

government science policy. The building of a critical mass of scientific activity and the spreading of the message that chemistry is important for development are crucial. However, while IUPAC's strategic plan (1998) includes the goal of representing the interests of chemistry in governmental and nongovernmental forums, IUPAC will not undertake projects involving local governmental policy development. IUPAC can contribute to the representation of the interests of the chemical community of Africa in governmental forums organized through AAPAC–IUPAC collaboration.

10) *Electronic communications*. The revolution in electronic scientific communications must be brought to Africa by initially setting up a personal computer network, maintaining its infrastructure, making databases available, and organizing training programs to help users.

### A Plan for Liaison Between IUPAC and AAPAC

AAPAC and IUPAC together will address regional problems in Africa by developing an electronic communications network, publishing an electronic *African Journal of Chemistry*, instituting environmental workshops and programs for sustainable development,

planning for education at all levels, and helping develop the research infrastructure. A jointly sponsored forum will be established to address the chemistry–government interface in Africa.

AAPAC will provide a bridge between the national chemical societies of Africa and IUPAC. It may be possible for AAPAC to join IUPAC as an Associate Organization, similar to the IUPAC relationship with the Federation of European Chemical Societies. Increased membership in IUPAC by individual African countries, first as observers and later as full members, will be encouraged.

Dr. Jortner proposed that the first IUPAC–AAPAC collaborative project should be to plan an electronic communications scientific highway for Africa. AAPAC is invited to propose the second joint program.

The organizers thanked all present for their participation. In closing, a note of urgency was added by a participant using an African analogy to emphasize the need for immediate action by African scientists and the worldwide scientific community. “It doesn't matter in Africa”, he said, “whether you are a lion or a gazelle. When morning comes, you'd better start running.”

**J. M. Malin**

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## News from IUPAC

### Project Submission and Approval Process

As was reported in the November 1998 issue of *Chemistry International*, the Bureau, at its recent meeting in Frankfurt, approved a uniform system for the submission and approval of projects for funding by IUPAC. During the period of transition from the current commission-based operation to a project-based operation (1999–2001), funding of the Union's scientific work will be both by the current method of funding Commissions and by the new system of funding projects. Which method is used will depend on the situation and the judgement of the Division Committee. This article describes the procedure to be used to submit a project for funding and the approval process that will be followed. The fundamental steps in the procedure will be described in the form of questions and answers.

#### Who can submit a project?

Anyone or any group may submit a project, whether or not they are currently members of an IUPAC body. To assist those who are not familiar with the current

projects of the Union, a complete listing has been posted on the Union's web site, <http://www.iupac.org>.

#### What does a project submission consist of?

A sample Project Submission Form is shown on page 9. Instructions for completion of this form are given below the form. Please note that the form shown is an outline. It is expected that most submissions will be made electronically. The electronic version of the form will be available on the IUPAC web site. Printed forms will be available on request from the Secretariat. The form has been made quite concise, and we expect that supporting material will be included as necessary.

#### Where should the project submission forms be sent?

All forms and supporting material should be sent to the IUPAC Secretariat at the following e-mail address: [secretariat@iupac.org](mailto:secretariat@iupac.org) or by mail to: P.O. Box 13757, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA 27709-3757 or by fax to: +1 919 485 8706.