

the Executive Committee and the General Assembly agreed to appoint Dr. R. Battaglia, New Swiss Chemical Society, to serve initially for one year as President Elect with the effect from the end of the General Assembly and succeed Professor Niinisto as President in September 1999. (See below for a biographical sketch of Dr. Battaglia.)

Composition of the Executive Committee

The President informed the General Assembly that there were four vacancies for individuals to serve on the Executive Committee for three years from September 1998. He stressed that elected members of the Executive Committee serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of a member society. The General Assembly accepted the recommendation from the Executive Committee that Dr. R. Darms, Professor S. Gultekin, Professor V. Simanek, and Professor A. Zamojski be elected to the Executive Committee.

Membership of the Federation

The General Assembly received the circulated application and accepted the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the Lithuanian Chemical Society become a member of FECS.

Relations with Other Bodies

American Chemical Society

Dr. Walter, President of the American Chemical Society, gave a presentation on international links and the increasing interdependency of national chemical societies. He believed that the promotion of global co-operation was a vital role for chemical societies.

He outlined his proposal that there should be a 'C7' group of the major national chemical societies, including the GDCh, the RSC, and the Chemical Society of Japan, having special responsibilities since they were better equipped in terms of wealth and knowledge. He proposed that an agenda for such action be discussed in Berlin in August 1999.

The President questioned the need for another new organisation in the form of an 'exclusive club', bearing in mind the plans for increased IUPAC activity. Dr. Walter responded by explaining that he saw it not as another organisation but as an opportunity for a group with common interests to compare what they do and see what they could do jointly. He referred to the fact that IUPAC member organisations were often the national academy rather than the national chemical society.

The President referred to the existence of the International Council for Chemistry, and Dr. Hayes explained that it was a IUPAC/UNESCO collaborative activity promoting links with developing countries.

During discussion of recruitment, Dr. Walter reported that the ACS membership campaign had hitherto been confined to the United States. He acknowledged that extending it to countries in Europe could be perceived as competing with national societies and said he would welcome suggestions on how action could be taken without endangering existing good relationships. It was suggested that reduced fees for members of European societies could be an option.

The President thanked the President of the American Chemical Society for his presentation and participation in the General Assembly meeting.

General Assembly

Dr. Herve presented the invitation from the Association of Finnish Chemical Societies to hold the 1999 General Assembly meeting in Finland and this was unanimously accepted. She confirmed that the General Assembly would be held on 16–17 September 1999 in Helsinki.

Appointment of New President Elect of FECS

At its recent General Assembly, FECS appointed Dr. Reto Battaglia, of the New Swiss Chemical Society, as its President Elect. Reto Battaglia will serve one year as President Elect before succeeding Professor Lauri Niinisto as President of FECS after the 1999 General Assembly in Helsinki on 16–17 September 1999.

Reto Battaglia has been involved in the work of the Federation since 1981, having been a member of and, since 1995, Chairman, of the Division of Food Chemistry. He has been President of the Swiss Society of Food and Environmental Chemistry and has been active in the IUPAC Commission on Food Chemistry.

Following his doctoral studies at ETH Zurich, Reto Battaglia was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Manchester (UK) in organic synthetic chemistry. In 1973 he joined the Cantonal laboratory of Zurich, later becoming deputy head. Since 1989 he has been Director of Migros Laboratories, Zurich.

FECS Award for Service

FECS has decided to give its 1998 Award for Service to Dr. Johannes van Spronsen of the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society, The Hague, The Netherlands.

The FECS Award, consisting of a medal and a scroll, was given to Dr. van Spronsen in recognition of his services to FECS and for his outstanding work as a historian of chemistry.

Dr. van Spronsen is the present Secretary and former Chairman of the Working Party on the History of Chemistry of the FECS. Dr. van Spronsen has edited

for the FECS the *Guide to European Chemical Museums and Exhibitions* (3rd edition in 1998) and in addition has authored other books on the history of chemistry. His earlier international medals and awards include the Gillis Prize of the Royal Flemish Academy, Dexter Award of the American Chemical Society, and, more recently, the Liebig-Wohler Friendship Prize.

New Officers of the Kuwait Chemical Society

At the Kuwait Chemical Society General Assembly held on 7 October 1998, the following office-bearers were elected:

President: Dr. Abdulaziz Alnajjar
Vice President: Mr. Adnan Alshalfan
Secretary General: Mr. Marzooq Al-Shemmari
Treasurer: Mr. Mohammed Alqallaf
Executive Committee: Mrs. Samirah Al-Houli, Dr. Ahmed Karimi, Ms. Khalidah Aldalama, Dr. Ali Saleh Al-Omair, and Mr. Majed Al-Asfoor

New Officers of the Bangladesh Chemical Society

The 21st Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Chemical Society was held 22–24 October 1998 at Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, BCCI Auditorium, Dhaka. Sheikh Hasina, the Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was present as the Chief Guest in the inaugural session. The theme for the symposium of this conference was "The Impact of Free Market

Economy on the Industrialization of Bangladesh." More than 500 chemists from different universities, industries, research organizations, and educational institutions attended the conference.

Researchers from different organizations presented their papers in six technical sessions, all of which were well attended.

An Executive Committee consisting of 22 members was elected for two-year terms, which assumed office from 2 November 1998.

Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Chemical Society

President: Professor S. Z. Haider
Vice-President: Mr. A. S. Salah Uddin Ahmed and Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman
Treasurer: Dr. Akhtar Uddin Ahmed
General Secretary: Professor Jasim Uddin Ahmad
Joint Secretary: Dr. Tofail Ahmad Chowdhury & Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam
Publicity Secretary: Mr. Md. Masuder Rahman
Organizing Secretary: Mr. Md. Sanowar Hossain Mondal
Social Welfare Secretary: Capt. (Retd.) A. B. M. Nowsher Alam

Members: Mr. Abu Hayder Ahmed Naser, Dr. Mobarak Ali Akand, D. M. Ali Hossain, D. Md. Mominul Huque, Mr. Kazi Saidul Haque, Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz Mollah, Mr. Md. Abdus Samad, Mr. Md. Ashraf Hossain, Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Prof. A. M. Shafiqul Alam, Prof. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, Prof. (Mrs.) Tajmeri S. A. Islam.

Reports from IUPAC-Sponsored Symposia

The OECD Workshop on Sustainable Chemistry

Introduction

The Workshop on Sustainable Chemistry (hosted by the Interuniversity Consortium *Chemistry for the Environment*) was held at Fondazione Cini (Venice, Italy) from 15–17 October 1998. This international event was co-sponsored by the governments of Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States in cooperation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC). Also participating in the organization of the workshop were the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and the Interuniversity Consortium *Chemistry for the Environment*.

Joe Carra (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and Pietro Tundo (Interuniversity Consortium *Chemistry for the Environment*) co-chaired the workshop. Seventy-five experts attended, representing 16 member countries, the European Commission, industry, and nongovernmental organizations.

Within the broad framework of sustainable development, we should strive to maximize resource efficiency through activities such as energy and nonrenewable resource conservation, risk minimization, pollution prevention, minimization of waste at all stages of a product's life cycle, and the development of products that are durable and can be reused and recycled. Sustainable chemistry strives to accomplish these ends through the design, manufacture, and use of efficient and effective, more environmentally benign chemical products and processes.