemists to far distant developing countries and sometimes he/she should financially support the conference in some ways. The list of the venue and IOC chairmen, together with NOC chairpersons and plenary speakers are given in Table 1 in order to show how EuAs C₂S has been going on in these years.

The conferences had usually 300–400 participants except for the 6th conference in Brunei, which had about 120 people attended.

Problems in Chemistry of Developing Countries

There are many difficulties in the development of chemistry in developing countries.

- 1) As mentioned earlier, scientists, especially young ones, are economically difficult to attend international conferences, which are usually held in developed countries at distant places (and thus, expensive travel cost) with high registration fees.
- 2) Therefore, they have scarce opportunities to contact with eminent scientists in the world. Introduction of most recent scientific knowledge to them may be made through internet, but face-to-face contacts are especially important (influential and impressive) to young chemists.
- 3) Scientists in developing countries have less experience in organizing high-standard international conferences.

Table 1
Venue, Year, Chairpersons of IOC and NOC and Plenary Lecturers of
EuAs C₂S Since 1988

Venue/ <i>Year</i>	IOC Chairman	NOC Chairperson	Plenary Lecturer
Thailand, Bangkok <i>1988</i>	B. M. Rode	S. Dhabanandana	J.-M. Lehn (France) E. Clementi (Italy) B. Valley (USA) M. Tanaka (Japan)
Korea, Seoul <i>1990</i>	H. Ohtaki	M. S. Jhon	K. Fukui (Japan) P.-O. Loe wdin (Sweden) J. Ravinowitz (Switzerland) R. Weiss (France) A. Yamamoto (Japan)
Thailand, Bangkok <i>1992</i>	I. Bertini	S. Dhabanandana	R. Noyori (Japan) S. Lippard (USA) HG. Gray (USA)
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur <i>1994</i>	H. Ohtaki	M. Singh	A. Nakamura (Japan) A. M. Sargeson (Australia) Y. T. Lee (Taiwan, China) H. O. Hill (UK)
China, Guangzhou <i>1996</i>	J. Reedjik	K. Wang L.-N. Ji	J.-M. Lehn (France) K. Wiegard (Germany) H. Sakurai (Japan) R. Xu (China)
Brunei Dalussalam, Brunei Dalussalam <i>2000</i>	J. Webb	I. H. A. Rahman	P. Towse (UK) C. Y. May (Malaysia) Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan) P. Brimblecobbe (UK)
Pakistan, Karachi <i>2002</i>	H. Ohtaki	Atta-ur-Rahman	H. Ohtaki (Japan) Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan) T. H. Chan (Hong Kong, China) I. Bertini (Italy)
Vietnam, Hanoi <i>2003</i>	I. Bertini	H. S. Thoang	R. Noyori (Japan) J.-M. Lehn (France)p Y. T. Lee (China, Taiwan) Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan) Y. Thebtaranonth (Thailand) M. Fujita (Japan) And some others
Indonesia, Jogyakarta <i>2005</i>	B. M. Rode	H. Sastrohamidjojo	To be announced

- 4) Economical situations are usually not easy for having a large international conference in developing countries. Financial supports from their Government are usually not sufficient.

The Role of IUPAC to Support Chemistry in the World

The above mentioned situations prevent the development of science in developing countries. IUPAC, the largest international organization in chemistry, should pay more attention to support the development of chemistry in developing countries, as well as in developed countries. IUPAC includes 44 countries in the world as NAO and 22 countries as ANAO in 2003. There are many countries in the world having chemical societies in their countries who are not members of IUPAC. It is sometimes said that IUPAC covers about 85 % chemists in the world, but we should know that about 73 % people in the world are living in developing countries, some of whom will perhaps play an essential role in chemistry in the future.

IUPAC is supporting chemistry in developing countries in various ways at present.

- 1) IUPAC supports international conferences organized in developing and economically disadvantaged NAO countries. (ANAO's are not eligible to be supported by this program). Applications are accepted every year by the end of January. Maximum 10,000 USD are provided to each conference. The total 20,000 USD are being prepared at IUPAC.
- 2) IUPAC can send eminent scientists to international conferences in developing countries as IUPAC Lecturers.
- 3) IUPAC is now considering how ANAO can step up to NAO by solving problems of national subscriptions of developing countries.
- 4) Since supports by the government of developing countries (not only for developing countries but also developed countries) are indispensable for paying national subscriptions, IUPAC members can visit these ANAO's and non-member countries to negotiate with Government and organizations of their countries by explaining the importance of their joining IUPAC. Malaysia and Bangladesh are the cases.

There are many countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who are ANAO's or non-members. IUPAC should extend member countries in the world.