

IUPAC CHEMRAWN COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, August 11 and 12, 2013

Members attending:

Leiv K. Sydnes (Chair), Gary vanLoon (Secretary), Kew-Ho Lee, Venceslav Kaucic, Ting-Kueh Soon, Jean-Marc Paris, John Corish, Oleg Demchuk, Nadia Kandile, Carlos Tollinche, Brindan C. Ranu, Dick Durst, Kazuhiko Shimura, Fernando Galembeck, Vincenza Faraco, M. Mossihuzzaman, Amal Al-Aboudi

Visitors:

Richard Tia, Godfred Darko, Kathryn Wills, Christine Stradt, Hesamodin Hosseini Ghahi, Deborah M. Aruguete, Lewis Whitehead

Welcome and Introduction:

Sydnes welcomed committee members and visitors, especially young observers, and encouraged wide discussion on all subjects.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus

2. Housekeeping Issues

Sydnes reviewed the principles and practices of ChemRAWN

3. Minutes of June 7, 2012

The minutes of the 2012 Committee Meeting, in Kingston, Ontario had been approved electronically. Copies were provided for those who had not seen them.

4. Matters Arising

vanLoon reported that there have been some upgrades to the website but much more is required. Corish noted that this is now possible and vanLoon will continue to consult with Brian Pearson as well as with Oleg Demchuk in order to continue the upgrade

5. Report of the Chair

Sydnes was unable to attend the April Bureau meeting in Frankfurt. Corish reported that, in the future, a new system of making travel expense claims will be instituted.

Sydnes gave an update on the Third Review of the Chemical Weapons Convention The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has asked the IUPAC to work out regulations, and implementation is ongoing according to world needs. Work is directed toward transformation or destruction of production facilities. There is a challenge in dealing with countries like Syria that are not party to the Convention. While ChemRAWN is not explicitly a partner in this activity, it falls well within ChemRAWN's mandate. Soon also noted that the CCE is involved in work with OPCW.

6. Recent Conference

Soon gave an update on ChemRAWN XIX - Bioenergy and Biomaterials from Renewable Resources held in Kuala Lumpur in 2011. Approximately 180 people had attended, and as evidence of the importance of the subject, biorefineries are being implemented around the world, with the palm oil industry becoming a zero waste industry. Some outputs of the meeting are that Soon has developed good rapport with the Malaysian minister responsible for this industry, and IUPAC membership from Malaysia has also resulted. A book might be possible as a future action, but as matters look now this is unlikely. A financial report is upcoming.

7. Conference planning documents

Sydnes discussed the three documents on conference planning and implementation that had been sent out earlier. Some suggestions for minor modifications were made – expanding and explaining acronyms, using gender neutral terminology, indicating a 2 month time limit for submitting the preliminary conference report. Most important, it was suggested that a short preamble to the timeline document should indicate that the timeline for conference planning is a suggestion and in some cases the steps can be carried out more rapidly. Flexibility in terminology in carrying out planning is acceptable and appropriate for conferences held in different countries.

Appreciation for the work done in preparing these documents was widely expressed and all three were approved with the modifications indicated

8. Conferences under Development

Herbal Medicines

Mossihuzzaman (Zaman) presented a detailed description of planning information regarding the proposed conference on Herbal Medicine to be held in Dakha in November 2014. Discussion indicated broad support and commendation for work done, and emphasized a need to focus on issues of financial sponsorship. It was noted that

ChemRAWN endorsement does not imply financial support. It was suggested that the promotional material for the conference would be ready soon for distribution among the members as an aid for publicity. It was recommended that participation of the conventional pharmaceutical industry such as Novartis, which has facilities in Singapore, would enhance the program. It was approved that the Zaman proposal should be accepted as the basis for ChemRAWN XX.

Chemistry and Sustainable Development:

Sydney reported that little progress has been possible on this project, although a major subject area has been identified as e-waste. An attempt to restart planning with new committee members is to be made. Darko supported the choice of e-waste as an appropriate topic – one that is very important in both the west and the east of Africa. A report will be given at the next committee meeting.

Green Catalysis

Ranu has submitted two updates on this proposal. Discussion centred on the idea that the topic as now described may be too broad, and a ChemRAWN meeting should not be just a scientific conference but should focus on Green Catalysis as Applied to World Needs. There was a suggestion that it would be good to work with the Green Chemistry committee to perhaps mount a joint meeting. Ranu will pursue these ideas and come back with a revised proposal.

Chemistry in Water Treatment

Nadia Kandile described the problems in identifying a specific topic and in site selection in the Middle East. Lee has suggested holding this kind of congress in Korea. He would like the subject to be Green Chemistry for Water Treatment and possibly considering treatment to remove radioactive contaminants, relevant to the Japan situation. Further discussion is needed to come to agreement on several issues.

Diagnostic Technologies for Resource Limited Countries

Durst provided an update on plans for this meeting. A revised document had been forward to members in the past week. In terms of support he will be considering the Gates Foundation, the NSF and NIH as well as some European institutional and commercial sources. The conference will have a broader scope than the Pittcon conference on the same topic and will be scheduled for about 2.5 days. It may be appropriate to plan it as a joint meeting along with the International Association of Environmental Analytical Chemistry meeting in 2015. Discussion centred around the need to develop participation and ownership of the subject from persons in 'resource limited countries', ensuring that there are people who could speak from first-hand experience about the nature of needs.

The committee supports this proposal and recommended that the next step is to prepare a IUPAC-type application, to be submitted to ChemRAWN so that we can give comments and potentially electronic approval. Regensburg, Germany was suggested as a possible venue for the conference.

Urban Solid Waste Management

Paris and Faraco have taken the lead in this proposal that will focus on solid urban waste, excluding electronic waste, potentially to be held in Rome. Two documents have been circulated. Discussion centred around whether the topic should be treated broadly or be more focussed. It was agreed that the overall theme should be on challenges and possible solutions in solid waste management. This fits in with current initiatives regarding healthy megacities. The ideas are to be developed further and circulated for discussion and potential approval during the upcoming months.

At this point, the meeting adjourned for the day.

The ChemRAWN committee meeting reconvened on Monday, August 12.

9. New Ideas for Conference Topics and future possible ChemRAWN Conferences

Durst noted that it would be desirable to investigate ways in which the visibility of ChemRAWN could be increased, a point that was supported by several others.

Galembeck introduced for discussion the important emerging issue of shale gas production. He suggested that critical examination of subjects like energy and raw material implications, radon release, regurgitated water and contamination of ground water is needed as plans for development of shale gas are being drawn up around the world. ChemRAWN is a logical place to examine these issues. Members are encouraged to forward feedback regarding knowledgeable persons in their respective countries to Galembeck within the next two weeks. He will then prepare a preliminary proposal for Committee consideration by September 15. A diversity of opinions and a balanced perspective must be kept in mind

Al-Aboudi spoke of a possible conference on 3rd and 4th generation nuclear energy technology. She has been asked to begin investigations on the subject, leading to a possible proposal.

Lee asked for approval to plan a short ChemRAWN symposium at the Korean IUPAC World Congress in August 2015. Discussion led to the suggestion that this would be appropriate, having a variety of individual papers under the general heading of Chemistry and World Needs. Lee received support for the idea.

vanLoon opened discussion about the desirability of ChemRAWN publishing a periodic e-bulletin on chemical advances that contribute to solving global problems. There were questions as to whether this would contribute anything unique given the many of sources of this kind of information. To pursue whether this is a viable possibility, vanLoon will write to members soliciting their interest in providing updates within their areas of specialization.

10. ChemRAWN Committee membership

The updated membership of the ChemRAWN committee was presented and will be posted on the website

11. Date and venue for next meeting

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 12 and 13 in Slovenia, with the exact location to be determined later. Kaucic accepted to be the local organizer.