



MINUTES OF COCI MEETING, KUWAIT CITY, 10 MARCH, 2010

Present:

Colin Humphris	Secretary (acting Chair)	United Kingdom
David Evans	Titular Member (Acting Secretary)	United Kingdom
Khalida Al-Dalama	Titular Member	Kuwait
Alex Pokrovsky	Titular Member	Russia
Bernard West	National Representative	Canada
Esma Toprak	Associate Member	Turkey
Nicole Moreau	IUPAC President	France
Jung-II Jin	IUPAC Past President	South Korea

1. Introduction

Colin Humphris opened the meeting by announcing that Michael Droescher was unable to attend due to a recent illness. All present wished Michael a full and speedy recovery. Colin had agreed with Michael that he would chair the session and Michael had supplied him with presentations and materials for the meeting. In turn, Colin invited David Evans to act as minute secretary for the meeting.

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting and tendered apologies for the invited attendees who were unable to participate.

On behalf of everyone present, Colin expressed his gratitude to Khalida Al-Dalama for the excellent hospitality and arrangements for the meeting. He also congratulated her on her immensely successful arrangements which enabled several COCI members to attend the KCC 2010 meeting. All present joined with him in thanking Khalida for her kindness to her guests in Kuwait.

3. Minutes of the Glasgow Meeting

These were approved at the meeting, whilst noting that Esma Toprak had been omitted from the attendance list. The Chair stated that all actions from the Glasgow meeting would be addressed as part of the meeting agenda.

4. IUPAC and COCI

As incoming IUPAC President, Nicole Moreau requested updates on several COCI projects and issues:

4.1 Company Associates

The President noted that the decline in the number of CAs was disappointing and asked if there were underlying difficulties which could be resolved. She noted that Kuwait now boasted four CAs, which is a greater number than many EU countries. Japan continues to be supported by easily the largest number of CAs.

As leader for the CA program until 2008, David Evans provided his observations:

- The CA recruitment process is distinctly sub-optimal. In theory, NAOs are responsible for recruitment, whilst COCI provides the benefits. Some ~89% of the subscription fee reverts to the NAO. This situation is unnecessarily complex and not well understood in terms of accountabilities. The majority of NAOs are passive and do not involve themselves with the CA program.
- Until recently, the amount of Secretariat resource available for the project has been minimal and afforded very low priority
- Only a limited number of NAOs are actively represented on COCI – all others are essentially invisible to us – and *de facto* out of contact
- The current CA brochure does not sufficiently emphasize IUPAC's key offerings i.e. nomenclature systems, critically-evaluated data and analytical methods, standardization of atomic weights, conferences, PAC, etc. A new brochure was designed in 2006/07, but has not been taken forward to date
- The subscription fee of \$450 does not suggest a serious and worthwhile venture to the larger companies

In discussion, the President noted that the unfettered expertise of IUPAC should also be given recognition in our approach to CAs, noting that companies and Trade Associations value independent expert comment. It was also recognized by all that a personal approach to companies is the optimal recruitment route and 'cold calling' has not been successful. This again highlights a deficiency of the current process and a wider grouping than COCI would provide better local coverage in this regard.

Khalida Al-Dalama proposed that the CA subscription should be paid explicitly and in full to IUPAC to help promote the IUPAC brand as well as providing simplification.

An improved process for CA recruitment is required, including retention of CA dues by IUPAC

Action: Michael Droescher to raise at the Bureau (draft proposals have been prepared earlier {DAE})

Following the retirement of Alan Smith, a new 'owner' is required to provide the annual project digest

Action: Michael Droescher to arrange

More COCI Corner items would assist in raising the profile of COCI and CAs

Action: All COCI members

Companies and institutions should be publicized as CA members (website, CI etc).

Action: Michael Droescher to raise at the Bureau

The revised brochure should be resuscitated, modified as appropriate and issued.

Action: Michael Droescher to consider in conjunction with the Secretariat

4.2 Other issues

As a general point, the agility of IUPAC decision making processes was discussed. For many items, it was agreed that a six month target was more appropriate than adherence to the two-year GA cycle.

Action: President to consider (Bureau, Secretariat)

A discussion ensued on the fund-raising capacity of IUPAC in general with particular reference to industry and CAs, whilst noting some major recent successes (e.g.

Samsung, Richter). Past President Jin stated that professional fund-raisers had been considered in the past, and more thought should be given to a more structured effort.

Action: COCI Bureau members

5. Overview of IYC 2011 (including 4.3 Program and Projects for IYC 2011)

The President outlined the global events which were being arranged to celebrate IYC 2011. The emphasis will be upon public understanding and particular attention will be paid to the interests of young people. Planning for the launch event in Paris was well advanced (see website). It was noteworthy that about one half of the audience of 1400 would be composed of non-chemists. There would be a component relating to industry, but this would be wider than the activities of individual companies.

COCI was leading the WCLM event at the GA in Puerto Rico with the theme of sustainable development. Colin Humphris was organizing the steering committee which consisted of representatives from IUPAC, academia, industry and Trade Associations (via ICCA)

Action: Colin Humphris

The closing event is to be in Brussels in which Solvay and CEFIC are deeply involved.

Consideration was given to obtaining funding and cooperation from the industry and COCI was requested to provide assistance where possible. Colin Humphris stressed the importance of the approach used with companies. Rather than requesting an undifferentiated contribution, it is essential to seek funding to support an activity in which the company wishes involvement. In this regard, Colin stated again that IUPAC's independent expert view is strongly supported by industry and Trade Associations alike. A discussion ensued on whether such support could be seen to taint the independence of IUPAC but it was strongly felt that IUPAC's fundamental activity is to provide evidence-based statements based upon peer-reviewed data and by definition, this is not influenced by any external entity.

It was noted that in addition to the keynote IYC 2011 global events, each NAO has the task to arrange appropriate local events. A number of interesting plans are in place, including, for example, a global schools project on 'water'. COCI members were requested to support their NAO and to keep in touch with progress via the IUPAC IYC website.

Action: All

Dr. Ishida (NR, Japan) had provided a presentation on the extensive national activities planned by the Japan Organizing Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Nishida. Following an opening ceremony in Tokyo in early March, 2011, there is planned an Exposition of Chemistry at the National Museum of Nature and Science which is expected to attract ~100K participants.

Bernard West indicated that Canadian plans were also well advanced. David Evans reported that the SCI in the UK was unlikely to make a major contribution, but after a slow start, the Royal Society of Chemistry has developed some interesting plans via its Industry and Technology Executive, on which he and Colin Humphris sit.

Khalida Al-Dalama suggested that NAOs should be formally requested by the Secretariat to badge their keynote meetings as part of IYC 2011. Alex Pokrovsky

reminded the meeting to ensure that UNESCO was kept informed of plans and progress, and offered his assistance with IUPAC's relationships with the various UN bodies.

Action: All/Alex Pokrovsky

6. NGO/IGO/Trade Associations Program

Colin Humphris described the activities of IUPAC as an NGO within the SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) initiative and how this could develop during IYC. He indicated that, whereas IUPAC's contribution to the Geneva SAICM meeting had met with mixed acceptance, its voice had been clearly heard. It is now possible for IUPAC to work effectively behind the scenes with policy issues. A report on the meeting will be included in the next issue of CI. A CHEMRAWN led meeting related to SAICM is being planned for 2011 and it was noted that both the SAICM Secretariat and the Royal Society of Chemistry have sought involvement. Alex Pokrovsky emphasized the importance of an event such as this being held in Ethiopia as a mark of the deep appreciation by IUPAC for the lead given by Ethiopia in gaining UN endorsement for IYC.

The SAICM Quickstart program is very well funded and Mark Cesa is considering an application for funding developments of the current Safety Training Program.

Action: Colin Humphris and Mark Cesa

With regard to the Trade Associations program, the planned contribution to IYC 2011 and particularly to the WCLM was described in more detail, as was the role of CEFIC in the IYC 2011 closing event in Brussels. Past President Jin expressed his satisfaction with the way industry involvement in IYC had developed through COCI.

Bernard West next updated the committee with progress on the Responsible Care program. Two papers on case studies had now been prepared and submitted to a social sciences journal. Reprints will be sent to COCI members once available. Consideration should be given to wider dissemination of the Haiti case study – David Evans had presented this to the CCE meeting in Glasgow and considerable interest accrued in this exceptionally vivid example of how simple mistakes can multiply to provide a highly dangerous situation.

Action: Bernard West

7. NAO/CA Program

Whereas a full Regional Workshop was not appropriate for the current meeting, it was noted that an interesting and successful panel discussion entitled 'Activities and Research Development in Kuwait Industry' had been held on the previous day as part of the KCC 2010 Conference. The meeting had been organized and chaired by Khalida Al-Dalama under the auspices of the Kuwait Chemical Society and all COCI attendees were present. In addition to a presentation by Colin Humphris on COCI activities, there were contributions from Kuwait industries. Notable amongst these were lectures by staff of KISR (Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research) and PIC (Petroleum Industrial Company).

Discussion then ensued on the location for the next regional workshop. This would normally be held in Spring 2011 to coincide with a COCI meeting which would include preparation for the 2011 GA/Congress in Puerto Rico. The following venues were suggested for consideration:

- Uruguay (UNESCO office?) to include a Latin America Regional Workshop

- Eastern Europe (Baltic state, Moldova, Russia or Poland in April to coincide with the Bureau meeting)
- Paris, to coincide with the IYC opening

Alex Pokrovsky offered to provide assistance, but emphasized that, whereas he might well be able to arrange meeting facilities, it was unlikely that additional funding would be available.

Action: Alex Pokrovsky

Past President Jin supported the wisdom of choosing a date and venue which coincided with other IUPAC meetings. In this light, he mentioned the Asian Federation meeting in September 2011 but recognized that this would preclude preparation for the GA/Congress.

Action: Michael Droescher

8. CHEMRAWN on Biofuels

David Evans provided the background to the meeting and particularly COCI's view that it would be advantageous for the meeting to produce an official IUPAC report or monograph to provide evidence-based output from the meeting. This would be particularly useful at present in the contentious bio-energy field where energy policy, security and efficiency are often at odds. The meeting voiced its continued support of this proposal. He reported that the CHEMRAWN committee had approved the meeting which would be held at the Putra Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia on September 27-29, 2011. Dr. Soon Ting Kueh, President of the Institut Kimia Malaysia, will chair the organizing committee, currently being established. David Evans had been in touch with both Dr. Soon and Leiv Sydnes, Chair of CHEMRAWN and had agreed to assist the organising committee. Bernard West offered to locate a Canadian government speaker as a possible contributor. Concerns were expressed over the relative lack of time available for organization.

Action: David Evans, Bernard West

9. Internship Program at CAs – Discussion postponed in the absence of M. Droescher

10. Life Cycle Analysis

Bernard West presented his views on a science-based protocol for the topic, indicating the dangers of organizing the protocol to support a favoured outcome. He illustrated this problem with reference to 44 studies on biofuels where in certain cases, there were serious concerns over the protocols chosen (e.g. environmental footprint was discounted). He felt that this was an ideal opportunity for IUPAC to apply its scientific rigour. He proposed assembling a 4-5 person email-based team to take this forward, with the intended outcome of a future CHEMRAWN meeting on the topic, possibly 'LCA on Bioenergy'.

Action: Bernard West

11. Public Appreciation of Science

David Evans provided a presentation intended to illustrate that the greatest challenge for the chemical sciences currently is one of image. In his experience, many learned societies such as IUPAC fully recognize the problem but paradoxically fail to address the issue with resource and expertise. He expressed his belief that IUPAC will be ineffective

in this regard until staff resource is available, particularly in the media/press context. Furthermore, he presented informal data to show that a Google search by the public on chemical topics will rarely, if ever provide a reference to IUPAC work. A fresh look is required.

11.1 Wikipedia

Following discussion with Fabienne Meyers, he believed that there was an opportunity for IUPAC to become involved with Wikipedia in assisting provision of evidence-based entries on chemical topics and he would pursue this with Fabienne and other interested parties in IUPAC. He stressed that the project would be very unlikely to proceed successfully in the absence of coordination by a permanent member of Secretarial staff.

Action: David Evans

11.2 How do anti-science NGOs win?

Following a presentation of his personal experiences of this topic, David Evans agreed to write up his views as a future COCI Corner article for CI, for which he would welcome the experienced input of Colin Humphris.

Action: David Evans (in conjunction with Colin Humphris)

12. Health, Safety and Environment Program

Mark Cesa, the program leader, provided a report in his absence. There are currently five accepted trainees and at least a dozen more candidates to be vetted. There continues to be a shortage of host companies. Khalida Al-Dalama pointed out that she had identified several Kuwaiti organizations who displayed interest in the scheme (e.g. KISR, PIC mentioned earlier) but trainees from the petrochemical area would be required. Esma Toprak asked whether Turkish companies who are not presently CAs are eligible to be hosts.

The STP symposium in Glasgow in 2009 was very successful and preparations for the 2011 event are in hand. The following suggestions were made:

- The requirement to register for the Congress in order to attend the event presents a limitation. A specific event fee should be investigated, or even the possibility of holding the symposium outside the Congress.
- The President requested that consideration be given to organizing special booths, manned by trainees, at key IYC events.
- A host company should be invited to make a presentation at the next symposium on their experiences of the scheme in assisting capacity building

Action: Mark Cesa to consider these suggestions

13. and 14. More Ideas, Projects and Deliverables for IYC

The following suggestions emerged during discussion:

- The Kuwait Foundation for Advanced Science will award prizes to good Arabic scientists working in applied chemical sciences anywhere in the world (up to \$30000)
- A section on 'Lifestyle due to Chemistry' for the IYC website
- Local initiatives on 'Chemistry and our lives', 'Chemistry in our homes' and chemistry fun-days for families
- COCI Prize for industrial chemistry innovation (cf. Janos Fischer initiative)
- Industrial sponsors should be provided with a Fellowship certificate
- Each COCI TM to provide a COCI-related poster for IYC 2011 meetings
- SAICM in Africa (in Addis to reflect Ethiopia's role in IYC request)

- Local initiatives on 'Chemistry and our lives', 'Chemistry in our homes' and chemistry fun-days for families

Action: Michael Droescher to consider

15, 16 and 17. Governance Issues – Structure, Function, Budgets

There were no issues raised

18. Any Other Business

For information, David Evans and Colin Humphris presented recent work by the Royal Society of Chemistry on providing a roadmap for the longer term future of the chemical sciences relating to the chemistry-using industries. Several copies of a monograph describing progress were circulated. Consideration should be given to whether this work can be adapted to a COCI program for SMEs and emerging economies on horizon scanning/technology foresight. See:http://www.rsc.org/images/Roadmapfull_tcm18-158990.pdf.

Action: David Evans/ Colin Humphris

In conclusion, those present joined with the Chair in thanking Dr. Alan Smith for his seminal contributions to COCI and IUPAC over many years. In Kuwait, Alan had provided an invited lecture on nanotechnology to the KCC 2010 meeting and had contributed to the Panel Discussion mentioned in Ag.7. He will be sadly missed by all his COCI colleagues.

The Chair then brought the meeting to a close (remarkably on time!) by thanking all concerned for their enthusiastic participation.

David A Evans
Acting Meeting Secretary
21.03.10

