41st IUPAC General Assembly and 38th IUPAC Congress, 29 June–8 July 2001, Brisbane, Australia

The 41st IUPAC General Assembly took place in Brisbane, Australia from 29 June to 8 July 2001. Meetings were held at the Queensland University of Technology (Bureau, Standing Committees, and Commissions) and the Old Customs House Building (Council). The 38th IUPAC Congress was held from 1–6 July at the Brisbane Convention Centre. This year was the first time that the General Assembly and Congress were held simultaneously. The schedule of the General Assembly was arranged to allow most participants to attend the Congress. This occasion was the last General Assembly at which all of the Commissions would meet. As a result of the motion adopted at the Berlin General Assembly in 1999, all existing Commissions will terminate at the end of 2001. IUPAC's scientific work will now be carried out by Task Groups working on specific projects; these Task Groups will end with the completion of their projects.

The President's State of the Union Report, the Secretary General's column, and reports from the Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee follow this report. Reports from the Division Presidents and Chairmen of the Operating Standing Committees and the Committee on Printed and Electronic Publications can be found online at <http://www.iupac.org/news/archives/2001/41st_council/agenda.html>.

The total attendance at the General Assembly was 483, as compared to 642 in 1999 at Berlin. Of this total, 384 were members of IUPAC bodies (518 at Berlin), 45 were invited Observers (82 at Berlin), and 94 were Council delegates (100 at Berlin), 40 of whom were also members of IUPAC bodies. The effect of the distance from the bulk of the members of IUPAC's Commissions can be seen in the reduced participation in this General Assembly compared to that at Berlin.

Major actions taken at the General Assembly are described below, especially the results of the elections for IUPAC officers.

Sydnes Elected IUPAC Vice President

Dr. Leiv K. Sydnes, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Bergen, Norway, was elected Vice President (President-elect) by the Council at the General Assembly in Brisbane. Prof. Sydnes will serve two years as Vice President and will assume the Presidency in January 2004. Prof. Pieter S. Steyn (South Africa), current Vice President, will become President in January 2002.

Six Members of the Bureau were also elected by the Council. Dr. Edwin P. Przybylowicz (USA) and Prof. Gus Somsen (Netherlands) were reelected to second four-year terms. Newly elected to four-year terms were Prof. Chunli Bai (China), Prof. S. Chandrasekharan (India), Prof. Robert G. Gilbert (Australia), and Dr. Alan Smith (UK). Continuing elected members of the Bureau are Prof. Nicole J. Moreau (France), Prof. Oleg M. Nefedov (Russia), Prof. Hitoshi Ohtaki (Japan), and Prof. Gerhard Schneider (Germany). Biographical sketches of the Bureau candidates appeared in the May 2001 issue of *CI*, Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 72–79, and are online at <http://www.iupac.org./news/archives/2001/41st_council/index.html>.

In addition, six new Division Presidents joined two continuing Division Presidents as members of the Bureau. Division Presidents beginning 1 January 2002 are Prof. John Ralston (Physical and Biophysical Chemistry), Dr. Gerd M. Rosenblatt (Inorganic Chemistry), Prof. Thomas T. Tidwell (Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry), Prof. Robert T. Stepto (Macromolecular), Dr. David S. Moore (Analytical Chemistry), Prof. Werner Klein (Chemistry and the Environment), Dr. Anders Kallner (Chemistry and Human Health), and Dr. Alan D. McNaught (Systematic Nomenclature and Structure Representation).

Prof. Nefedov was elected to the Executive Committee by the Bureau at its meeting on 8 July.

New Division and Commissions Established

At the General Assembly in Brisbane, the Council approved the formation of an eighth Division of IUPAC—Systematic Nomenclature and Structure Representation. The new Division will consolidate systematic chemical nomenclature activities in organic, inorganic, and macromolecular chemistry, which were carried out by three separate Commissions, and will assume responsibility for the IUPAC–IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature. In addition, a major focus of the Division will be the increasingly important area of computer-based nomenclature and structure representation.

Responsibility for assignment of names to newly created elements remains with the Inorganic Chemistry Division, and all Divisions will continue to deal with terminology relevant to their disciplines.

Council also approved the establishment of a Commission on Physicochemical Symbols, Units, and Terminology and a Commission on Isotopic Abundances and Atomic Weights. These Commissions will continue the work of current Commissions with new and expanded responsibilities. Both were formed only after careful study by special committees, which reported to the Bureau on the desirability of continuing this work at the Commission level.

Ohtaki to Head New Membership Development Committee

An *ad hoc* Membership Development Committee [MDC] was established by the Executive Committee at the conclusion of the General Assembly. The MDC will encourage expansion in the Membership of the Union by undertaking and coordinating activities aimed at soliciting new National Adhering Organizations and Associate National Adhering Organizations.

Prof. Hitoshi Ohtaki (Japan) has been named by President Alan Hayes to chair the new committee. As a member of the IUPAC Bureau and Executive Committee, Prof. Ohtaki has been particularly concerned about potential expansion of the Union in Asia and will now coordinate aggressive efforts to develop IUPAC's global character. The other members of the Committee are Prof. Berhanu Abegaz (Botswana), Prof. Robert G. Gilbert (Australia), and Dr. John Malin (USA).

***Chemistry International* to Get New Look**

A redesigned *Chemistry International* (*CI*), the IUPAC news magazine, will appear in the coming months under a program approved by the Bureau. (See President's Report on the State of the Union, p. 133.)

President's Report on the State of the Union

This article is an abridged version of the President's State of the Union report presented by IUPAC President Dr. Alan Hayes at the 41st IUPAC Council meeting on 7–8 July 2001 in Brisbane, Australia.

Introduction

The two years since our last General Assembly have been very active for IUPAC. The approval by the Council at Berlin of the reorganization of the management of IUPAC's scientific work, changing the Union's scientific structure from one based on permanent commissions to one based on projects, has led to changes in the responsibilities of the Division Presidents and Division Committees, and the establishment and implementation of project approval and evaluation processes.

We have implemented two new programs that were also approved by Council at Berlin—the IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists and the support of conferences in developing and economically disadvantaged countries. Both programs address important needs and provide high visibility to IUPAC.

We have undertaken comprehensive reviews of the Union's activities in three important areas: systematic chemical nomenclature, chemistry education, and interaction with the chemical and pharmaceutical industry. We are now prepared to recommend organizational changes and strategies for pursuing future work in these areas.

The Union's regular activities in contributing to the language and scientific–industrial framework of chemistry continued with the publication in 2000 of 21 recommendations and reports in our official Journal, *Pure and Applied Chemistry* (*PAC*), publication of 3 books, and the publication of two special issues of *PAC*, one on the topic of "Nanostructured Materials", the other on "Green Chemistry". In dissemination of information, the bimonthly newsmagazine *Chemistry International* (*CI*) highlights current activities and general policy issues, and the informal IUPAC *e-News* provides timely updates. The IUPAC web site continues to be a major source of information for members of IUPAC bodies. It is also becoming the public face of IUPAC and is regularly accessed for information about all aspects of chemistry by scientists and students worldwide. A strategy for *CI* has been developed that will better integrate these three approaches and improve the readability of *CI*.

For the first time, IUPAC has published its *Biennial Report* using the goals of the Strategic Plan and in an attractive format. We have also recently developed an information brochure with particular emphasis on the Union's interactions with industry.

The report that follows is intended to highlight activities and actions that are important to the Union as a whole. Please see the complete text of my State of the Union Report and the individual reports of the Division Presidents and Standing Committee Chairmen, available online, for details not included in this summary.

The Strategic Plan

The IUPAC Strategic Plan, adopted initially in 1998, is intended to be reviewed biennially and revised as needed. The 2000–2001 Strategic Plan included only