

Activities in Sweden during the IYC

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On the website <http://www.kemi2011.se/> many of the Swedish activities are found.

The formal responsibility for celebrating the Swedish IYC is held by the National Committee of Chemistry, an educational board linked to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The planning of the celebration of the Swedish IYC was initiated by a three membered group, representing the Swedish Chemical society, Swedish Plastics & Chemicals Federation, and The National Resource Centre for Swedish chemistry teachers.

Twelve themes, one for each month during the year 2011, were chosen to show the interaction of chemistry with culture and everyday life. The themes are: January, *Arts and culture* (Spring opening of galleries); February, *Fashion* (Fashion week); March, *Climate and energy*; April, *Chemical Industry*; May, *The chemistry of Love* (Springtime in the Nordic countries); June, *Water and air* (Vacation time for schools starts); July, *Sustainable development* (Main vacation time in Sweden); August, *The chemistry of Sports* (WC of Athletics in South Chorea); September, *Communication* (Computers, mobiles etc.); October *Health* (Allergies, medicines); November, *Food* (Natural vs. unnatural); December, *Alfred Nobel and the Nobel prizes*

Several regional groups, often led by chemists at universities, plan their own activities. Many local activities have been coupled to the themes, e.g. exhibitions, laboratory activities for children and lectures. Other activities are more linked to chemistry history in Sweden like chemistry walks where former Swedish chemists are celebrated and installations of periodic tables with notions of where the elements were first discovered.

Popular scientific articles concerning the themes have been written and a chemistry calendar has been uploaded to YouTube. The National Resource Centre for Swedish chemistry teachers have designed various laboratory experiments for different levels in school for each theme and films on the web with challenging problems to discuss. Swedish schoolchildren will also take part in *Water – A Chemical Solution: A Global Experiment*.

In January a national opening ceremony took place in Stockholm. Many universities held local ceremonies, coupled to open houses, exhibitions etc. In Uppsala and Lund groups were gathered celebrating *Women Sharing a Chemical Moment in Time*. In December closing ceremonies coupled to the Nobel festivities will be held. Marie Curie is honoured both in the opening and the closing of the Swedish Year of Chemistry.