

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR CHEMICAL SCIENCES IN DEVELOPMENT (IOCD)*

THE Council of IOCD met recently in Mexico and discussed the progress of the various projects undertaken in the last two years. The Council has decided to focus its attention on new initiatives. IOCD has the strong feeling that it should provide the means for the exchange of experiences amongst the members of the chemical community, both in the developed and the developing countries and assist the developing countries in making chemistry a vehicle for development. IOCD is concerned with identifying and underscoring the positive aspects of the contributions of chemistry to the well-being of mankind. In order to do so, the Council has identified priority areas where judicious actions could bring about qualitative changes in developing countries. The main areas, pertain therefore to Health, Food, Agriculture, Fertility Regulation, development of chemical industries and Education.

In the area of health, IOCD has launched a synthetic programme, directed toward drugs for the treatment of tropical diseases such as filariasis, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, malaria and leprosy. Appropriate arrangements are being made to get these compounds tested. Facilities for biological screening of naturally occurring compounds or new substances obtained by synthesis in the laboratories of developing countries are being explored. Analytical Services Centres have been implemented in various institutions in the world, to assist chemists in developing countries in carrying-out their research. IOCD is also working closely with the existing natural products networks in the different regions of the world.

IOCD has great interest in chemical education and in the dissemination of chemical information in developing countries. Under the auspices of IOCD, the International Centre for Chemical Education at Ljubljana is carrying out a variety of activities that include seminars, training programmes and the development of new methods and techniques in the general area of chemical education. A network of centres of chemical education in different parts of the world is being set up. Interaction between the educational sector and the industrial sector is of vital

concern to IOCD and the Centre at Ljubljana has begun to explore this area.

One of the new initiatives of IOCD will be in the area generally related to food and agriculture. A synthetic programme in the field of human fertility regulation is being explored. Attempts will be made to obtain consultant services to assist developing countries in the development of chemical industries, especially those that can exploit local natural resources.

Other potential projects being contemplated for IOCD consideration include the development of new types of inorganic materials and environmental chemistry. IOCD is now attempting to start a programme to train technicians in developing countries for maintaining and repairing laboratory instruments.

The discussion of the Council covered a great deal of other issues not mentioned in this report. It is the hope of the Council that as time passes, IOCD will address itself to newer and broader issues related to chemistry in the service of the world at large. To this end, IOCD will attempt to obtain adequate support from various agencies.

The membership of the IOCD Council is the following: Professor S. Bergstrom (Nobel Laureate, Sweden), Professor E. R. Blout (USA), Professor N. Borlaug, Peace Nobel Laureate, (USA), Professor K. H. Buchel (Bayer AG, Federal Republic of Germany), Professor P. Crabbe (Secretary-General, Belgium), Professor D. E. U. Ekong (Nigeria), Dr I. Eneberg (France), Professor Sir Ewart Jones (UK), Professor M. Fetizon (France), Dr W. Fritsche (Germany), Professor A. G. Gonzalez (Spain), Professor Haung Liang (China), Professor A. Kornhauser (Yugoslavia), Professor L. F. Leloir (Nobel Laureate, Argentina), Professor K. Manunapichu (Thailand), Dr K. Mahmoud (Egypt), Professor Yu. Ovchinnikov (USSR), Professor C. N. R. Rao (India), Professor G. T. Seaborg (President, Nobel Laureate, USA), Professor Dr Ch. Tamm (Switzerland) and Professor S. Thomas (Costa Rica).

An Executive Committee consisting of Professors Seaborg, Bergstrom, Blout, Borlaug, Crabbe, Jones, Rao and Tamm has also been constituted.

4 September 1984

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* An introductory article on IOCD was published in *Current Science*, April 5, 1984, p. 349.