

Report to IUPAC Council

CHEMRAWN Committee August 1997-August 1999

1. During the past two years one CHEMRAWN conference has been held and four have been under discussion or are being planned.

CHEMRAWN X: The Globalization of Chemical Education: Preparing Chemical Scientists and Engineers for Transnational Industries -- was planned for Budapest, August 2000 and then postponed when CHEMRAWN XII was moved to 2000. The conference is now being considered for 2002 following the experiment of including a chemical education component in each CHEMRAWN conference beginning with CHEMRAWN XIV.

CHEMRAWN XI : “Meeting on Environmental Chemistry; Latin American Symposium on Environmental Analytical Chemistry: was held March 15-20, 1998 in Montevideo Uruguay. There were a total of 29 Plenary and Main Conferences, 14 oral presentations and 46 posters. There were three satellite activities – the Meeting of the RAQAL (Red Análisis Químico Ambientales de América Latina), the IOCD Workshop on Environmental Analytical Techniques and the Course on Accreditation of Analytical Laboratories. The CHEMRAWN conference and the satellite activities acted synergistically and resulted in a very strong program involving 261 participants. The future Actions Committee developed five key recommendations related to communications, training, spin-off meetings, and a specific monitoring effort for the Rio de la Plata drainage basin. The conference ended with a \$3000 surplus to be applied to future actions.

CHEMRAWN XII: African Food Security and Natural Resource Management: The New Scientific Frontiers was to have been held in Nairobi Kenya June 20-27 1999. The conference was postponed to 2000 and moved to Uganda . It has now been decided due to the unrest, and lack of sufficient financial support to cancel the conference. The topic may be reconsidered at a later date.

CHEMRAWN XIII: Chemistry for Cleaner Energy, (possible venue: New Delhi or Bangalore); A formal proposal has been drafted and will be considered by the CHEMRAWN committee

CHEMRAWN XIV “Toward Environmentally Benign Processes and Products” will be held at the University of Colorado, Boulder Colorado USA June 9-13 2001. The Green Chemistry Institute is working with CHEMRAWN to develop this world conference centered on what is termed “Green” chemistry, Chemistry for Green Technology, Soft

Chemistry, Benign Chemistry, Clean Production , or Sustainable Chemistry — encompassing all aspects and types of chemical processes including synthesis, catalysis, analysis, monitoring, separations, and reaction conditions that reduce impacts on human health, energy consumption, and the environment relative to the current state of the art. This theme builds on the effort of the IUPAC Working Party on “Synthetic Pathways and Processes on Green Chemistry” promoted by the Physical Organic Division (III.2), which was founded in 1997 in Geneva. The organizing committee efforts are well underway and other committees (finance, future actions, and program) are being formed. This conference will have an educational component, designed to serve as an example of how educational issues can be included in the majority of future CHEMRAWN conferences.

Note: Research efforts are still underway as part of future actions from CHEMRAWN VII “The Chemistry of the Atmosphere: Its Impact of Global Change” (1991, Baltimore Maryland, USA)

2. The CHEMRAWN Committee continues to deal with three issues:

a) Funding:

Using the current format and objectives, CHEMRAWN conferences are expensive endeavors. Most participants do not have the funds to allow reasonable registration fees; in fact most must be supported in their travel to the meeting and lodging and meals at the meeting. CHEMRAWN conference topics can now be determined more by the interest of funding groups rather than by the importance of the topic itself. IUPAC does not fund the conferences themselves and funds from chemical companies, UN agencies, and NGO's are becoming much more difficult to secure. This places a heavy burden on those organizing the conference.

How can conferences be held in a much more inexpensive manner?
Are there different types of conferences that can be held; can conferences be held in conjunction with other conferences?

b) Conference format:

In today's electronic world, can the objectives of the CHEMRAWN committee be accomplished partly by some "on-line" interactions. Are there ways in which key issues on a topic can be developed and recommendations made by an interdisciplinary community?

c) Follow-up actions (Future Actions)

For most CHEMRAWN conferences the recommendations by the "Future Actions Committee" are published and circulated broadly. Some of the recommendations may be implemented, but resources (time of individuals and money) are most often not

available to see that a number of recommendations are carried out and that recommended programs are launched by those involved in the CHEMRAWN conference.

How can we build into the conference expenses (and staffing) a commitment to fund some "future actions"? Are there ways to build additional partnerships to see that certain actions are indeed carried out?

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