

Summary of the Meeting of Nordic Chemical Societies in Stavanger 27 – 28.4.2007

Time: 27.4.2007, 14.30 – 18.00 and 28.4.2007, 10.00 – 13.30.

Place : Victoria Hotell, Stavanger, Norway

Participants : Anna-Maria Tivert, President, S
Agneta Sjögren, Secretary General, S
Anders Kallner, IUPAC UAC-member
Hilkka Vahervuori, President, FIN
Helena Visti, Secretary General, FIN
Morten J. Bjerrum, President, DK
Kristine Kilså Jensen, Secretary General, DK
Tor Hemmingsen, President, N
Harald Walderhaug, Secretary General, N

1. Introduction of participants

Each participant introduced him/herself. A short presentation of the Norwegian Chemical Society was given by Harald Walderhaug. It was founded in 1893 and has around 2000 members.

2. Round-table discussion on various subjects

a) *How to make young talented people interested in chemistry ?* A general problem at least in the western world is that young people today meet an enormous amount of educational possibilities – and that perhaps chemistry and also other sciences drown in this company. It is easier to earn a lot of money by entering other professions. However, a lot of activities that try to stimulate young people (in school age) go on. These include the national and international “Chemical Olympic Games”, the Norwegian “Forskerfabrikken” (for very young people), the Swedish “Berzeliusdagarna” and in Finland there is the annual “Summer school”, to mention a few. Also, television programs and perhaps internet plays a role.

For the chemical societies it is important to stimulate these activities by for instance economical support.

b) *How can we stimulate and support Nordic exchange programs ?* There are several funds available for Nordic exchange, like the Swedish “Bengt Lundqvists Minne” and the Norfa program supported by the Nordic Council (“Nordisk Råd”). Also, activities like the ones mentioned above (a) play a role here. It was mentioned that it should be considered to check the possibility for including the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) in the cooperation between the Nordic countries. Another view is that this cooperation perhaps is most efficiently taken care of by EuCheMS.

c) *Actions to modernize the chemical societies – exchange of ideas.* In Sweden the Swedish Chemical Society has as divisions SKR (Svenska Kemiingenjörers Riksförening) and SFBM (Svenska Föreningen för Biokemi och Molekylärbiologi).

d) *How to stimulate more participants to go to various conferences ?* It was concluded that general conferences are more difficult to raise interest about than more specialized ones. Both from academia and industry people have to spend time, effort and money on specialized problems, even if the newly started series of EuCheMS conferences and the biannual IUPAC general assembly’s meetings seem to attract a lot of delegates. For more specialized conferences an optimal number of delegates seems to be in the range 100 – 200.

3. Acta Chemica Scandinavica

First, Morten Bjerrum presented the Danish Chemical Society which was founded in 1879 and has around 1000 members.

Some years ago an initiative was taken by Sven Harnung, Danish Chemical Society, to start a project on digitalizing 60 years of chemical science conducted in the Nordic countries that is contained in Acta Chemica Scandinavica, and to make it accessible on the web. The Danish Chemical Society has now started the project by raising Dkk 200 000,- , and the digitalization work is in progress.

The Norwegian Chemical Society donates NOK 100 000,-, and the Swedish and Finnish Chemical Societies will cover the rest, see below. The project is therefore fully financed, and the whole Journal will be accessible on the web (SciFinder) as soon as possible, from some time early 2008. In the revised budget (see below) is included running costs for the first 5 years. After that, a decision must be made how to continue to cover the running costs.

Original budget	325.000 DKK
Addition expenses (DOI)	35.000 DKK
Unforeseen expenses (10%)	36.000 DKK
Running cost (5 years)	44.000 DKK
Total	440.000 DKK

Contribution from Denmark	200.000 DKK
Contribution from Norway (100.000 NOK)	91.000 DKK
Contribution from Sweden	75.000 DKK
Contribution from Finland	75.000 DKK

4. IUPAC issues

Anders Kallner, Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, presented IUPAC's internal organization. A problem that has come up in front of the coming general assembly meeting in Torino in august is that the former vice-president/president-elect has retired. Usually, the vice-president function as president-elect, and will become the union's president the next two years. This time, there is no obvious candidate for the presidency for the next two years.

It was unanimously decided that Anders Kallner, who has a long experience with IUPAC – he has been a member of the Union Advisory Committee (UAC) 2004 – 2005, and a member of the Bureau 2006 – 2007 – will be nominated as candidate for president of IUPAC on behalf of all the Nordic chemical societies.

5. Förlagsföreningen Acta Chemica Scandinavica (FACS)

New common Nordic FACS representative for the years 2007 and 2008.

The primary duties for the representative are to represent FACS in the RSC Journals Committee, to report to all four Nordic societies about the outcome of the meetings, and

to encourage Nordic authors to publish scientific articles in RSC journals. For the years 2005 and 2006 prof. Pekka Pyykkö, Finland, has been the FACS representative.

For the years 2007 and 2008 a Norwegian representative will be elected.

After the meeting prof. Tore Benneche, University of Oslo, and former secretary general of the Norwegian Chemical Society, has confirmed that he is willing to act as this representative.

6. EuCheMS

Tor Hemmingsen summarized the activities in EuCheMS for the time he has been elected as member of the board, and informed that the general assembly will take place in Stavanger in October 2008 with the Norwegian Chemical Society as host.

7. Next meeting.

It was decided that the next meeting will be hosted by Sweden in year 2009. A suitable timing is in due time before IUPACs GA.

Oslo, 4.5.2007

Harald Walderhaug and Tor Hemmingsen.