

IUPAC in Glasgow, Scotland

Division Roundups

A substantial amount of the General Assembly in Glasgow was devoted to division and standing committee meetings, each of which spanned two days. Following are brief accounts of some of these meetings (part two will appear in the next issue). Prior to the GA, all divisions and standing committees provided a written report that is part of the *Council Agenda* book available online <www.iupac.org/symposia/conferences/ga09/>.

Division I: Physical and Biophysical Chemistry

by Michel J. Rossi, division president

The Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division has 24 projects running, 8 nearing completion or recently completed, and 7 on-going interdivisional.

The Green Book remains a focal point of the division. The third edition, resulting from the activities of the Subcommittee on Symbols, Terminology and Units in Physical Chemistry, was published just in time for the GA in Torino (August 2007) and was met with great acclaim, with 782 copies sold as of April 2009. Building on this success, Division I

supported two follow-on projects: the underwriting of a student edition of the Green Book and the preparation of the translation of the Green Book into six languages (German, French, Italian, Turkish, Japanese, Portuguese).

One of the core activities of the division, and of IUPAC for that matter, is the creation and maintenance of physical and biophysical databases that are critically evaluated. Recent examples include atmospheric chemistry, ionic liquids, spectroscopic transitions of water vapor, free radical reduction/oxidation potentials in solution, annotated phase diagrams, combustion kinetics. As an increasing

number of these databases will end up on the web, IUPAC must consider policies for the maintenance and upgrade of such websites. It was suggested that large science organizations such as the U.S. National Science Foundation could be solicited for help in cases where data were of unusual utility to the science community.

For the foreseeable future, Division I may tackle energy-related questions and, in fact, already has made inroads into this technologically important field. Several aspects were felt to lie within the expertise of Division I: energy storage, hydrogen economy, materials chemistry and corrosion issues, and alternative fuels and biofuels. Some of the topics will be pursued in collaboration with Divisions III and VI.

Pierangelo Metrangolo made a presentation on the emerging field of halogen bonding, which resulted in an IUPAC proposal. Other promising projects may come from biophysical chemistry and materials chemistry.

Visits by members of other divisions triggered the interest of pursuing traceability work in experimental science for environmental measurements where long-time series and comparisons between instruments on a global scale are an issue. It behooves IUPAC to keep a close eye on the reported global watch of physical observables made in conjunction with climate change and the related problem of instrument comparability.

Division members held a wide-ranging brainstorming session on how to contribute to the International Year of Chemistry in 2011.



Michel J. Rossi.

Division VI: Chemistry and the Environment

by Willie Peijnenburg, division secretary

As usual during GAs, the Division on Chemistry and the Environment met to review the progress of projects that are being supervised by the division, liaison with other divisions, meet with standing committees, discuss proposals for new projects, and to initiate ideas for future proposals. An important topic