

Chemistry in India

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Dear Reader,

I am happy to present you with the third volume of the AsiaChem magazine, which echoes the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS). The 2021 issue covered chemistry in Japan and started a highly successful tradition of every issue presenting chemistry in a specific member country within the FACS expanse. This series has already attracted increasing attention worldwide.

The current issue provides an impressive showcase of chemistry in India. It serves the global readership with a wide variety of articles on cutting-edge science, history, coverage of the Indian chemical industry, and an interview. Two cover stories present the Indian Chemical Society (ICS) and the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI). They describe the history and activity of these organizations, and I thank their respective presidents, Prof. Ganapati D. Yadav and Prof. Vinod K. Singh, for their help and cooperation. I thank the many authors representing the broad and rich Indian academic landscape.

The next issue, planned for the end of 2023, will open a window to chemistry in Turkey, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey. In addition, it will cover the 19th Asian Chemical Congress and the 21st General Assembly of the FACS in Istanbul on July 8-14, 2023. We plan to dedicate the 2024 issue to chemistry in Australia.

FACS and IUPAC

The global economy's center of gravity is gradually shifting from North America and Europe to Asia. And this trend also matches the increasing significance of Asian contribution to international science. Furthermore, Asian countries, notoriously known for their brain drain, have become increasingly attractive to their scientists, thus, shifting the balance between brain drain and brain gain. This trend has boosted the quality and competitiveness of Indian chemistry in recent years, as reflected by all articles compiled in this AsiaChem issue.

Meeting global challenges, including health and climate, sustainable energy, water quality, dwindling raw materials, food problems, and waste management, requires international cooperation. Since all these challenges share a significant chemistry component, it is clear that chemists will take a dominant role in meeting them. And Asian chemists of all disciplines will continue working together across political borders and cultural barriers to secure a better world for the next generations.

For these reasons, all Asian countries must join the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) to help shape chemistry policy, language, and standards, influence global chemistry, and interact with politicians and industrialists worldwide. Increasing the Asian representation in IUPAC is one of my primary goals as IUPAC's next President. I look forward to serving the international chemistry

community at exciting times for IUPAC. I see attractive opportunities for collaboration between the FACS and IUPAC to promote chemistry research, education, and the chemical industry in Asia. And I encourage young Asian chemists to join the thousands of active volunteers in IUPAC's Divisions, Committees, projects, and events for the benefit of humanity.

The Chemist's Oath

The Hippocratic Oath, taken by new physicians for more than two millennia in a traditional White-Coat ceremony, has become a document of professional ethics that describes a medical doctor's obligations and professional behavior to their patients and society. In its original form, all new physicians pledge to uphold the principles of medical ethics and non-maleficence.

I have proposed a Chemist's Oath to be taken by all chemistry graduates worldwide. As is the case for the Hippocratic Oath, the Chemist's Oath would have a moral value rather than a legally binding commitment. It would enhance the newly graduated chemist's ethical behavior and professional pride. The following text of 57 words reflects my efforts to keep it clear and concise, and I thank many chemistry professors worldwide for supporting this initiative and offering comments and modifications.

I solemnly pledge to pursue scientific truth and expand knowledge ethically and responsibly. I will treat others with dignity and respect and promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity. As a member of society at large, obligated to all my fellow human beings, I will use my scientific expertise to improve the quality of life and protect the environment.

We plan to run an experimental pilot among the 2023 chemistry graduates in a few universities worldwide before proposing it through IUPAC to the global community. Those who wish to join the pilot experiment, please contact me directly.

I thank all authors of this special issue for opening a wide window to India's chemical science and technology.

Enjoy your reading!

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