

EuCheMS General Assembly in Frankfurt

Frankfurt, the home of three EuCheMS member societies – Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie, DECHEMA and Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) – was the venue of the 2007 General Assembly on 4 to 5 October. More than 30 member societies from 27 countries were present. The prominent international guests included Katie Hunt, President of the American Chemical Society, Friedrich Wagner, President of the European Physical Society, and Nicole Moreau, Vice President and President Elect of IUPAC.

After the welcome of the delegates by Dieter Jahn, President of GDCh, presentations by Katie Hunt on sustainable development and by Emmanuel Boudard from the Directorate General for Research on the European Research Area set the stage for the subsequent discussion in the plenum and break out discussion groups. Among the main results of the General Assembly was the unanimous election of Luis A. Oro from Spain as Vice President and President Elect for 2008 (see below). EuCheMS President Giovanni Natile stated that EuCheMS' initiatives to unite European chemists will not only have a European impact but will also further strengthen the member societies.

Further, the General Assembly admitted the Societat Catalana de Química as a new



Giovanni Natile (right) and Luis A. Oro.

member society and approved the EuCheMS budget for the year 2008. Other important items were the creation of a new division for Organic Chemistry, chaired by Jay Siegel, the promotion of the working party on Inorganic Chemistry into a division, chaired by Nikos Katsaros, the establishment of a new working party on Green and Sustainable Chemistry, chaired by Pietro Tundo and the decision to intensify the cooperation between EuCheMS and the European Physical Society.

The General Assembly established a EuCheMS Finance and Strategy Standing Committee to succeed the EuCheMS Steering Group and an EU Policy Network to support the work of the EuCheMS policy consultant.

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New Vice President and President Elect

At the General Assembly in Frankfurt Luis A. Oro from Spain was elected as Vice President and President Elect for 2008. He will become EuCheMS President in the triennium 2009 to 2011. Luis A. Oro is Head of the Instituto Universitario de Catálisis Homogénea in Zaragoza. He obtained his Ph. D. in 1970, was a post-doctoral fellow at Cambridge University, and since 1982 is a full professor of Inorganic Chemistry in Zaragoza.

His main research interests are in the area of coordination- and organometallic chemistry of platinum group metals. He has co-author-

ed well over 500 scientific papers, several reviews and book chapters, as well as four books. He is a member of the editorial board of several scientific journals and President of the partnership of the *European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*, has received several distinctions and prizes and is a member of several international scientific Academies. He is a former president of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry and has also served in high level positions in the Spanish science administration, as well as Vice President of the European Science Foundation. io

SCI cooperates with WWF

Under the auspices of the most popular Italian television scientific anchorman, Piero Angela, an important agreement was signed between the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and the Italian branch of the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF). To our knowledge this is the first time worldwide that a common base for cooperation has been found between an association for the protection of the natural environment and a chemical association. This agreement involves the largest (with ca. 300 000 members) and most popular environmental association in Italy and a scientific society which has the goal of representing all the researchers working in chemistry in Italy.

On the one hand it is expected that the barriers in the public mind that still divide chemistry from nature will begin to disappear. On the other hand the respect and protection of nature will take priority as a consideration in chemical studies, research and industrial production. These two points of view, in fact, are the main items of the WWF-SCI agreement which can be found on the SCI web site page www.soc.chim.it/files/adminsci/convenzioni/WWF-SCI_Agreement.doc.

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From left to right: G. Natile (President EuCheMS), G. Bologna (Scientific Director WWF Italia), D. Spinelli (past President SCI), S. Rondinini, P. Angela, F. Pratesi (President WWF Italia), M. Condotti (General Secretary WWF Italia), F. De Angelis (President SCI), G. Cevasca and G. Bonarora (Vice President SCI).

Nobel Prize to Gerhard Ertl



EuChemS congratulates Berlin-based Gerhard Ertl on the 2007 Nobel Prize in chemistry with which his outstanding contributions on the understanding of catalytic reactions on surfaces are being recognised.

2011 will be International Year of Chemistry

Chemistry organisations worldwide are invited to join with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry in celebrating 2011 – the International Year of Chemistry. By fortunate coincidence, 2011 is also the centennial year of Marie Skłodowska Curie's 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, recognising her discoveries of radium and polonium. The International Year of Chemistry will enhance the general understanding and appreciation of chemistry by promoting a dialog between chemical scientists and the lay public on the many benefits that chemistry provides. www.IUPAC.org jm

New DAC governance

After nine years Heiner Korte, Germany, resigned as Secretary for the Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC). His successor, Jens E. T. Andersen, Denmark, was appointed at the DAC 2007 Annual Meeting in Antwerp for the period 2008 to 2010. Due to the contributions of Heiner Korte and his two chairmen DAC has gained wide respect and appreciation in the European analytical chemistry community and amongst EuChemS colleagues. The DAC Steering Committee was also appointed at the Annual Meeting: Wolfgang Buchberger (Austria), George Horvai (Hungary), Paul Worsfold (UK), Jens E. T. Andersen (Denmark, Secretary) and Bo Karlberg (Sweden, re-elected DAC Chairman for the period 2008 to 2010). hk

The resigning DAC Secretary, Heiner Korte (left), delivering the DAC archives to Jens E. T. Andersen (middle). On the right: Bo Karlberg (DAC Chair).



44th IUPAC Council

There were 440 participants at the biennial IUPAC General Assembly in Torino, Italy on 4 to 12 August 2007. The IUPAC Council meeting on 11 to 12 August had 111 delegates from 43 out of 49 National Adhering Organisations. A major event at the General Assembly was the World Chemistry Leadership Meeting (WCLM), which focused on the health and environmental safety of chemical products, emerging issues of societal concern and the resulting regulatory trends. A set of four innovative Round Table discussions also generated valuable initiatives for the future.

For 2008 to 2009 the IUPAC Council elected Jung-II Jin as President, Nicole Moreau as Vice President, and John Corish as Treasurer, while David Black was elected to a second four-year term as Secretary General. Bryan Henry will become Past President.

The Council endorsed the plan to obtain United Nations approval of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry (see left).

IUPAC added three new National Adhering Organisations at Torino, bringing Cuba, Ethiopia and Uruguay into the Union. The application of the Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones Químicas for Associated Organisation status was also approved.

The Council approved a proposal from the Colegio de Químicos de Puerto Rico to host the 2011 IUPAC Congress and General Assembly. The 2009 Congress and General Assembly will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

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www.iupac.org/symposia/conferences/ga07/wclm07.html

Romanian tribute to chemical science

On 19 to 22 September, the 15th Romanian International Conference on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (RICCEE) took place in Sinaia, Romania, organised by the University Politehnica of Bucharest (Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Material Science) under the patronage of the Romanian Chemical Society (RChS). This well established traditional conference attracts a considerable number of native and foreign scientists from all chemical fields.

The conference also hosted an extraordinary meeting of the RChS. President Sorin Rosca presented the resolution of RChS's Board aiming to enhance the general public's understanding of chemistry and declared 2008 as the year for "Promoting chemistry in Romania".

Besides these activities RChS awarded prizes to promising young students and distinguished personalities from Romania and abroad. Among the awarded people were the first prize winners at the Romanian National Olympiad, researchers, teachers and



New Honorary Member Giovanni Natile (middle) with representatives and guests of the conference.

university professors. Also honoured were several institutions (ranging from scientific journals to chemistry departments) that were particularly successful in promoting chemistry. On the same occasion Giovanni Natile, EuChemS President and lecturer at the Conference, was awarded the Honorary Membership of RChS.

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European Technology Platform Food for Life

The European Technology Platform (ETP) Food for Life has just published its Strategic Research Agenda, which represents the priorities for research, communication, training and knowledge transfer in the agro-food sector. The Agenda serves as a basis for improving the competitiveness of the largest manufacturing sector in Europe (with a turnover of 835 billion Euro in 2005) and for ensuring that European citizens are supplied with healthy, safe, affordable and sustainably-produced food.

Three main drivers for the food and drink industry have been identified:

- improving health, well-being and longevity,
- building consumer trust in the food chain and
- responding to consumer demands for sustainable and ethical production.

The next stage of the ETP's development will be agreement on the Implementation



photo: Sam Tag

Plan, which will describe how the public-private ETP partnership will be managed and funded. As part of the consultation process on the Strategic Research Agenda, National Food Platforms have now been established in 28 European Countries including Russia, Ukraine and Israel.

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http://etp.ciaa.eu/asp/nat_food_platforms/nat_foodplatforms.asp.

Strategic Research Agenda: http://etp.ciaa.eu/documents/CIAA-ETP%20broch_LR.pdf

EuCheMS Award for Service to Peter Kündig

Peter Kündig, University of Geneva, received the EuCheMS Award for Service from Giovanni Natile, EuCheMS President, during the Opening Ceremony of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker Forum in Ulm on 17 September 2007 in recognition of his significant contribution to European cooperation with particular reference to his exceptional contribution to the success of the 1st EuCheMS Chemistry Congress. *eme*

Robert Kellner Lecture 2007 to Alfredo Sanz-Medel

Alfredo Sanz-Medel of Oviedo University, Spain, was awarded the 2007 Robert Kellner Lecture, established by the EuCheMS Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) and named after its former Chairman.

Alfredo Sanz-Medel is an internationally reputed expert in mass-spectrometric analysis, his most exciting specialty being the combination of molecular and atomic approaches. The

Lecture was given at Euroanalysis XIV in Antwerp, Belgium, in September, a scientific event that attracted almost 700 participants.

The Robert Kellner Lecture is sponsored by Springer-Verlag and is delivered as a prominent plenary lecture at the DAC biennial conference series Euroanalysis. The awardee is selected by a jury of five eminent European analytical chemists. *hk*

Heinrich Emanuel Merck Award to analytical chemists

Two analytical chemists were awarded the Heinrich Emanuel Merck Award at the 14th Euroanalysis Congress in Antwerp, Belgium. Alexander A. Makarov of Thermo Fischer Scientific (Bremen, Germany) received the award for the invention of the electrostatic-ion trap, the Orbitrap, which greatly enhances the detection of ions in mass spectrometry. Shuming Nie of the Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, Georgia/USA) has introduced quantum dots as an analytical tool for diagnosis in medicine. He received the award for demonstrating the advantages of diagnosis by imaging. *hk*

Ethical principles for the chemical sciences

The Central Council of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) has recently formulated and approved the "Charter of ethical principles for the chemical sciences".

The development of chemistry during the last century is the basis for the well-being of contemporary mankind. On the other hand the improper use of chemical sciences and technologies could be tremendously harmful for the environment, even for human life itself. Not only chemists must be aware of the special power in their hands, the public must be educated to recognise this also.

The main issues contained in the SCI charter of principles refer to the "safeguard of the ecosystem from permanent pollution and environmental degradation, and depletion of renewable resources". Special attention is focused onto research and production of new substances, their synthetic intermediates as well as chemical and biological fate at the end of their use. Of paramount importance is "the principle of prohibiting and eliminating chemical weapons, and vigilating that they are not produced or used in any country".

Following its preamble, the charter tries first to define ethical principles for the experimental sciences and chemistry. After stating some universal propositions the charter enlarges on the themes of education and information, evaluation of the areas of risk of improper use and then focuses onto the proper use of chemistry.

Finally, a declaration of principles and the "solemn promise of the chemist in receiving his degree to apply the ethical objectives of the chemical sciences" concludes the document.

SCI is now inviting academia to propose and read the "solemn promise" paragraph of the charter on the occasion of the degree ceremonies at universities.

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www.socchim.it/files/doc/principi_etici_eu

Events 2008

20 – 21 March, Madrid, Spain

EVCN Meeting, bmcricis@yahoo.com

15 – 17 May, Cavtat, Croatia

4th CEFood 6th PBN (4th Central European Congress on Food (CEFood), 6th Croatian Congress of Food Technologists, Biotechnologists and Nutritionists (PBN), originally scheduled for 9 – 11 April 2008), www.pbn.hr/CEFood2008/

6 – 9 July, Istanbul, Turkey

9th European Conference on Research in Chemical Education, www.eurice2008.org/

24 – 28 August, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

4th EuChemS Conference on Nitrogen Ligands
www.nligands.uni-dortmund.de

24 – 29 August, Copenhagen, Denmark

EuChemS Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids, www.euchem2008.dk

16 – 20 September, Torino, Italy

2nd EuChemS Chemistry Congress
www.euchems-torino2008.it

21 – 26 September, Uppsala, Sweden

17th EuroQSAR 2008, www.qsar2008.org

C6 Meeting in Paris

The presidents, executive directors and other senior representatives of the chemical societies from France (SFC), Germany (GDCh), Japan (CSJ), the Netherlands (KNCV), the United Kingdom (RSC), and the United States (ACS) met in Paris on 13 to 15 July, just prior to the SFC Congress celebrating the 150th anniversary of the French Chemical Society. This informal, so-called C6 group comes together about every two years to exchange experiences and to discuss points of mutual interest.

Highlight of the Paris meeting was the signing of a joint statement on the promotion of global sustainable development and the important role the chemical sciences play in this regard. In the meantime this statement has been signed by other chemistry organisations, such as the chemical so-



cieties from Mexico and Canada. At its meeting in October 2007 in Frankfurt the EuChemS General Assembly also decided to sign the declaration on behalf of the more than 150 000 members of the EuChemS member societies. The declaration can be accessed at www.euchems.org/News/index.asp. wk

EuChemS Newsletter

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Photo: Pietro Longhi, The Alchemist, 1761

The evolving identity of chemistry

More than 110 participants from over 26 nations attended the 6th International Conference on the History of Chemistry organised by the EuChemS-Working Party on History of Chemistry. It took place at the University of Leuven, Belgium (28 August to 1 September). Europe was of course well represented but what is more striking is the growing presence of overseas visitors from Israel, Canada, United States, Mexico, Brazil and even Taiwan and Japan.

A major aim of these conferences is to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe. The 2007 theme "Neighbours and territories: the evolving identity of chemistry" focused on the disciplinary identity of chemistry and the changing relationships with other fields. The Programme Committee was chaired by José R. Bertomeu-Sánchez (University of Valencia) and the Belgo-Dutch Local Committee by Brigitte Van Tiggelen (University of Louvain and Mémoscience). Fifty nine oral presentations were given in 18 sessions; posters were available to view throughout the conference.

Session topics ranged from themes like alchemy and early modern chemistry, identity and boundaries in the XVII, XVIII, XIX and XX centuries up to teaching and knowledge in transit.

This conference lived well up to expectations in content, ambience, mix of participant's backgrounds, warmth of welcome and in the ensuing social programme and interactions. As usual, the conference outing centred on private visits to museums of interest, this time in Ghent.

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