

For immediate release

IUPAC INITIATIVE ON CHEMISTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) recently decided to initiate a number of interdisciplinary mission-oriented programmes cutting across its traditional division and commission structure. The first such initiative concerns chemistry and the environment.

IUPAC has been actively engaged in a wide variety of environmental projects over a number of years. These projects have been carried out by several commissions in IUPAC's Divisions of Analytical Chemistry; Applied and Clinical Chemistry. The following are typical examples of these projects:

- * Electrochemical analysis of organic pollutants.
- * Determination of trace compounds in biological systems.
- * Use of passive samplers for monitoring ambient air.
- * Worldwide inventory of emissions.
- * Determination of mercury in foodstuffs.
- * Aluminium in foods.
- * Improved cost-effective approaches to pesticide residues analysis.
- * PCB evaluation in food and other biological samples.
- * Determination of the pH of acid rain.
- * Inventory of current tropospheric sampling programmes.
- * Potential contamination of ground water by pesticide.

Some of these projects are still ongoing whereas others have been completed and reported in the official IUPAC journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry*.

IUPAC has also sponsored several conferences on topics related to chemistry and the environment. The 7th conference in its CHEMRAWN series - to be held in the USA in 1991 - will be devoted to atmospheric chemistry. CHEMRAWN stands for CHEMical Research Applied to World Needs.

In addition, IUPAC has published a number of books on environmental topics, for example, *The Determination of Trace Metals in Natural Waters* (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, UK, 1988).

As the first part of the IUPAC initiative on the environment a booklet entitled *The IUPAC Environmental Programme* has been prepared and is available on request. The booklet contains summaries of all IUPAC projects from 1985 to 1989 on environmental topics.

For further information about IUPAC and its activities contact: The Information Officer, IUPAC Secretariat, Bank Court Chambers, 2-3 Pound Way, Cowley Centre, Oxford OX4 3YF, UK. Tel: +44 (865) 747744; Telex: 83220 IUPAC G; Fax: +44 (865) 747510.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY (IUPAC)

What is IUPAC?

Formed in 1919, IUPAC is a voluntary, non governmental, non profit association of organizations known as national adhering organizations.

IUPAC has four major objectives:

1. to promote continuing cooperation among the chemists of the member countries
2. to study topics of international importance to pure and applied chemistry which need regulation, standardization or codification
3. to cooperate with other international organizations which deal with topics of a chemical nature
4. to contribute to the advancement of pure and applied chemistry in all its aspects

What does IUPAC do?

- * IUPAC sponsors about 30 conferences throughout the world each year. Amongst the most successful are the CHEMRAWN conferences: CHEMical Research Applied to World Needs.
- * IUPAC is highly active in chemical education. For example it organizes workshops and sponsors symposia on chemical education and publishes the *International Newsletter on Chemical Education*.
- * Chemical industry throughout the world is closely involved in the work of IUPAC. IUPAC has links with approximately 180 Company Associates in over 20 countries.
- * IUPAC has formal links with 30 regional and international organizations - Associated Organizations - concerned with chemistry and its applications.
- * IUPAC publishes conference proceedings, definitive volumes of chemical data and compendia on nomenclature, quantities, symbols and units (the famous Green, Red, Blue and Orange Books).
- * IUPAC publishes the scientific journal *Pure and Applied Chemistry* which presents major research in all areas of chemistry and also IUPAC recommendations on nomenclature and symbols and technical reports.
- * News about IUPAC, its chemists, its affiliate membership scheme, its publications, its recommendations, its conferences and its commission and committee meetings is published regularly in the IUPAC news magazine *Chemistry International*.

Who belongs to IUPAC?

IUPAC has over 40 member countries each represented by a National Adhering Organization such as a National Scientific Academy or Chemical Society. Some 1500 chemists from these countries throughout the world are engaged in the scientific work of IUPAC on a voluntary basis.

In 1986 IUPAC launched its affiliate membership scheme in order to maximize the participation of chemists throughout the world in the affairs of IUPAC and also to disseminate information about its activities to a much wider audience. At present there are about 8000 affiliates from 90 countries. These include 700 chemists from Third World countries, many of whom are sponsored by IUPAC grants.

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