

## FECS 2003 Award for Service Presented to Leiv Sydnes

**T**he FECS—Federation of European Chemical Societies and Professional Institutions—Award for Service was presented to IUPAC President Leiv Sydnes of the Norwegian Chemical Society, in recognition of his significant contribution to European cooperation in chemistry and the public appreciation of chemistry. The Award, consisting of a medal and a scroll, was presented to Sydnes at the General Assembly of FECS member societies in Barcelona, Spain, in October 2003.

Sydnes has been instrumental in developing the educational and professional activities of FECS and in promoting the European Chemist designation. He was recognized by FECS for his contribution to the public appreciation of chemistry, especially his focus on bringing the excitement and value of chemistry to children and to society in general. Examples include the numerous public lectures he has given and the prime-time television programs he has made for the general public on chemistry-related topics. He has been involved in FECS for 10 years, serving as a member of the Executive Committee, as vice-chairman of the former European Communities Chemistry Council, and as chairman of the European Chemist Registration Board.

Sydnes has been involved with IUPAC for about 10 years. From 1992 to 1996 he served as president of the Norwegian Chemical Society. He has been professor at the University of Bergen, Norway, since 1993.



*IUPAC President Leiv Sydnes (left) receives the FECS Award from FECS President Gábor Náray-Szabó.*

Prior to that he was at the University of Tromsø. His research is currently concentrated on organic synthesis with emphasis on the application of cyclopropane chemistry and photochemistry to introduce useful structures into organic molecules.

 [www.fecs-chemistry.org](http://www.fecs-chemistry.org)

## The International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics Gains Associated Organization Status

**A**t its most recent meeting in Ottawa in August 2003, the IUPAC Council approved the application of the International Association of Chemical Thermodynamics (IACT) to become an Associated Organization. Associated Organizations are international organizations that share common goals and interests with IUPAC.

IACT was set up to pursue and expand the role of the former IUPAC Commission on Thermodynamics in maintaining the highest standards in teaching and research in this key area of chemistry, which encompasses both equilibrium and non-equilibrium studies. Thermodynamics continues to be of utmost importance as it finds application in a wide range of developing subject areas such as new materials and biosciences.

According to IACT Secretary J. H. Dymond, IACT is convinced that its Associated Organization status will be of great mutual benefit, and is looking forward to close cooperation on many fronts.

Among the objectives of the IACT, as stated in its constitution, are the following:

- advance education in thermodynamics
- encourage young scientists to work in the area of chemical thermodynamics
- advance the application of thermodynamics in science, technology, and education
- develop a better theoretical understanding of thermodynamic properties
- encourage the measurement of thermodynamic properties of pure compounds and mixtures which have industrial importance and/or are of special academic interest
- improve experimental techniques in thermodynamics
- establish standards of excellence in the conduct of thermodynamic research and in its reporting in the scientific literature