

From the Chairman of CTC

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The Committee on Teaching of Chemistry, is an operational standing committee of IUPAC, charged

(i) to advise the President and the Executive Committee on educational matters,
(ii) to coordinate the educational interests and activities of all IUPAC bodies,
(iii) to act as an informational and coordinating body for chemical education activities throughout the world and to establish a system of National Representatives as a channel of communication; and to develop liaison with international organizations such as UNESCO and with national chemical societies or chemical education committees.

This charge is addressed by a committee of 8 Titular Members, including a Chairman and Secretary, 7 Divisional Members and 17 National Representatives. Much of this has been done by programmes, led by 2 or 3 of its members.

A couple of years ago, IUPAC published a Strategic Plan in which a number of long - range goals were identified. One of them is pertinent to CTC:

IUPAC will utilize its global perspective to contribute towards the enhancement of education in chemistry and to advance the public understanding of chemistry and the scientific method.

As a consequence, in 1999, an ad hoc Education Strategy Development Committee was formed by IUPAC to

1. Review IUPAC's current and immediately planned activities in the field of chemical education, including programs of the Committee on Teaching of Chemistry, the other Operational Committees, and the Scientific Divisions.
2. Recommend areas in which IUPAC should and realistically can make meaningful contributions toward worldwide chemical education. Provide advice as to areas where IUPAC should not be involved.
3. Recommend ways by which IUPAC can realistically contribute toward the public understanding of chemistry and the scientific method.
4. Recommend any organizational and/or operational changes within IUPAC to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations proposed by the Committee.
5. Report to the Bureau by August 31, 2000 - preferably a final report if feasible, or an interim report otherwise.

This Committee has met once and will meet again towards the end of July. At the second meeting 17 recommendations arising from the first meeting, and subsequent inputs, will be reviewed and may be added to.

There is a good chance that the final report will reach the Bureau by August 31, with the consequence that quite significant changes can be expected in the near future.

Whatever these changes are the objective of communicating with the global community of chemistry educators is likely to remain.

This PRELIMINARY ISSUE of MATTER, LIFE, AND ENVIRONMENT

represents a trial of a new approach to this objective. Prof. Takeuchi and his editorial board may be congratulated on bringing the idea to its present state. They, and CTC, will be very grateful for any comments or suggestions.