

Division IV: Polymer Division

The objective of this report is to summarize activities of Division IV since Aug. 2005 (General Assembly in Beijing) to Sept. 2006 for the Bureau Meeting, Oct. 7-8, 2006, Madrid, Spain

Change of the Division Name

There were a series of discussion in the division during the past decade on the need of change of Division's name to reflect the broadened scope that polymer scientists are dealing with nowadays. And in the Division Committee Meeting held during the Beijing General Assembly, it was unanimously agreed the earlier division's name (Macromolecular Division) be changed to Polymer Division.

Off-Year Division Committee Meeting

The Off-Year Division Committee Meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, 15-16 July, 2006. In total 26 members (7 TMs, 4 AMs, 2 NRs, 12 Subcommittee Members and 1 Observer) attended the meeting and the minutes will be on the web in due course.

Formation of New Subcommittees

In addition to the existing four subcommittees (on Polymer Terminology, Structure and Polymers of Commercial Polymers, Modelling of Polymerization Kinetics and Processes, and Developing Polymer Materials), two new subcommittees on Polymer Education (Chairman: J. -P. Vairon, Secretary: G. Froyer) and Molecular Characterization (T. Chang and H. Pasch: Cochairman) were formed and have become active.

Reports on each Subcommittees' activities especially in relation to projects and subcommittee meetings can be found in the Division Meeting minutes.

World Polymer Congress – MACRO 2006

The 41st World Polymer Congress (MACRO 2006, Organizer: Prof. Ailton de Souza Gomes) was very successfully held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 16-21 July 2006. There were more than 1200 participants from 50 different countries. About 10 parallel sessions were held simultaneously. The report on MACRO 2006 will appear in the next January issue of Chemistry International. WPC being held biannually is the very largest polymer congress in the world sponsored by Div. IV and the next one is going to be held in Taipei, Taiwan, 29 June – 4 July, 2008.

Projects

A list of the current projects is compiled by the Secretariat in Item 20 of the present bureau meeting agenda book. Div. IV is one of most active division in attracting and handling IUPAC projects. This division also is actively involved in the interdivisional projects especially with Div. VIII and Div. II (Interdivisional Subcommittee on Materials Chemistry). In the past year a half-dozen projects were granted extension due to the necessity of expansion or major modification of the original projects. Extension applications, however, were thoroughly discussed in the Subcommittee and also in the Division meeting for their justification. Presently, 13 projects with 2005- and 2006-numbers are proceeding. The Chairmen of each Subcommittees are closely monitoring the relevant project including the progress reports from the Task Force Leaders.

Conferences

In the Bureau Meeting agenda book, Item 23.3: Ratification of Sponsorship of Symposia lists the conferences sponsored by Div. IV. In the last and this years, 14 sponsored conferences were or are scheduled. This includes the WPC 2006 separately mentioned above. In addition, three conferences to be held in 2007 have already been granted the IUPAC sponsorship. WPC 2008 and 2010 are to be held in Taipei (Taiwan) and Glasgow (U. K.), respectively.

Division Election in 2007 (Torino, Italy)

It was known that 4 TMs (including Division Secretary), 6 AMs and 10 NRs have to be elected by the next GA. Christopher K. Ober (Division Vice President) was nominated to be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. It was agreed that geographic consideration will be honoured in the selection of the other four Nominating Committee

members.

Samsung-IUPAC Young Polymer Scientists Award

Prof. Greg. Tew of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, U. S. A., was awarded the award during WPC 2006, Rio de Janeiro, for his excellent contribution in bridging research area between Polymer Science and Biology. This was the 2nd award after the first one given in 2004 to Prof. Timothy Deming of the University of California, Santa Barbara, U. S. A..

Points of Concern

1. There were strong arguments against the Bureau's rule of maximal ten NRs. There was the general view that there should be no limitation for the number of NRs of a Division. Each Division should be free to accept a NR from an adhering National organization as long as there is no corresponding TM or AM in the Division. It was unanimously proposed to go for a resolution during the Bureau meeting in October 2006 to cancel this limiting condition.

2. Presently, the status of the IUPAC Fellow is given to the retired Former Division members. It, however, was brought out during the Division meeting that the Division should be given opportunity to recommend scientists for the Fellow status who have made significant contributions to various division activities.

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