

Minutes of the Meeting of FASC and Societies from Arab Countries with the IUPAC President

Venue: Faculty of Science, Cairo University – Dean's Office

Date: January 04, 2009

Call to Order: 18:00 hrs by Prof. Jung-II Jin, IUPAC President

Rapporteurs: FASC (Dr. Temechegn Engida, Dr. Yonas Chebude, Dr. Ahmed Mustefa)

Prof. Dr Ahmed Galal, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Cairo University, welcomed all participants and gave a brief introduction of the Faculty of Science, Cairo University. In his briefing he outlined the organizational structure of the Faculty, which consists of 28 faculty /members (three vice deans, ten department heads, ten most senior staff of the Faculty, three members chosen by the Dean, the Dean and the rapporteur). He also indicated that the Faculty Council convenes once in a month.

Following the briefing, each participant introduced herself/himself.

Prof. Jin, President of IUPAC gave a brief introduction about IUPAC and noted that at present the organization has 75 regular and associate members. He also stressed that IUPAC is targeting to increase the number of its members to 100 by 2019, which will be the hundredth anniversary of IUPAC. He therefore urged all attending participants to exert all efforts towards achieving this goal. In this regard he pointed out the importance of recruiting more members from Africa and the Arab states.

The President expressed his concern that public image of chemistry is on decline and the global problems are becoming more pressing. He further noted that chemistry, being a creative science, could provide some of the solution to global problems.

Referring to the proclamation of the year 2011 as the “International Year of Chemistry (IYC)”, the President informed participants that the UN General Assembly approved the request to declare the year 2011 as the year of chemistry submitted by the Ethiopian Government. He noted IUPAC selected Ethiopia, which also hosts FASC, to submit the request to the UN General Assembly, first by presenting the request to the UNESCO Executive Board.

Prof. Jin outlined that IUPAC currently trying to amend its status and bylaws.

Replying to questions raised from the audience regarding annual subscription fees of member societies, he explained that the rate is determined by a country’s annual chemical output and the minimum membership fee is currently USD 1000 per year. In this regard, he pointed out that FASC could become associate member of IUPAC.

Regarding sponsorship of conferences organized by regular members he underlined that IUPAC does sponsor conferences with the aim of ensuring the quality of conference. Furthermore, he noted that regular members can apply for financial support for conferences of up to 5000 USD. He also pointed out that economically disadvantaged member countries are encouraged to apply for at least one year before schedule date of the conference.

The Committee for Chemical Education (CCE) of IUPAC provides some funding within its scheme of “flying chemists”.

Finally, the President said that member countries can establish task forces on tackling major local and global problems such as energy, water, etc. and submit short proposals (of up to 3 pages) and can apply for projects.

Meeting adjourned at 19:30 hrs.