

SEDIBA Project is reaching out to over 30 000 pupils. Feedback from subject advisors and schools indicates that there has been a marked improvement in the quality of teaching from the SEDIBA teachers. The success of the project is attributed not only to commitment and dedication by both the teachers and the lecturing staff, but also to the fine spirit of cooperation between all the parties involved (that is, NASCHEM, the North West Education Department and the Potchefstroom University). It is envisaged that project SEDIBA will continue to make a considerable impact on the educational system,

elevating the levels of science and mathematics education. This will enable more young people, particularly those from previously disadvantaged communities, to qualify for careers as scientists, mathematicians and engineers. The project will be extended to the Mpumalanga Province in 1998. Fifty physical science and mathematics teachers will be involved in a teacher upgrading programme made possible by a generous grant from INGWE, a coal mining company belonging to Gencor.

News

Paul R. Beljaars Becomes President of AOAC International



Paul Raymond Beljaars began his one-year term as President of AOAC International (formerly the Association of Official Analytical Chemists) on 10 September 1997 following the business meeting at the 111th AOAC International Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, USA. Beljaars is the Association's first European President.

Dr Beljaars, an actively involved member of AOAC since the mid-1970s, is now serving his fifth year on the AOAC Board of Directors. Other activities in AOAC have included co-founding the AOAC Europe Low Lands Subsection as well as serving on the Regional Sections Committee, the International Committee, the Methods Committee on Commodity Foods and Commodity Products, the Editorial Board, the Finance Committee, the Annual Meeting Programme Committee, and the task groups on Nominations, Methods Format, and the By-laws.

When asked about his primary focus while in office, Beljaars responded 'At AOAC, we want to build a stronger international presence and work together with other international scientific organizations to create reliable analytical and microbiological methods worldwide.'

Beljaars, Head of the Chemistry Department's Food Inspection Service of the Netherlands Inspectorate for Health Protection since 1968, has been very active in methods development as the Chair of the Inspectorate's Project Group for Collaborative Studies (PCS). He has also been cofounder, author, and editor of the Dutch Journal *De Ware (N) -Chemicus* published by the Inspectorate for Health Protection.

Dr Beljaars holds a Masters Degree in Organic Chemistry and Food Chemistry from the State University of Utrecht and a Doctoral Degree in Agricultural Sciences from the Agricultural University of Wageningen, the Netherlands.

He is also active in the Netherlands Normalization Institute, the International Standardization Organization, and the European Committee for Standardization.

AOAC International update

Reorganization of the Technical Services Department

AOAC International reorganized its technical services department this year. Mr Scott Coates was appointed as Director of Technical Services in February 1997. Mr Steven Ward is now the Methods Manager, responsible for administering the AOAC® *Official Methods*SM programme. Ms Anita Mishra is the AOAC Technical Coordinator responsible for administering the *Peer-Verified Methods*SM and *Performance Tested Methods*SM programmes. Ms Arlene Fox is the AOAC Programme Coordinator responsible for the administration of the: Technical Division for Reference Material, Technical Division on Laboratory Management, AOAC® *Laboratory Proficiency Testing Programme*, and coordinating international activities.

Method validation Programme Integration

AOAC is reviewing plans to integrate its three method validation programs (*Official Methods*SM, *Peer-Verified Methods*SM and *Performance Tested Methods*SM) to make all three programmes more internally consistent. A recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Directors in September 1997 at the AOAC Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

Technical Division on Reference Materials

AOAC established the Technical Division on Reference Materials several years ago to provide a forum to discuss the needs and standards for reference and quality control materials. The Technical Division on Reference Materials has about 500 members and has jointly sponsored the Biological and Environmental Reference Materials (BERM) Symposia held in Antwerp. The next BERM meeting is planned for Baltimore, Maryland, USA in 2000.

Technical Division on Laboratory Management

AOAC established a Technical Division on Laboratory Management in 1997 to provide AOAC members a forum to discuss laboratory management issues. The Technical Division on Laboratory Management will hold an inaugural business meeting at the AOAC International Annual Meeting on September

AOAC Laboratory Proficiency Testing Programme

AOAC is developing a Laboratory Proficiency Testing Programme. Subscribing laboratories will receive test samples for analysis, reports results to AOAC, and then receive a confidential report on how well the analytical results of their laboratory compare to other laboratories.



Annual Meetings

- 111th AOAC International, Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California, USA, 7–11 September 1997.
- 112th AOAC International, The Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada 13–17 September 1998
- 113th AOAC International, Adam's Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas, USA, 26–30 September 1999
- 114th AOAC International, Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 10–14 September 2000

Official Methods of Analysis Compendium

The AOAC® Official Methods of Analysis compendium is available in both hardcopy and CD-ROM format. The 4th Revisions to the 16th edn of the AOAC* Official Methods of Analysis compendium will be available in the Spring of 1998.
IOCD

International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development

supporting chemistry in developing countries

- IOCD Working Groups link chemists in developing countries with distinguished investigators in industrial countries in **collaborative research** on topics in the areas of health, agriculture and industry.
- IOCD organizes laboratory workshops in developing countries to provide chemists hands-on instruction in research techniques.

IOCD is a non-governmental, non-profit agency chartered in Belgium.

IOCD Governance

The Executive Committee of IOCD, comprising the President, Vice-President/Treasurer, Executive Director, and the three working group chairpersons, sets overall policy and programme directions for the IOCD. Advice and assistance on specific issues is available to the Executive Committee from members of the Senior Advisory Council, a panel of distinguished scientists, three of whom are Nobel Laureates.

IOCD Officers

President (1992–1995). Dr Jean-Marie Lehn, Laboratoire de Chimie Supramoléculaire, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France.

Vice President/Treasurer. Dr Elkan R. Blout, Division of Biological Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Inquiries and requests for information about IOCD

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IOCD Senior Advisory Council

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Dr Sydney Archer, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, New York, USA.

Dr Sune Bergström, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

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Dr M. Kamel Mahmoud, National Research Center, Cairo, Egypt.

Dr Lester A. Mitscher, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas USA.

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Dr Pierre Potier, Institut de Chimie, CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

Dr C.N.R. Rao, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.

Dr Glenn T. Seaborg (IOCD President Emeritus), Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, California, USA.

Dr Christoph Tamin, Universitat Basel, Basel, Switzerland.

IOCD programme activities

IOCD was created in 1981 by a group of distinguished scientists from 15 countries meeting at UNESCO, Paris, out of a concern about the barriers that hinder the research efforts of chemists in developing countries. Scientific working groups were set up to enable chemists in developing countries to collaborate in research with distinguished investigators of industrialized countries. At present, there are four working groups in IOCD.

IOCD Working Group on Fertility Regulation

Chair: Dr Josef Fried, Chemistry Department, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Vice Chair: Dr Stephen Matlin, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, UK.

This working group is carrying out research on the chemistry and mechanism of action of new antifertility agents in the male. These agents are synthesized by chemists in developing countries, members of the working group, and then tested in a biological laboratory in the United States under the supervision of Dr M. James Cosentino.

IOCD Working Group on Tropical Diseases

Chair: Dr Fred Opperdoes, Research Unit for Tropical Diseases, International Institute of Cellular, & Molecular Pathology, Brussels, Belgium

Vice Chair: Dr Jacques Peri6, Laboratoire de Chimie Organique, Biologique, UniversM Pul Sabatier, Toulouse, France.

The Working Group on Tropical Diseases involves chemists in developing countries in synthesis of compounds that are tested as possible new chemotherapeutic agents in the treatment of tropical diseases such as malaria, filariasis, etc.

Working Group on Plant Chemistry

Chair: Dr Kurt Hostettmann, Institut de Pharmacognosie et, Phytochimie, Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Vice Chair: Dr Ermias Dagne, Chemistry Department, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, Dr Patrick Moyna, Facultad de Quimica, Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Working Group on Plant Chemistry has organized laboratory workshops on simple bioassay techniques for natural products chemists (1990, Nairobi, Kenya; 1992, Accra, Ghana; 1994, Uruguay; and 1996, Harare, Zimbabwe). In 1996, the workshop was followed by an international symposium on African Medicinal Plants. In 1997, an international symposium on Medicinal Plants from the Americas will convene in Panama).

Joint IOCD–IUPAC Working Group on Environmental Analytical Chemistry

Chair: Dr Waiter R. Benson, Bethesda, Maryland USA.

IOCD and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) formed this joint working group in 1993 to promote environmental analytical chemistry in developing countries. The group organized its first workshop in May, 1996, in Quito, Ecuador, in collaboration with an Ecuadorian non-governmental organization, Corporacion OIKOS, for 20 analytical chemists to assist them to take part in environmental monitoring.

Concerning IOCD funding....

The programme activities carried on by IOCD are funded by grants received from individual donors and agencies such as foundations, governmental organizations and the United Nations (UNESCO, WHO, etc.). IOCD operates with minimal overhead costs, primarily those for communications and limited travel of members of the Executive Committee. Contributions to IOCD are welcome, those from US citizens being tax-deductible since the IOCD affiliate, called the Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development, Inc. (OCDI), has been declared a **501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization** by the US Internal Revenue Service.

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