

Report on 45th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC 2015) and 48th IUPAC General Assembly

45th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC - 2015)

The 45th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC - 2015) was held at Busan, Republic of Korea from August 9 to 14, 2015. The 48th General Assembly of IUPAC was also held in the same venue from August 7 to 13.

The theme of the 45th World Chemistry Congress was : “Smart Chemistry: Better Life”. There were approximately 3000 delegates from all over the world. Amongst the speakers were four Nobel Laureates: Professor Akira Suzuki , Professor Yuan T. Lee, Professor Roger D. Kornberg and Professor Andre Geim.

Dr. Bipul Saha, Senior Vice President of Nagarjuna Agrichem Limited, Hyderabad, **who is an alumni of North Bengal University** was invited as speaker in IUPAC- 2015 World Chemistry Congress. He was also an invitee at 48th General Assembly and participated in the following meeting: (a) IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry (b) IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education (c) IUPAC World Chemistry Leadership Meeting.

There were 12 main topics. Within these topics, 116 symposium were held. Plenary lectures were delivered by eminent scientists. In addition , there were special program for young chemists and women scientists.

Inaugural program

There was a grand inauguration program which was held at the Central Auditorium. Mr. Hong – Seo Kims, President of Korean Chemical Society declared opening of IUPAC- 2015. Welcome address was delivered by Ms Myong Su Kim, Chair Person, Organizing Committee. It was followed by speech of Dr. Byuong – soo Suh, Mayor of Busan Metropolitan City and Mr. Chacchun Gim, Vice Minister of Education, Government of Republic of Korea. He said that his Government gives full support to Chemical Industry as a result of which Korea is now the 5th largest manufacturer of chemicals in the world. He also mentioned that there are 6 ministers in the current Government with Chemistry background.

The IUPAC Presidential address was delivered by Dr. Mark C. Cesa. He also declared the winners of “IUPAC – Solvay Young Chemist Awards”.

Speeches by Nobel Laureates:

In IUPAC- 2015, four Nobel Laureates graced the Congress. Professor Yuan T. Lee (Academia Sinica, Taiwan , Nobel Prize in Chemistry – 1986) spoke on the topic “Dynamics of Photochemical processes”. The topic chosen by Professor Roger D. Kornberg (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2006) of Stanford University, USA was “The Molecular Basis of Eukaryotic Transcription”. Professor Andre Geim (Nobel Prize in Physics 2010) of University of Manchester presented his current work on “Graphene” which has tremendous potential in industry.. Finally, Professor Emeritus Akira Suzuki (Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry 2010) of Hokkaido University, Japan made a presentation on “Cross-Coupling Reactions of Organoboranes: An Easy Way for Carbon – Carbon Bonding”.

Scientific Program:

Apart from Plenary, Keynote and Invited speeches, the scientific program was distributed between oral presentations and poster session. At any given time, 10-12 parallel oral sessions were running simultaneously.

Special Session “Women in Chemistry: Gaining Momentum”

A special session on “Women in Chemistry: Gaining Momentum” was held on August 11. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Carolyn Rybes of the Dow Chemical company, Netherlands. Dr. Lucia Banci of University of Florence, Italy spoke on “The Impact of Women in Chemistry”. Dr. Tatiana Semenova discussed on the topic “Women in Chemistry: possibilities and barriers”. Ms Hyunjoo Lee shared her experience on “Being a female engineer in Korea”. Dr. Dr. Maki Kawai of University of Tokyo urged the women chemists to “Find your own way”. In this program, awards were presented to “2015 Distinguished Women in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering”.

Young Chemists Lecture:

To encourage promising young chemists, a session was held which was addressed by brilliant young chemists from USA, China and Korea.

48th IUPAC General Assembly

The 48th IUPAC General Assembly was held concurrently with 45th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC 2015).

Young observers from different countries were invited to attend the meeting.

One important program was “World Chemistry Leadership Meeting”, which was attended by **Dr. Bipul Saha**. The Chair Person for this program was Dr. Laura McConnell of Bayer. She was supported by Prof. Hemda Garelick of Middlesex University. Amongst the speakers were Nobel Laureate Professor Yuan T. Lee who spoke on the topic: “Education of Girls in Developing Countries and Population Explosion”. Then the Young Observers made a few presentations on sustainable development. Dr. Hubert Mandery, Director General European Chemical Industry council spoke on “Chemistry’s role in achieving Sustainable Development”. Finally, Professor Javier Garcia Martinez of University of Alicante, Spain made an excellent presentation and appealed for more cooperation between Industry and Academic Institutes. Dr. Laura McConnell conducted the “World Chemistry Leadership Meeting” in a very professional and impressive manner.

After 7 days of hectic activities, the closing ceremony of 45th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC 2015) and 48th IUPAC General Assembly was held on 14th August. It was declared that the program will be held in 2017 in Sao Paulo and in 2019 in Paris.

We are proud of our alumni Dr. Bipul Saha who was invited to deliver speech and participate in important Committee meetings.