

Date: July 11, 2008
To: CCE
From: Peter Mahaffy
Re: Update on International Year of Chemistry, 2011 and CCE Role

Here's a brief update on the positive developments with respect to IYC 2011 designation and on next steps being taken with respect to designation and implementation.

I also recommend several action items for CCE.

Designation:

Following IUPAC Council support in Torino, we were delighted to learn that the second key step toward designation of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry was approved by UNESCO's Executive Board at its meetings in Paris in April. The Executive Board decision is attached, along with the proposal our IUPAC task group prepared for submission to the Board.

I should note that Ethiopia, who put this proposal forward on our behalf, worked incredibly hard with other delegations to bring this about. And UNESCO Basic Sciences Division staff in Paris were also very helpful. The proposal came to the floor of the Executive Board with the formal endorsement of: Algeria, Benin, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Republic Tanzania and Zambia.

Next steps are to bring this to UNESCO's General Conference, which meets in the Fall of 2009 and to the United Nations General Assembly. We are currently sorting out the best way to do this and the timing – it appears likely that we may be able to work concurrently on these two remaining steps.

Obtaining designation by the UN General Assembly **can not** be taken for granted with UNESCO Executive Board approval. A different political process, involving new players and partners are involved and broad global support for this designation will be needed.

Recommendation for Action: *CCE members might consider how they can work with their NAO, UN and UNESCO delegations, and any others to obtain support for the next crucial steps of designation at the UNESCO General Conference and the United Nations.*

Implementation

IUPAC has appointed a small management committee to begin the process of implementing the IYC. Committee members are:

- Prof. David St C. Black, Australia, IUPAC Secretary General
- Prof. Bryan R. Henry, Canada, IUPAC Past President
- Prof. Gabriel A. Infante, Puerto Rico, Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones Químicas (FLAQ)
- Prof. Jung-II Jin, Korea, IUPAC President
- Prof. Wolfram Koch, Germany, European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuChMS)
- Prof. Peter G. Mahaffy, Canada, Chair of Committee on Chemistry Education
- Dr. John M. Malin, USA, Committee Chair
- Dr. Ahmed M. Mohammed, Ethiopia, Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC)
- Prof. Ting-Kueh Soon, Malaysia, Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS)
- Prof. Natalia P. Tarasova, Russia, Elected Member of IUPAC Bureau
- Additional industrial representation forthcoming

The members of the committee who were present at the IUPAC Bureau meeting in Istanbul in March held their first committee meeting, at which the following decisions were made:

- All countries will be encouraged to participate in IYOC-2011. The Union and UNESCO will work with national and international federations and societies to publicize IYOC within the context of annual national and regional celebrations of chemistry that are already scheduled to take place.
- In addition, the organizers will begin a fundraising campaign on behalf of IYOC-2011 which, if successful, will provide “seed” funding for projects, especially in developing countries, to elucidate the benefits of chemistry to the public. IUPAC will also seek resources to hold “cornerstone” international events such as a possible launch at UNESCO in Paris, and events at the opening and closing ceremonies at the IUPAC Congress and General Assembly scheduled for August 2011 in Puerto Rico. The Union will maintain a website to accept and publicize reports of activities
- A larger IYC implementation committee will be appointed to lead and coordinate activities that would take place at the national level.
- IUPAC will manage the IYOC-2011 webpage.
- IUPAC will publicize plans for activities and reports as they are received. This information will be collected for dissemination in IUPAC journals, in book form or through the internet.

CCE Role

While overall coordination of activities will be managed by the IYC Management Committee, CCE is exceptionally well placed to carry out its own activities in conjunction with current or future projects and conferences, as well as to advise on and coordinate other activities to be implemented by or with partners. This should be done in consultation with the IYC Management Committee. CCE has had preliminary discussions

with the Chemical Heritage Foundation, for example, about facilitating ways for countries to identify and tell their stories of chemical achievement in their own way. We might help to initiate this activity at the IUPAC Congress in Glasgow or the next ICCE conference. We might think about how activities such as YAC and the partners brought in there might work together toward one or more IYC activities. We might also brainstorm and advise others about possible high profile events to be carried out as part of a launch of IYC – what messages do we wish to convey about chemistry, what publics can we best target, and what's the best way to reach those publics.

Recommendation for Action: *Ffor the remainder of this biennium and through 2011, planning and implementing IYC activities and facilitating those planned by others might be the central focus of CCE's Public Understanding of Chemistry activities and working group. We may wish to work together with others involved in education and public understanding of chemistry to initiate discussions about what we are best placed to contribute to by way of resources and activities. In so doing, we will communicate with and closely coordinate any activities with the IYC Management Committee.*

April 2008 decision on Agenda Item 47: Proposal for the proclamation by the United Nations of 2011 as an international year of chemistry. (See attached proposal)

The Executive Board,

1. Recognizing that human understanding of the material nature of the world is grounded in a knowledge of chemistry,
2. Stressing that education in and about chemistry is critical to addressing challenges such as global climate change, to providing sustainable sources of clean water, food and energy, and to maintaining a wholesome environment for the well-being of all people,
3. Considering that the science and application of chemistry produces medicines, fuels, metals, and virtually all other manufactured products,
4. Taking note of the ongoing United Nations initiatives in industrial best practices,
5. Aware that the year 2011 provides an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women to science on the one hundredth anniversary of the award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Maria Skłodowska-Curie,
6. Being further aware that the year 2011 provides an opportunity to highlight the need for international scientific collaboration on the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies,
7. Having examined documents 179 EX/47 and Add. Rev.,
8. Welcomes the unanimous resolution of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), at its 2007 Council meeting, to have 2011 proclaimed as the international year of chemistry, and to play a lead role in coordinating and promoting chemistry activities at the national and regional levels around the world;
9. Invites the Director-General to support all efforts to have the United Nations General Assembly proclaim 2011 the international year of chemistry;
10. Recommends that the General Conference adopt, at its 35th session, a resolution on this subject.