

Minutes of the First Constitutional Meeting of the Interdivisional Subcommittee on Materials Chemistry (ISMC)

7.-8. September 2012
Conference Room, Chemistry Department, University of Cologne
&
Paris Boardroom, Hotel ParkInn, Cologne, Germany

7. September 2012

Participants: Christopher K. Ober (chairman), Bob Loss (President, Div. II), Richard Jones (Div. IV), Markku Leskelä (Div. II), Javier-Garcia Martinez (Div. II), Sanjay Mathur (Div. II). Volkan Ozguz (Guest, Sabanci University, Turkey).

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by the chairman Chris K. Ober. S. Mathur was requested to record the minutes of this meeting. The meeting agenda (appended) was unanimously approved by all present.

Bob Loss elaborated the past activities and leadership of the Materials Subcommittee Meeting and its position within the Inorganic Chemistry Division. Efforts made by Len Interrante, Tony West and others were acknowledged. There was consensus that looking forward to a more defined portfolio and a focus on flagship projects that are to be identified is necessary for a stand-alone profile of ISMC. For instance, a matrix of activities against future requirements can support the case for funding within the IUPAC structure. A demonstration of activities through projects would be helpful in building the profile. Bob Loss suggested that in terms of new projects it would be beneficial to “think big” by generating and executing project ideas that cover the interest and expertise of other divisions.

Chris Ober indicated the possibility of expanding the horizons of on-going efforts. For instance, the terminology project (Terminology for Self-Assembly and Aggregation of Polymers) being led by Dick Jones and Chris Ober is related to activities that would fall within the ISMC profile. It was discussed whether this effort can be extended to include the expertise of other Divisions. There was consensus that the challenge of financing ISMC meetings should be primarily met by project-based funding. More efforts should be made to enhance cohesion among divisions, for example, by generating interdivisional projects. S. Mathur pointed out the necessity to reinforce inter-agency cooperation (e.g., ISO-IUPAC) to generate joint projects and eventually joint funding.

Suggestions on new projects that can be developed within ISMC were made (Mathur, Leskela) on the following topics:

- Definition of Nanochemistry
- Teaching solid-state/materials chemistry – involve CCE
- Plasmonics

The idea of creating a cross-divisional project on “Nanomaterials Terminology” was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned (6:30 pm) by the Chairman with information on the continuation of meeting in the morning (9:00 am) of 8. September.

8. September 2012

Participants: Christopher K. Ober (chairman), Richard Jones (Div. IV), Markku Leskelä (Div. II), Javier-Garcia Martinez (Div. II), Sanjay Mathur (Div. II).

Guest: Prof. Volkan Özguz, Director, Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, Sabanci University, Turkey.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by the chairman Chris K. Ober. The Chairman greeted the participants especially Prof. Volkan Ozguz of the Sabanci University, Turkey, who has invited to the meeting to discuss the possibility of jointly organizing a symposium with ISMC at the next GA in Istanbul. Prof. Ozguz expressed his interest and assured support to act as one of the local/national contact points. He suggested that it would be good to explore funding opportunities with national and international agencies (e.g., TUBITAK, EU), which is a time-consuming process and it is advisable to start the efforts at the earliest.

Action Item: Prof. Özgüz to talk to Prof. Yilgor Iskender (WCC, Organizing Committee) to see if any new synergies can be created. Discussion with the Mehmet ... M would be feasible

Prof. Ozguz informed meeting participants that the GA dates partially overlap with the religious festival "Ramadan" and advised to book flight tickets in advance.

Concerns were raised on the overlap of scope with two other symposia being organized on materials-oriented topics. Chris Ober informed meeting participants that his queries with the WCC Committee were only marginally successful. Since the other two symposia are rather broad in their focus, it was agreed that it would be worthwhile to organize a symposium led by ISMC on "Advanced and Hybrid Materials for Energy and Environmental Applications". Involvement of other division representatives would be desirable.

In a follow up discussion it was mentioned that other divisions would be welcome to take part and that their presence in Istanbul and the GA would be beneficial to the ISMC.

Action Item: Chris Ober to write to the Div. Presidents soliciting nomination of Division representatives.

Javier Garcia Martinez pointed out the possibility of involving the Committee on Chemical Education would make a stronger symposium. It was agreed to include a half-day session in the symposium dedicated to educational aspects e.g., challenges of teaching materials chemistry.

Action Item: Chris Ober and Sanjay Mathur to discuss and finalize the scope of the symposium together with the suggestions for Invited speakers in next 4 weeks.

Project Activities:

Chris Ober indicated the need of bigger and longer-range projects to initiate inter-divisional efforts being coordinated by the ISMC. In addition to large projects, the necessity of short-term projects was unanimously accepted. Short-term approach to create Materials education website (What is materials chemistry?) that can serve as the vehicle for dissemination of activities e.g.,

through educational videos was considered as one of the options to consolidate the available information and to gain visibility for the ISMC efforts.

Javier Garcia Martinez suggested that any effort related to materials education should be coordinated with CCE.

Action Item: As an effort to initiate a new Project on "Terminology in Nanotechnology"; Dick Jones will summarize the efforts and circulate to ISMC members.

For a pro-active generation of new project proposals, a "Call for Projects" will be announced in various magazines and journals (Chemistry International, IUPAC website, C&E News, ACS International Division, J. Mater. Chem.). In addition, Chris Ober will write to Div Presidents seeking their support through advertisement of the effort and by facilitating higher participation of Young Observers.

The possibility of initiating a Materials Chemistry Award for Young Scientists was discussed to enhance the attractiveness of ISMC.

Action Item: SM to contact Fabienne Meyers for call

S. Mathur proposed the revival of WAM (Workshop on Advanced Materials) series as the flagship event of ISMC. The possibility of organizing a mini-symposium in conjunction with the off-year meetings was discussed. The philosophy of WAM was elaborated and it was propose to look into the viable options for restarting WAM e.g., by finding a suitable location and an interested local host.

Action Item: Ask Prof. S. S. Ray (Director, Center for Nanostructured Materials, Pretoria, SA) to propose the organization of WAM-IV.

Chris Ober expressed that having zero-sum game will not be sustainable. It was agreed that ISMC needs to work on its agenda and the long-term vision. A meeting with the in-coming IUPAC President at the GA in Istanbul was envisaged. The roadblocks and opportunities to transform ISMC into a new division were discussed. There was consensus that any such discussion will be meaningful only after a proven record of successful ISMC activities.

- In order to enhance the impact of ISMC efforts within IUPAC structures, it was suggested to contact Div presidents to include a brief overview of ISMC in their reports to the bureau

With reference to new projects for ISMC, it would be better to have projects with additional funding or inter-agency partnerships to make a substantial case e.g., partnership with UNESCO or national chemical societies is desirable. The challenges associated with a better management of web information were discussed. It was considered that buying web space for the dissemination of project outcome can be an effective option as the IUPAC web server is limited in its capability. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to enhance communication with IUPAC programmers. Any suggestion on improvements related to the website can be sent to the Bureau.

By way of having a structured organization with defined duties and portfolios, the Chairman suggested to formalize the structure by appointing officers. In addition, the Division Presidents will be contacted to nominate their representatives on ISMC.

Chris Ober proposed S. Mathur as ISMC Secretary, who agreed to do the needful. The other officers were:

- Dick Jones – ISMC Representative on Terminology
- Javier Garcia Martinez - ISMC Representative on Education
- Sanjay Mathur - ISMC Representative on Conferences
- Natalie Stingelein (to be invited by CO)
- Ilya Zharov (to be invited by CO)
- Replacement of M. Rossi by McQuillan was proposed and accepted.

Meeting adjourned by CO at 12:45