

Royal Society of Chemistry

Educational Techniques Group Trust

Minutes of the Meeting held at Nottingham on Wednesday 7th.November 2007

- 1) Present: A.J.Rest (Chairman), R.Wallace, D.Brattan, P.E.Curry (Secretary)

Apologies: R.Murray.

- 2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th.December 2006 were approved.

Matters Arising. The Chairman reported that he had omitted to raise the Re-Election of Committee Members with the RSC (Item 9). **Action AJR.**

- 3) Chairman's Report

The Chairman tabled the Report of the RSC AGM in July 2007. An item of special interest was that "The RSC would soon be launching a major initiative through a new Pan Africa Chemistry Network" (see below)

Although there have been difficulties, the Cyber School Malaysian project is progressing satisfactorily, albeit slowly. The Chairman expects to go to Malaysia at the beginning of January 2008 for the official Launch of the project.

A technique for teaching "hands-on" Chemistry to pupils who have poor laboratory facilities has shown promise. The technique uses plastic bags and chemicals from local supermarkets, e.g. vinegar, baking powder etc. The technique originated in California and was developed by Prof Jodye Selco. It has undergone successful field trials in Kenya, Zambia and Uganda in September/October 2007.

A re-launch of the ETGT/CVC/RSC CD-ROMS will be made before Christmas via a new web site (<http://www.focusbiz.co.uk/chemistry/>). The site will provide access to some clips with voiceovers in English, American and French.

The RSC is bringing forward several new projects for Africa and developing countries. These projects, including "HUB" centres the first of which will be at Nairobi, will be coordinated by a new member of RSC staff, Dr. Alejandra Palermo.

A press release about the new RSC Pan Africa Chemistry Network (<http://www.rsc.org/pacn>) will be made on 21st November 2007.

The Chairman will be attending the RSC General Assembly at Birmingham on 15th/16th November 2007. It is hoped that there will be opportunities to discuss

ETGT Committee Membership, projects for developing countries, and the issue of Membership Fees for needy colleagues in developing countries.

There had been NO RESPONSE to an article about ETGT in RSC News. It had been hoped that new Members would have come forward to serve on the Committee

- 4) The Secretary will obtain a membership number from the RSC. [Data presented to the Discussion Panel on "Interest Groups" at the RSC General Assembly showed that the total for 2007 was 249 compared with 260 for 2006. It appears that numbers are declining.]

- 5) Treasurers Report.

A Treasurer's Report to ETGT and an end-of-year Audit and set of accounts for the RSC will be sought from the Treasurer.

It was agreed to transfer £3000 from ETGT funds, to an ETGT/RSC account at Southampton University (Chemistry Video Consortium) to enable innovative projects to be supported.

It was agreed to use some of these funds to revamp the ETGT web pages .

Richard Brattan will be asked if he can do this and to invoice ETGT/RSC Account at Southampton.

- 6) Newsletter/Web Site

It was felt that it was too expensive to send out the FLASH Newsletter (see Item 6 for 2006) and so it was not sent. Future communications with Members will rely on e-mails and the re-vamped web site (see above).

- 7) Other Projects.

It was agreed that the work of the ETGT should continue to be presented at forthcoming conferences. For example, at the ICCE Conference in Mauritius in May 2008, the 3rd International Conference on ITC for Development, Education and Training in Accra, Ghana in May 2008, the 9th ECRICE Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in July 2008 and the European Variety in Chemistry Conference in Dublin in 2009.

The Secretary will ask the RSC to distribute the magazine "Education in Chemistry" to the ETGT Committee.

- 8) Date of next meeting : July 2008 at Nottingham.