

Chemistry in the Information and Communications Technology Age

On the 20th Conference on Chemical Education, 3-8 August 2008, Mauritius

Information and communications technologies are transforming chemistry education. Experience and research have demonstrated that when technologies such as computers and the Internet are available to teachers and students the following often occurs:

- students are more engaged and more motivated to learn
- time schedules for learning are more flexible
- the amount of resource materials for learning are vastly increased
- multimedia presentations enhance the learning process
- students can more easily exchange information and ideas in virtual meetings and forums
- teachers can find more opportunities to educate themselves

The Internet alone has enabled a whole new world for chemistry education. Following are just a few of the chemistry resources available through the Internet:

- online chemistry books and journals, such as the DIDAC project <<http://didac.kvcv.be/didac-eng/didac1.htm>>
- online chemical education conferences, where there is no registration fee, such as the CONFCEM <www.ched-ccce.org/confchem>
- regular, free webinars, or online lectures, about chemistry

In view of these developments, the 20th International Conference on Chemical Education (20th ICCE) will be held on the theme of "Chemistry

in the Information and Communications Technology Age." It will be held in Mauritius at Le Méridien hotel, from 3-8 August 2008. As part of the 20th ICCE, there will be an online conference one month before the main conference (no registration fee), which

will be followed by a satellite symposium in Nairobi. The conference is sponsored by IUPAC.

One of the main objectives of the conference is to encourage participants to exchange ideas and concepts about chemistry education. This is very important since many countries face the challenge of how to encourage students to study chemis-

try. Additionally, many of the worlds great challenges, including climate change, food and water shortages, and energy conservation will require chemistry expertise to solve.

The Organizing Committee is looking forward to gathering many participants for the 20th ICCE. Attendees will undoubtedly enjoy all that the island of Mauritius has to offer, especially its sun, sea, and sand. The conference Organizing Committee is comprise of president Henri Li Kam Wah, chairman Ponnadurai Ramasami, and secretaries Minu Gupta Bhowon and Sabina Jhaumeer-Laulloo.

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