



REPORT FROM TORONTO: 23rd ICCE

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The 23rd IUPAC International Conference on Chemistry Education (ICCE) (*Developing Learning Communities in the Chemical Sciences*) was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on July 13-18, 2014, on the St. George campus of the University of Toronto and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The meeting, which attracted more than 465 participants from 40 countries, featured plenary and keynote lectures, almost 400 abstracts of oral and poster presentations, workshops, and a social program (a welcoming reception and a dinner cruise on Lake Ontario). The Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE) Chair, Mei-Hung Chiu (National Taiwan Normal University), and Past-chair, Peter Mahaffy (King's University College, Canada), presented the IUPAC-CCE Award for Distinguished Contribution to Chemistry Education to this reporter at the opening ceremonies.

Bassam Shkhashiri (University of Wisconsin-Madison) gave the IUPAC Viktor Obendrauf Plenary Lecture on "Science is Fun and the Joy of Learning." Other plenary lectures were given by John Polanyi (University of Toronto), "How Discoveries are Made, and Why it Matters;" Hsin-Kai Wu (National Taiwan Normal University), "Supporting Students' Learning of Representations in Chemistry;" Diane Bunce (Catholic University of America), "Are We Taking Advantage of Teaching Technology for Research into Learning?" and Jorge Ibáñez (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City), "Greening Lab Experiments: Microscale Perspectives."

Keynote lectures were presented by Nicholas Leadbeater (U.S.A.), Michele Zema (Italy), David Fung (Canada), Zafra Lerman (U.S.A.), Cary Supalo (U.S.A.), Stacey Lowery Bretz (U.S.A.), Pippa Lock (Canada), Yu-Ling Cheng (Canada), and Myra Hauben (U.S.A.).

Workshops on microwave-assisted chemistry, data collection and analysis tools, virtual laboratory, learning outcomes, interactive simulations, assessment, green chemistry, and cheminformatics were held.

This reporter made an oral presentation, "Providing international and multicultural perspectives in the education of science undergraduates" in a symposium on international chemistry education, and chaired the opening plenary session at which Shkhashiri spoke.



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Current Events

Andrew Dicks and Judith Poë of the Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto, organized the ICCE on behalf of CCE. Among the supporting co-sponsors were, in addition to different units of the University, the Chemical Education Fund of the Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC), the Division of Chemical Education of the ACS, and other academic, publishing, and industrial organizations. Further information about the conference can be found at <www.icce2014.org>.

At its meeting, CCE reviewed its activities, its relationship with other organizations, and its completed, current, considered, and future projects. Ting Kueh Soon (Institut Kimia Malaysia) offered a preview of the 24th ICCE, which will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, on July 19-24, 2016. An expression of interest to host the 25th ICCE in 2018 in Berlin, Germany, jointly with ECRICE (European Conference on Research in Chemistry Education) was made by Claus Bolte (Freie Universität). Formal bids for 2018 will be considered at the next meeting of CCE, which will take place during the IUPAC Congress and General Assembly in Busan, Korea (August 6-14, 2015).

The CCE meeting concluded with the presentation of a plaque to this reporter, acknowledging his service to the Committee as U.S. National Representative (2005-2014) and Conference Coordinator (2008-2014). Marcy Towns (Purdue University) will now serve as a Titular Member of the Committee and the U.S. National Representative; Rachel Mamlok-Naaman (Weizmann Institute of Science), Titular Member and the National Representative from Israel, is now the Conference Coordinator.

[View photos from the Meeting](#)