

Conference Call



The G8 Science Ministers of the Carnegie Group, the sponsors of the International Green Network, meeting in Venice, 4 December 2004: From the left: Arthur Carty (Canadian Ministry for Research), Janez Potocnik (European Commission), John Marburger (Scientific Advisor USA President, OSTP), Letizia Moratti (Italian Minister for Research), Edelgard Bulmahn (German Minister for Research), David King (Chief Scientific Adviser of HM Government, UK), Andrey Fursenko (Russian Minister for Research), William Golden (Founder of the Carnegie Group), François D'Aubert (French Vice Minister for Research), and Hiroyuki Abè (Council for Science and Technology, Cabinet Office, Japan).

South America. According to Tundo, MEGREC (the Mediterranean Green Chemistry Network), which constitutes a platform for the development of research and training in green chemistry in the countries of the Mediterranean basin (with a focus on water management, exploitation of local natural resources, production and use of fertilizers, monitoring, and reducing the presence of toxic compounds in the food chain) has a crucial role to play here. Seddon (of the Queen's University of Belfast and director of QUILL) described the most recent and important truly international network, the International Green Network, founded by the G8 ministers of scientific research, which is about to start, thanks to national government funding of its activities. Mours (CEFIC) offered the industrial perspective on green chemistry, and Sydnès demonstrated how green chemistry is needed in order to address some of the major concerns affecting humanity, such as poverty, lack of resources in the developing nations, and widespread pollution. The presentations were followed by an hour-long discussion based on questions from the audience. Both science policy and research issues were addressed, as well as possible actions on how to improve the public understanding of chemistry.

Later, Quentin Cooper, a BBC radio science journalist, hosted an informal and highly entertaining summary of the day's sessions. Seddon and Poliakoff were two of the five speakers at this session. They were targeted with numerous questions from the audience, which clearly showed the high level of public interest in Green Chemistry.

At the end of the day, though, what was the answer to the question: "Is Green Chemistry a Real Option?" The answer is no, it is not an "option" as the word is defined: the power or freedom to choose. There is no freedom to choose here: Green Chemistry is a necessity, not an option, if we are to achieve a sustainable earth.

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Polymers and Organic Chemistry

by Shinichi Itsuno

The 12th International Conference on Polymers and Organic Chemistry 2006 (POC'06) attracted more than 120 participants from Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Poland, Qatar, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA, and Japan. The conference was held at the Okazaki Conference Center in Okazaki, Japan, from 2–7 July 2006. The conference, which was the 12th meeting in the series on Polymers in Organic Chemistry, was coorganized by the Toyohashi University of Technology and the Institute for Molecular Science.

During the opening session, Mitsuo Sawamoto (Kyoto University, Japan), a member of the IUPAC Polymer Division, discussed IUPAC's objectives and gave an overview of the activities of the Polymer Division.

The main topics of the conference included polymer supported reagents, polymer catalysts, poly-

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