

Safety Training Program e-learning

The IUPAC Safety Training Program (STP), a global project from the Committee on Chemistry and Industry (COCI), has contributed to Global Chemical Safety for over 20 years. Until now, two main modalities of STP were developed, both face-to-face: STP Fellowship Program and STP Latin America (STP-LA). The scope of both modalities is necessary limited regarding the number of trainees and involves relatively high costs (travels, lodging and meals).

In the last years, it was very difficult get companies willing to host and get partners to financial support for STP Fellowship Program. Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, this situation does not seem likely to improve. In this context, STP e-learning arises, as alternative of the face-to-face modalities, but with the same spirit and objectives of original STP.

The objective of STP e-learning is revitalize the STP as a whole, broadening the scope regarding the number and countries of origin of the trainees. The STP-learning has four partners: COCI, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemicals Weapons (OPCW), Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay (ASIQUUR) and Foreign Affairs Ministry of Uruguay.

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Green Chemistry in Sub-Saharan Africa

Twenty years ago, when the book Green Chemistry in Africa (IUPAC project 2002-018-1-300) was prepared, green chemistry was just starting in Africa. Now, it has taken off in a number of institutions and countries, it is generally expanding, and sustainability issues are given increasing attention also at policy-making level. The collaborative book titled "Green Chemistry in Sub-Saharan Africa—growth, challenges and perspectives" is the result of this new project. It is meant to offer a panoramic overview of current achievements, recognized challenges and envisaged near-future developments of green chemistry in Sub-Saharan Africa. The information provided by the overview is expected to be useful for anybody engaged in the promotion of green chemistry, both in Africa and beyond, and to favor the recognition of shared interests in view of collaborations and networking aimed at capacity building strengthening.

Another recently-published IUPAC-endorsed book had also focused on Sub-Saharan Africa (L. Mammino, Biomass Burning in Sub-Saharan Africa: Chemical Issues and Action Outreach, IUPAC project 2007-025-1-300), initiating a tradition of projects concerning green chemistry and sustainability with specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Categorizing Interactions Involving Group 11 Elements

The recent focus on supramolecular/nanostructured systems drew major attention on chemical interactions and prompted a flurry of terms indicating specific interaction subclasses. This is particularly true for interactions involving group 11 elements. Group 11 elements afford a wide diversity of chemical interactions which differ for the preferentially involved moieties, the geometric/energetic features, the nature of prevailing attractive forces, etc. Numerous terms are available in the chemical literature to designate specific subclasses of these interactions. For instance, the so-named aurophilic and argentophilic interactions are typically homonuclear short contacts wherein relativistic effects play an important role while coinage (or regium) bonds can be characterized as heteronuclear short contacts wherein the group 11 element is the electrophile. Inconsistent use of these and related terms sometimes occurs, as it is often the case when several terms are employed by different communities to designate phenomena involving analogous moieties.

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Recommendations for terms relating to materials characterization: Latin and other introduced terms

Confused about Latin terms in materials characterisation? Having trouble understanding what the conditions of the sample for a reported characterisation were?

This project has the objective to clarify, as well as resolve discrepancies and conflict, regarding Latin terms