JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL EDUCATION

Communication

pubs.acs.org/jchemeduc

ConfChem Conference on A Virtual Colloquium to Sustain and Celebrate IYC 2011 Initiatives in Global Chemical Education: Introduction

Robert Belford,*[,†] Fabienne Meyers,[‡] Mustafa Sözbilir,[§] and Liberato Cardellini[∥]

[†]Department of Chemistry, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas 72022, United States

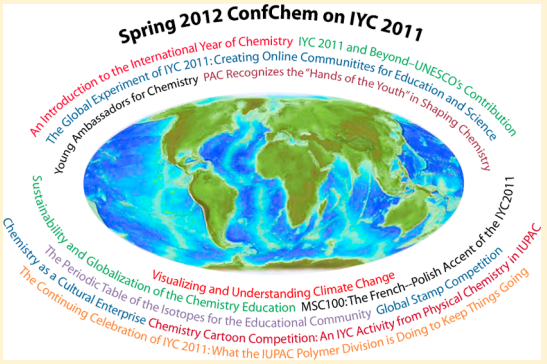
[‡]IUPAC c/o Department of Chemistry, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, United States

[§]Department of Secondary Science and Mathematics Education, K.K. Egitim Fakültesi, Atatürk Üniversitesi, Kimya Egitimi Anabilim Dali, Erzurum 25240, Turkey

[∥]Dipartimento SIMAU, Facoltà di Ingegneria, Università Politecnica della Marche, Via Brecce Bianche, Ancona 60131, Italy

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The spring 2012 online ConfChem conference, a *Virtual Colloquium to Sustain and Celebrate IYC 2011 initiatives in Global Chemical Education* was held from May 18 to June 28, 2012, during which time material was presented and discussed on 18 different projects and initiatives associated with the United Nations International Year of Chemistry (IYC). This post-IYC 2011 virtual colloquium was a collaborative effort between the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE) and the ACS Division of Chemical Education Committee on Computers in Chemical Education (CCCE), with two underlying objectives: first, to celebrate and further disseminate information on IYC 2011 activities and second to provide a discussion platform to share ideas on how to sustain these projects and initiatives beyond 2011. This communication is the first of a series of communications in this edition of *JCE* on this virtual colloquium, and the authors have uploaded as supporting information to their individual communications both the original ConfChem documents and the associated discussion threads.



KEYWORDS: *Continuing Education, General Public, Elementary/Middle School Science, High School/Introductory Chemistry, First-Year Undergraduate/General, Upper-Division Undergraduate, Public Understanding/Outreach, Distance Learning/Self Instruction, Multimedia-Based Learning*

Downloaded via ATATURK UNIV on February 8, 2022 at 18:57:56 (UTC).
See https://pubs.acs.org/sharingguidelines for options on how to legitimately share published articles.

The Spring 2012 online ConfChem conference, a *Virtual Colloquium to Sustain and Celebrate IYC 2011 initiatives in Global Chemical Education*,[1] was held from May 18 to June 28, 2012 to celebrate, further disseminate, and discuss activities of IYC 2011, the International Year of Chemistry.[2] IYC 2011 was a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry, initiated by IUPAC in partnership with UNESCO, with activities and projects organized around the underlying theme of "*chemistry—our life, our future*", with the intent of increasing public awareness and participation in these events at the local, regional, national, and international level. The ensuing 10 communications in this edition of *JCE* describe a variety of IYC 2011 activities that were presented and discussed during the ConfChem conference, and central to the themes of these communications and discussions are ongoing efforts to sustain IYC 2011 efforts and initiatives into the future.

The idea of an international year of chemistry started within the IUPAC Bureau, which recognized how other disciplines, such as physics[3] and astronomy,[4] have benefited from UN designations of international years pertaining to their fields of study. In August 2007 the IUPAC Council in Torino, Italy, put forth a resolution in favor of the proclamation of 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry. In 2008 the UNESCO Executive Board recommended the adoption of the resolution submitted by Ethiopia, which led the UN General Assembly in December of 2008 to designate 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry, with the following four main objectives:[5]

- Increase public appreciation and understanding of chemistry in meeting world needs
- Increase interest of the youth in chemistry
- Generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry
- Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mme. Curie Nobel Prize and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies

The IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education[6] (CCE) coordinates the educational interests of IUPAC bodies and organizes activities throughout the world. One of the items on the CCE agenda for the 2011 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was the organization of a symposium on IYC 2011 for the 22nd

Published: October 8, 2013

ACS Publications © 2013 American Chemical Society and Division of Chemical Education, Inc.

International Conference on Chemistry Education−11th European Conference on Research in Chemical Education (ICCE-ECRICE), to be held at the Università la Sapienza, Roma, Italy, on July 15−20, 2012.[7] The idea was put forth to collaboratively run a virtual colloquium in the spring of 2012 prior to this symposium using the ConfChem conference management system of the ACS Division of Chemical Education Committee on Computers in Chemical Education (CCCE).[8] The goal of this preconference virtual colloquium was to give participants who could not attend the ICCE-ECRICE symposium on IYC 2011 the opportunity to present, learn about, share, and reflect on experiences during IYC 2011, while exploring ways to sustain these initiatives into the future.

ConfChem's are free online conferences typically held every spring and anyone can participate in future ConfChem's by joining the ConfChem email list[9] and subscribing to the CCCE Web site.[8] During this six week conference, 12 papers were presented, along with a week devoted to national initiatives, when material was presented and discussed on IYC 2011 programs in India, Israel, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, and Sweden.[10] The colloquium papers received 155 comments and 11,616 hits during the conference, and as of July 16, 2013, the number of hits had increased to 39,759. To preserve both the papers and discussions, each author has uploaded as online Supporting Information to their ensuing JCE communication the original ConfChem paper along with its discussion thread. There are no communications for the second and fifth papers, ("IYC2011 and Beyond—UNESCO's Contribution" and "PAC recognizes the 'Hands of the Youth' in Shaping Chemistry") and the original ConfChem papers with discussions are included as Supporting Information to this introductory communication. During the Virtual Colloquium, the following papers were presented and discussed:

1. An Introduction to the International Year of Chemistry—2011 by John M. Malin and Bryan Henry
2. IYC 2011 and Beyond—UNESCO's Contribution by Rovani Sigamoney
3. The Global Experiment of the IYC 2011: Creating Online Communities for Education and Science by Javier Garcia Martinez and Rovani Sigamoney
4. Young Ambassadors for Chemistry (YAC) by Lida Schoen, Mei-Hung Chiu, and Erica Steenberg
5. PAC Recognizes the "Hands of the Youth" in Shaping Chemistry by Nichole J. Moreau
6. The Periodic Table of Isotopes for the Educational Community by Norman E. Holden and Tyler B. Coplen
7. Visualizing and Understanding the Science of Climate Change by Peter Mahaffy, Brian Martin, and Anna Schwalfenberg
8. Global Stamp Competition: Chemistry as a Cultural Enterprise by Lida Schoen and Christiane Reiners
9. Chemistry Cartoon Competition: An IYC Activity from Physical Chemistry at IUPAC by Jim McQuillan
10. The Continuing Celebration of IYC 2011: What the IUPAC Polymer Division Is Doing To Keep Things Going by Christopher K. Ober
11. Marie Skodawska Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry (MSC100)—The French-Polish Accent of the IYC 2011 by Robert Guillaumont, Janusz Lipkowski, Barbara Petelenz, and Jean-Pierre Vairon
12. Sustainability and Globalization of Chemistry Education by Mei-Hung Chiu

In reading the following communications and their supporting documents, we hope the *JCE* readership will gain a broader understanding of IYC 2011 initiatives and efforts to sustain them, while also finding resources developed through IYC 2011 that are appropriate to their needs in chemical education and opportunities for participation in future and ongoing projects that have evolved out of IYC 2011.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The original second and fifth ConfChem papers ("IYC2011 and Beyond—UNESCO's Contribution" and "PAC recognizes the 'Hands of the Youth' in Shaping Chemistry"). This material is available via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*E-mail: rebelford@ualr.edu.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ REFERENCES

(1) ICCE-ECRICE 2012 Preconference Virtual Colloquium: A Virtual Colloquium to Sustain and Celebrate IYC 2011 Initiatives in Global Chemical Education, Spring 2012 ConfChem. http://www.ccce.divched.org/spring2012confchem (accessed Sep 2013).
(2) International Year of Chemistry 2011. http://iyc2011.iupac.org (accessed Sep 2013).
(3) World Year of Physics 2005: Einstein in the 21st Century. http://www.physics2005.org (accessed Sep 2013).
(4) International Year of Astronomy. http://www.astronomy2009.org (accessed Sep 2013).
(5) International Year of Chemistry 2011 Prospectus http://iyc2011.iupac.org/assets/42/IYC_prospectus.pdf (accessed Sep 2013).
(6) IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE). http://www.iupac.org/body/050 (accessed Sep 2013).
(7) 22nd International Conference on Chemistry Education/11th European Conference on Research in Chemical Education. http://www.iccecrice2012.org (accessed Sep 2013)
(8) ACS DivCHED CCCE: Committee on Computers in Chemical Education. http://www.ccce.divched.org (accessed Sep 2013).
(9) ConfChem Listserv Subscription Site https://lists.ualr.edu/scripts/wa?SUBED1=CONFCHEM&A=1 (accessed Sep 2013).
(10) IYC 2011 National Initiatives, Spring 2012 ConfChem, http://www.ccce.divched.org/spring2012confchem-national-initiatives (accesse Sep 2013).