

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

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 or by mail to: P.O. Box 13757, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA 27709-3757 or by fax to: +1 919 485 8706.

Sample Project Submission Form

Date			
Name of person submitting this form			
Address (if not currently a member of IUPAC)			
Project Title			
Relevant IUPAC Body (please tick box/boxes)	Physical Inorganic Organic Macromolecular Analytical Environmental Human Health Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Weapons Destruction <input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology <input type="checkbox"/> CHEMRAWN <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry and Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Printed and Electronic Publication <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching of Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Biochemical Nomenclature <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Task Group Chairman (if known)			
Committed Members of Task Group (if known)			
Objective			
Category (please tick box/boxes)	Nomenclature Classification Critical Data Compilations None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/> Standardization of Methods <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Conferences <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Description			
Goals & Strategic Thrusts			
Budget Travel Administrative			
External Funding			
Time Frame Planned Start Date Duration of Project			
Milestones			
Outcome			
Dissemination Plan			
Anticipated Impact			
Suggested Referees			
Some suggested criteria for retrospective evaluation			

Who will evaluate projects?

Each Division Committee and Standing Committee will evaluate projects relevant to its area of interest. Interdivisional projects will be evaluated by all Division Committees or Standing Committees judged to be relevant. If an interdivisional project is approved by the Division Committees, it will then be evaluated for funding by the Project Committee of the Bureau.

What will the evaluation process consist of?

After a proposal for a project is received by the Secretariat, it will be sent to the appropriate Division or Standing Committee(s). After a brief initial review for relevance, the Committee will instruct the Secretariat to distribute the project material to at least three outside referees. When the referees' reports are received by the Secretariat, they will be sent (anonymously) to the project submitter for comment. The referees' reports and the comments from the submitter will then be returned to the Division or Standing Committee for action. Projects approved by a Division Committee will usually be funded from the Division budget. However, projects that are interdivisional in subject matter, or that require additional resources, will be referred to the Project Committee of the Bureau for final decision.

How much time will be needed for this evaluation process?

In general, we estimate that this process should be completed in four months. In some instances, where referees' reports are received promptly, the time may be appreciably shorter. In other cases, where questions arise or funds are not immediately available, approval and funding may take longer.

When can projects be submitted?

Projects can be submitted at any time. It is expected that in the future the project evaluation process will occur continuously, with no set time for submission of projects. Funds will be available as soon as a funding decision has been made. This year, most of the Division Committees plan to make their funding decisions at the General Assembly. In order to allow sufficient time for the process, we urge you to submit your project material as soon as possible—at least 3–4 months before the General Assembly.

How long should a project take?

Projects should be for whatever period is necessary to complete the objectives of the project. Few projects will probably be for less than 12 months and few should be longer than 3 years. There is no need to fit the time

frame of a project into the biennial period defined by IUPAC General Assemblies.

Who can work on a project?

The project leader can choose the Task Group for the project. These need not be scientists who are currently members of an IUPAC body.

What is the amount of funding available for a project?

While there is no limit to the size of a project, it is expected that most projects will be funded for less than USD 5 000.

What can project funds be used for?

Project funds can be used for travel, administrative costs such as word processing, printing, programming, or any other expenses necessary for completion of the objectives of the project. It is not expected that IUPAC will fund projects that call for significant laboratory research to be paid for by project funds.

Other Information

Division officers will be sending out information to Commission officers regarding procedures specific to each Division. Please feel free to contact your Division officers or the Secretariat if you have any questions.

Project Submission Form

Anyone or any group can submit a project, whether or not they are currently members of an IUPAC body. Projects can be submitted at any time. See the additional *Guidelines for Completion of the Project Submission Form* and the FAQs on *Project Submission and Approval Process* for detail information; also available on the Union's web site at <http://www.iupac.org/projects>.

The form should be completed with a word processor and returned to the IUPAC Secretariat, preferably as an e-mail attachment at secretariat@iupac.org.

Guidelines for Completion of Project Submission Form

Introduction

IUPAC has long been recognized as the world authority on chemical nomenclature, terminology, standardized methods for measurement, atomic weights and many other critically evaluated data. Projects sponsored by IUPAC should address one of the goals listed