

10.1. Flying Chemist Program (FCP) (Mei-Hung Chiu) [CCE2010_010.1]

The purpose of FCP is to provide emerging or economically disadvantaged countries to improve the teaching and learning of chemistry at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The FCP provides a country with the expertise needed to strengthen chemistry education and to assist it in its development. Two new FCP program visits are proposed for the coming years: The first is proposed for Croatia (November 2010), and the second in February 2011 in Ethiopia (who helped to launch the IYC). Both proposals follow a model used successfully in India, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines in the three previous FCP initiatives. It was designed to bring together governmental awareness at the national level as well as chemistry educators to improve chemistry education via the inputs from external resource persons with expertise in various areas targeted by the country, and extensive experience with previous FCP programs. Croatia has identified its main focus on chemistry education at the primary and secondary levels. The Croatian FCP will bring together a partnership including the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport; the Croatian National Teacher national Education and Teacher Training Agency (ETTA); and the Croatian Chemical Society. Although the focus of the "First Croatian Workshop on Chemical Education" (CWCE) for the in-service training of primary and secondary school chemistry teachers is clearly on Croatia, chemistry educators from regional countries including the other former Yugoslavian nations (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia) as well as Austria and Hungary will be invited to extend the impact of FCP.

Ethiopia is one of the least developed countries located in the horn of Africa. It is also the only country in Africa that has not been colonized. Despite its economic constraints, it has a strong professional association-the Chemical Society of Ethiopia-that has been running various professional activities in the country for an uninterrupted 26 years. The Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC), headquartered in Addis Ababa/Ethiopia, played a great role in getting the International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC-2011) approved by the UN after being selected by IUPAC to do so. Ethiopia proposes to bring together a network of chemists and chemistry educators to enhance the capacity of the country to provide innovation to chemistry education at the secondary and tertiary level. Particular emphases will be placed on laboratory instruction; designing and implementing contextualized and learner-centered chemistry education; visualization in learning chemistry, and promoting innovative ways of training quality chemistry teachers. The FCP visit is proposed to coincide with the 27th Annual Conference of the Chemical Society of Ethiopia, and is being planned in consultation with both the Chemical Society of Ethiopia and the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry.

Several members of CCE and chair of Chemistry Education for Development Sub-committee (Chiu) have worked closely with local organizers on the development of proposals for these next two FCP visits.