

The ChemRAWN Committee met for two days in July/August during the IUPAC Congress in San Juan. Twelve members from five continents along with a number of observers including two IUPAC Young Observers attended and took part in a lively meeting under the chairmanship of Leiv Sydnes. We welcomed a new titular member, Nadia Kandile from Egypt (term begins in 2012) and look forward to additional associate members and national representatives in the near future. Nomination for these national representatives have been solicited and since early September we have been receiving a good response from several of our member countries.

The most immediate activity of ChemRAWN is the ChemRAWN XIX Conference on Bioenergy and Biomaterials from Renewable Resources to be held from Sept 27-29, 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. Ting-Kueh Soon is chairing this event which will include approximately 70 papers, mostly oral, on biorefining and biofuels with an emphasis on biodiesel. Global scenarios will be considered, and there will be considerable focus on using biomass in ways that do not impinge on world food requirements or adversely affect the environment. As is always the case, a Future Actions Committee has been established to develop follow-up activities from the meeting.

For coming years, several conferences are under consideration. These included the following, but other possibilities were also discussed:

- Herbal medicines - Issues would include definitions, testing protocols, quality assurance, safety, role of standard pharmaceutical companies, intellectual property issues, relations between local suppliers and commercial companies and export issues.
- Water - Interest in the subject of Water in the Middle East arises out of earlier Malta meetings, but would also include a wider focus, especially on water treatment technologies.
- Green catalysis – The theme would be to discuss technologies that can simultaneously improve both the economy and the environment of a country. This subject would be built on IUPAC concepts of what is meant by green chemistry and would take a life cycle approach.
- Medical diagnostic technologies for resource-limited countries - This would be a sequel to a similar conference held in the US about three years ago. The rationale was that such technologies could be highly beneficial in that they require minimal infrastructure and are low cost.
- Solid waste management - The kinds of waste would include both municipal urban and industrial wastes and possibly also agricultural waste. Where appropriate, methods for transforming waste into value-added products would be examined.

Each of these potential meetings is chaired by a ChemRAWN member or supporter and in all cases, liaison possibilities with other IUPAC committees are being investigated. Final decisions regarding which meetings will proceed will be made at subsequent meetings of the committee.



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CHEMRAWN XIX

19th IUPAC International Conference on Chemical Research
Applied to World Needs (CHEMRAWN XIX) 2011
September 27-29, Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organised by:



Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM)

Under the auspices of:



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