

The 10th International Chemistry Conference (ICCA) was held at Garyounis University, Benghazi, The Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 18-21 Nov 2007, under the auspices of the African Association of Pure and Applied Chemistry (AAPAC).

The conference was attended by more than 200 delegate specialists from all branches of chemistry (Analytical, environmental, inorganic, industrial, pharmaceutical and medicinal, organic, and theoretical and physical chemistry). These delegates came from more than 20 countries in Africa as well as from other countries outside the continent. Eight plenary lectures, 19 oral, two poster presentations and three special discussion sessions were held.

The conference was organized by an Organizing Committee under the able leadership of Professor Mohammed Fadiel, Dean, Faculty of Science of Garyounis University. Sponsorship kindly and generously offered by several organizations made great contributions to the success of the conference and to the comfort and intellectually conducive atmosphere of the sessions

The conference was concluded with a general business meeting in which a number of issues of national, regional and continental concern were raised. Following these discussions the following observations and recommendations were made.

1. Members expressed their satisfaction, gratitude and admiration to the organizers of the conference for the magnificent work they have done to organize the conference successfully.
2. The hosting of the current ICCA is a historic occasion marking the tenth triennial meeting, celebrating nearly three decades of the promotion of chemistry in Africa.
3. The Libyan chemists are to be saluted for successfully hosting this conference and by doing so they have contributed to making the ICCA as a truly pan-African institution.
4. The conference noted with concern that half the period set for the achievement of the MDGs has lapsed, and yet much, much more needs to be done to meet the planned targets. The conference believes that chemistry and chemists have a lot to offer to the achievements of the MDGs. Therefore, they call upon African governments to respond to the aspirations of chemists to make solid contributions to use Africa's resources to improve the life style of the African people, to improve their health and to half absolute poverty by 2015.
5. Many of Africa's problems are not bound by political borders. Egs include pollutions, desertification, climate changes, etc. Such problems can be tackled more effectively and synergistically by specialists of regions working together. The implementation of such ideas require the creation of enabling environments with in institutions (universities, research institutions and other organizations) in the each country as well as theregion. Continental organizations like AU, NEPAD, etc, are urged to double their efforts in this regard
6. Africa imports most, if not all, of the chemicals it uses in its industries. These chemicals are unfairly expensive and often do not meet strict safety standards and are also not manufactured with concern for the environment in which they are to be used in Africa. Therefore, the

conference recommends that Africa takes steps to accelerate the development of its own chemical industry to manufacture the chemicals needed for use in Africa.

7. 10 ICCA recommends that each country identify its niche area of research and develop into centers of high competence and assist the development of African human resources through research and research training in areas relevant to Africa's problems and development.

8. The use of chemistry for development requires self and institutional discipline to promote the responsible use of chemicals. The conference urges the enforcement of strict environmental regulations in African countries and condemns the irresponsible dumping of toxic and other chemical waste in Africa

9. The conference calls for innovative ways of teaching chemistry and to motivate young people to study chemistry. It recommends the increased and enhanced uses of modern technologies in teaching and research.

10. The conference commends the AU for the numerous endeavors it undertakes. It however, notes that S&T and particularly chemistry are not given their due priority. It is, therefore, recommended that the AU actively nurtures science and technology in general and chemistry in particular in the continent.