



IUPAC

ADVANCING WORLDWIDE CHEMISTRY

*International Union of
Pure and Applied Chemistry*

President:

Prof. Bryan R. Henry
University of Guelph
Department of Chemistry
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1
Canada

Phone: +1 519 824 4120 ext. 53804

Fax: +1 519 766 1499

E-mail: chmhenry@uoguelph.ca

IUPAC Secretariat:

Mail PO Box 13757
RTP, NC 27709-3757 USA
Location 104 T. W. Alexander Drive, Building 19
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 USA
Phone +1 (919) 485 8700
Fax: +1 (919) 485 8706
E-mail secretariat@iupac.org
URL <http://www.iupac.org>

October 3, 2007

TO: National Adhering Organizations
Associate National Adhering Organizations
Presidents of National Chemical Societies
Associated Organizations
Participants at the World Chemistry Leadership Meeting
IUPAC Council Delegates

FROM: Prof. Bryan R. Henry

International Year of Chemistry
Designation – An Update

IUPAC would like to thank you for your invaluable assistance to date in working toward designation of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry. In this letter we give a brief update on our progress and request your continued support in the processes to have this designation supported by UNESCO and ultimately the United Nations.

Update:

- In response to our request of August 24, 2007, many affiliated organizations have reported back that they have contacted their UNESCO national commissions in their home countries and UNESCO permanent representatives in Paris. Thank you very much for your timely intervention.
- We are most pleased to report that the Ethiopian Chemical Society, one of the newest members of the IUPAC family, has agreed to work with the Federation of African Chemical Societies to bring a resolution forward to UNESCO through the Ethiopian member state.
- Following an assessment of the process and progress to date, we have adjusted the timing for bringing this forward to UNESCO. Given the very short time interval between approval at the IUPAC General Assembly in Torino and the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, we have been advised that this resolution should be brought forward to the Executive Board of UNESCO at their April 2008 meeting, rather than for the General Conference in October 2007.

- This revised timing has several advantages. First, the resolution can now be addressed initially by the UNESCO Executive Board; support at that level will be important when this comes to the next UNESCO General Conference in October 2009. Second, this will also give each of you the opportunity to follow up with both your UNESCO national commissions and your permanent representatives to confirm their response to your requests for support. We have learned that more time and personal follow-up may be needed in some countries for this process to occur.

Next steps

- It will be crucial to maintain the momentum that has been built so far. Please provide an appropriate update to your contacts at the national level and determine whether your member state will support this resolution at the April 2008 Executive Board and 2009 General Conference. We would appreciate your informing the IUPAC Secretariat of the outcome, so we can carefully track the support that has been committed.
- We see the 2011 International Year designation as a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on creating awareness and understanding of the role chemistry plays in all of our lives. The year will serve as a focal point for activities by national adhering organizations, national chemical societies, the formal and informal education sector, chemical industry, and non-governmental organizations. So, concurrently with working on obtaining the designation, we have begun the process of outlining more detailed objectives for the International Year and possible approaches for coordination of some activities among the various stakeholders. We need your ideas. Please send them to John Malin (jmalin023@comcast.net) and Peter Mahaffy (peter.mahaffy@kingsu.ca).

Once again, thank you very much for your assistance to date.



cc: IUPAC Bureau
Prof. P. G. Mahaffy
Dr. J. M. Malin