

A brief look at some of the activities planned for the International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC 2011) in Catalonia
Visit <http://blocs.iec.cat/aiq2011>

Science and Technology Section, Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC)

Colophon in the publications. The publications of the Science and Technology Section of the IEC (www.iec.cat) that are scheduled to appear in 2011 will contain a colophon related to the IYC 2011, featuring the logo of this international year as commemorated in the territories of Catalan language and culture.



Any Internacional de la
QUÍMICA
2011

Catalan edition of *The Elements*. The Science and Technology Section of the IEC and the University of Valencia Publications, on the occasion of the IYC 2011, will jointly publish the Catalan version of the book *The Elements. A visual exploration of every atom in the known*

Universe, by Theodore Gray (New York, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2009). The translation will be coordinated by Pilar González-Duarte, member of the Science and Technology Section and Professor Emeritus of Inorganic Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, with the collaboration of Cristina Rodríguez and Raquel Ríos. Terminology will be supervised by Salvador Alegret, member of the same section and Professor Emeritus of Analytical Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The work will be available on Saint George's Day (23 April 2011).

Special monographic issue of *Contributions to Science*. The journal *Contributions to Science* (<http://revistes.iec.cat>), published in English, is the international organ of the Science and Technology and Biological Sciences Sections of the IEC. On the occasion of the IYC 2011, the current issue [6(2) 2010] is a monograph that reviews current research in chemistry in the Catalan countries. Publication of the issue has been coordinated by Salvador Alegret, member of the Science and Technology Section.

Catalan Society of Chemistry (SCQ)

Blog of the IYC. The SCQ has a blog (<http://blocs.iec.cat/aiq2011>) in which the entities of the territories of Catalan language and culture are able to promote activities planned especially for the IYC 2011.

"Quins elements!" contest. In order to transmit in a graphic and easy-to-understand manner the concept that the

Universe, our planet, and all beings are formed by chemical elements, a contest to create a calendar for the year 2011 has been organized for chemistry students (<http://blocs.iec.cat/aiq2011>). The illustrations appearing in the calendar will be selected from the submissions. Pilar González-Duarte, member of the Science and Technology Section of the IEC and Professor Emeritus of Inorganic Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, will coordinate the contest.

Colophon in the publications. Those publications of the SCQ, the academic society affiliated with the Institute for Catalan Studies, scheduled to appear in 2011 will contain a colophon related to the IYC 2011, with the logo of this international year as commemorated in the territories of Catalan language and culture (see above).

Inaugural session. The SCQ, together with the Science and Technology Section of the IEC, will hold an inaugural academic session for the IYC 2011 on 14 December 2010. Agustí Lledós, Professor of Physical Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, is scheduled to give a Distinguished Lecture. The choral group Cor Argentum, made up of chemistry professors from the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Barcelona, will perform on that occasion.

4th Conference on the Teaching of Physics and Chemistry. The conference will take place on 24–26 March 2011 and is organized by the official Association of the Doctors and Graduates in Philosophy and Arts and Sciences of Catalonia, the SCQ, CESIRE-CDEC, the Catalanian Association of Teachers of Physics and Chemistry, and the La Caixa Foundation (CosmoCaixa). The theme is

“The Teaching of Chemistry during the International Year of Chemistry.”

“Quins elements!” calendar. A calendar for the year 2011 will be published in which each month is dedicated to a different chemical element. The images for the calendar will be chosen from the submissions to the contest “Quins elements!” (see above and <http://blocs.iec.cat/aiq2011>). Pilar González-Duarte, member of the Science and Technology Section of the IEC and Professor Emeritus of Inorganic Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, will coordinate the calendar.

University of Barcelona (UB)

New edition of the periodic table.

This trilingual (Catalan, Spanish, and English) periodic table will include the emission spectrum of each element. It is based on the “Frequències” exhibition by multimedia artist Eugènia Balcells, whose September 2009 exhibit at the Santa Mònica Art Center in Barcelona offered a journey through the colors and images originating from the emission spectra of the elements, the basis of our perception of matter.

“Les estances sagrades de la química i els seus pertrets” (The sacred rooms of chemistry and their equipment).

For the IYC, the Physics and Chemistry Library of the UB is preparing an exhibition of books and catalogs taken from its Antique Collection. The exhibit will offer a visual testimony to the evolution of the equipment that occupied chemistry laboratories—referred to by Pierre Curie as “sacred rooms”—for almost four centuries. A sample of antique laboratory pieces will complement the images shown in the books and catalogs.

“La química a la Universitat de Barcelona” (Chemistry at the University of Barcelona). This book, by Dr.

Joaquim Sales Cabré, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Barcelona, relates the development of Chemistry at the UB, from the university’s restoration in Barcelona in 1837 until 1975, when the Faculty of Chemistry was created from the former Faculty of Sciences.

Poster for the International Year of Chemistry 2011.

The poster, publicizing the IYC, will be exhibited at the Faculty of Chemistry beginning in late 2010. The subsequent exhibition, throughout 2011, will encourage participation in the many scheduled events.

Activities of the Teaching Innovation Group QISU (*Química a la Interfase Secundària-Universitat*) of the Faculty of the Chemistry at the UB

Tenth edition of “Fem Química al Laboratori” (Let’s do Chemistry in the Laboratory).

In 2011, from 11 January until 2 February, coinciding with the IYC, the tenth edition of “Let’s do Chemistry in the Laboratory” will take place, with the participation of nearly 1300 secondary school students. This event aims to encourage high school students’ interest in science, in general, and the world of chemistry, in particular, by allowing them to engage in hands-on experimental science with resources that are not always available in secondary schools.

Ceremony to celebrate the tenth anniversary of “Let’s do Chemistry in the Laboratory.”

During the first semester of 2011, a ceremony will be held to celebrate the tenth edition of “Let’s do Chemistry in the Laboratory.”

Participation in the 4th Conference on the Teaching of Physics and Chemistry.

Members of those groups participating in this conference (see

above), aimed at secondary school teachers, will introduce some of the activities of “Let’s do Chemistry in the Laboratory.”

Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)

Inaugural Lecture of the Academic Year.

On 15 September 2010, the official inauguration of the 2010–2011 academic year of the Catalan university system was held at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The inaugural lecture, entitled “Chemistry and Catalonia. About the International Year of Chemistry 2011,” was given by Salvador Alegret, Professor Emeritus of Analytical Chemistry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and member of the Science and Technology Section of the Institute for Catalan Studies.

Year of Chemistry.

The UAB (www.uab.cat) will dedicate a series of activities to chemistry in 2011, coinciding with the IYC. At the UAB, the aim of this commemorative year is to promote the contributions of chemistry as a fundamental science to improve the sustainability of our way of life and to solve global and essential problems of humanity, such as food, water management, health, energy, and transportation.

Chemistry surrounds you.

This program, part of the IYC, consists of numerous different activities. The debate “Chemistry surrounds you” will bring together specialists from many chemistry-related fields who will point out the social-welfare benefits derived from developments in chemistry. The impact of chemistry in areas such as health, food, energy, new technologies, and the environment will be discussed. The lectures of this conference will be collected in audiovisual format and as a written document.

Thanks to chemistry.

An exhibition entitled “Thanks to chemistry” will explain

the contribution of chemistry to the quality of life by offering a chronology of the scientific advancements made in this field.

Química interactiva (Interactive chemistry). “Interactive chemistry” is an activity aimed at high school students. The goal is to promote interest in chemistry as an experimental science. Students will gain hands-on experience in the chemistry laboratory, participating in practical sessions that will demonstrate the applications of this discipline as well as the chemist’s daily work.

Químics difonent química (Chemists promoting chemistry). This lecture series will reflect on the social utility of chemistry outside the university, thereby familiarizing the whole of society with the IYC and its goals.



Poster announcing the Year of Chemistry. The official poster of the Year of Chemistry announcing the inauguration of the IYC during the academic year 2010–2011, has been chosen following a competition in which students from the Schools of Art and Design Eina and Massana (associated with to the UAB) participated. The winning poster was designed by Àlex Muñoz Papaseit.

University of Girona (UdG)

7th edition of the Fira de la Química (Chemistry Fair). This event will take place as part of Science Week on 15 November 2010 (day of Saint Albert, patron saint of chemists) at the UdG’s Faculty of Science. The fair is aimed at familiarizing the general public with the many aspects of chemistry that influence everyday life. It consists of an exhibition, several workshops, and a lecture given by a renowned person in the world of science.

Practical lessons. This activity, to be held during the week of the 24–28 January 2011, is directed at secondary school students. In morning and afternoon sessions, students will be able to complete two practical lessons in one of the laboratories of the Department of Chemistry. The activity is organized by the Department of Chemistry of the UdG.

7th Edition of Matins de la Química (Chemistry Mornings). This lecture and the following four workshops will provide students with a theoretical and practical introduction to chemistry. There will be two sessions: one on 19 January and the other on 2 February 2011. The sessions will take place at the Faculty of Science of the UdG.

7th Congress of Chemistry Teaching in Secondary School. This forum is addressed at high school chemistry teachers, who will be given the opportunity to discuss the problems of teaching chemistry. It will be held on 13 April 2011 and is organized by the Department of Chemistry.

5th Edition of [Nano]Reacciona! ([Nano]React!). Organized by the Department of Chemistry, this event is aimed at high school students, who are invited to present the results of chemistry-related research. It will take place on 13 April 2011.

Reacciona... explota! (React... explore!) Amazing chemical experiments. The Department of Chemistry and the Chair of the UdG’s Scientific Culture and Digital Communication have invited the team of *Reacciona... explota!*

to give an “amazing” workshop, based on recreational science experiments, to interested centers and institutions. More information on the workshop is available at <http://www.reacciona.cat>.

Química a l’abast (Available Chemistry). This series of lectures, to be held between March and May 2011, is open to the general public and highlights the importance of chemistry and the many research opportunities in this field. The Organizing Committee of the IYC’s activities at the UdG will hold this event in a central location in the city of Girona.

Information on the IYC. In October 2011, coinciding with the Fair of Girona, the Organizing Committee of the IYC’s activities at the UdG will announce the celebration of the International Year of Chemistry to visitors of the UdG’s stand at the Fair.

Temps de flors (Time of flowers). In May 2011, coinciding with the *Temps de flors* celebrated each year in the city of Girona, the Organizing Committee of the IYC’s activities at the UdG will decorate one of the spaces along the route with chemistry-related motifs in order to promote the International Year of Chemistry.

Rovira i Virgili University (URV)

Calendar of women chemists. The Observatory of Equality of Rovira i Virgili University, Tarragona, launches the first of several initiatives that will take place throughout the year to mark the declaration approved by the URV proclaiming 2010 as the Year of Women in the Sciences and to inaugurate the IYC 2011.

Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ)

Workshops on everyday chemistry *Química en Familia* (Chemistry in Family). These will be held on 16 and 18 November 2010 and during July 2011.

Open day at the ICIQ. This event will take place on 15–19 November 2010 and during July 2011. More information is available at www.iciq.cat.

Institute for Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (IQAC) and Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDÆA)

The IQAC (<http://www.iqac.csic.es/>) and the IDÆA (<http://www.idaea.csic.es>) are planning one or two round-table discussions of the role of chemistry in society and the public image of chemistry. In addition, the Chemistry Section of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the IQAC, will organize a scientific activity demonstrating sustainable chemistry.

Other events

Sustainable chemistry: competitive and innovative companies. To highlight new developments successfully implemented by the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in several areas, the Spanish Technological Platform for Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem-ES), together with the Chemistry and Society Forum and IESE Business School, will organize the second edition of this event, which will take place in Barcelona on 17–18 February 2011.

2050: The future of the industry. To conclude the second edition of the above-mentioned event and to join in commemorating the IYC, renowned international experts will offer their views on the directions in which the chemical and pharmaceutical industry must develop in the coming decades.

Closure of the IYC. Expoquímica, the International Exhibition of Chemistry, will take place in Barcelona on 14–18 November 2011, and will hold the closing ceremony of the IYC.