

Information

General meeting of the Division of General and Technical Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The General Meeting of the Division of General and Technical Chemistry of the RAS (DGTC) was held on October 31, 1996.

A report on the activity of the Division from 1992 to 1996 was delivered by Secretary Academician of the Division Academician *V. A. Kabanov*. He noted that despite all difficulties, the level of scientific research in the Division remains high. Scientific sessions and conferences are held regularly; the work of Scientific Councils to coordinate the activities of the Institutes of the Division is improving. The report included the results of the most important conferences and symposia organized with the participation of the Division and its Scientific Councils. Academician *V. A. Kabanov* paid attention to the work of members of the Division in numerous Scientific Councils at the State Committee on Science and Engineering, in which various aspects of the application of chemical science and technology are considered.

It was noted that cooperation between the Division and educational institutions continues to develop regarding both training of young specialists and the conduct of joint research. During the last five years, in addition to these traditional forms of collaboration, new forms of cooperation between research institutes and educational institutions have been developed. For example, the Higher Chemical College of the RAS and the Educational and Scientific Center at the Institute of Organoelement Compounds were founded; a specialized students' laboratory, scientific and educational center, and Chemical Lyceum were organized at the N. D. Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry. Establishments of this type make it possible to select the most talented young people and provide them with the opportunity to profoundly study chemical science including the latest scientific achievements.

Speaking on international cooperation in science, Academician *V. A. Kabanov* noted that the Bureau of the Division aims at preserving mutually beneficial contacts with foreign partners. Extension of the direct links between the Institutes of the Division and foreign scientists allowed researchers from various institutions of the DGTC to participate actively in more than 80 international scientific events held abroad.

While speaking on the publishing activity of the Division, the report mentioned that the decrease in the number of publications that had been observed in recent years has stopped; now all scientific journals are translated into English and circulate abroad.

The problem of specialists, which has become especially acute in recent years, was also considered in the report. Due to financial shortages, the staffs of institutes have become older; many scientists have gone to other countries. This emigration is supplemented by so-called "home emigration", which means that many scientists in Russia have to be engaged in activities other than scientific research.

Academician *V. A. Kabanov* also reported that the structure of the Division and its institutes has changed; he spoke about problems of financing that have arisen since 1991. He emphasized that the financial shortages in the institutes of the Division as well as in the Academy as a whole, which is constantly aggravated, have brought scientific institutions to the verge of collapse.

Academicians *V. B. Kazanskii*, *I. I. Moiseev*, *Yu. N. Molin*, *A. V. Fokin*, and *A. E. Shilov* and Corresponding Members of the RAS *M. V. Alfimov*, *F. I. Dubovitskii*, *V. E. Kazarinov*, and *G. I. Nikishin* participated in the discussion of the report made by the Secretary Academician of the Division Academician *V. A. Kabanov*. Academicians *B. P. Zhukov*, *O. M. Nefedov*, *N. A. Plate*, and

V. A. Tartakovskii and Doctor of Science (Chemistry) Professor *S. M. Baturin* spoke at the session.

Academician *V. A. Kabanov* was reelected as Secretary Academician for the following five years.

Academicians *B. F. Myasoedov* and *N. A. Plate*, and Corresponding Member of the RAS *V. V. Lunin*, were elected Deputy Secretary Academicians.

The Bureau of the Division, comprising 19 members, was also elected.

Elections of Directors of institutes were also held. Academician *N. A. Plate* was elected Director of the

Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis (Moscow), Corresponding Member of the RAS *A. A. Berlin* was elected Director of the Institute of Chemical Physics, Doctor of Science (Chemistry) *S. M. Baturin* was elected Director of the Institute of Chemical Physics (Chernogolovka), Corresponding Member of the RAS *Yu. N. Bubnov* was elected Director of the Institute of Organoelement Compounds, and Academician *A. I. Kononov* was elected Director of the Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry of the Kazan' Scientific Center.

General meeting of the Division of Physical Chemistry and Technology of Inorganic Materials

The General Meeting of the Division of Physical Chemistry and Technology of Inorganic Materials was held on October 31, 1996. A report on the activity of the Division from 1992 to 1996 and on its future tasks was delivered by Secretary Academician *Yu. A. Buslaev*.

Academicians *V. V. Boldyrev*, *E. M. Dianov*, *N. P. Lyakishev*, *O. M. Nefedov*, *B. E. Paton*, *Yu. D. Tretyakov*, *I. N. Fridlyander*, *G. P. Shveikin*, and *S. V. Yakovlev* and Corresponding Members of the RAS *V. M. Buznik*, *B. V. Gusev*, *A. V. Elyutin*, *P. D. Sarkisov*, and *Yu. V. Tsvetkov* participated in the discussion of the report.

Academician *Yu. A. Buslaev* was reelected as Secretary Academician of the Division for the next term.

Academicians *Yu. A. Zolotov*, *A. M. Kutepov*, *Yu. D. Tretyakov*, and *M. M. Shulz* were elected Deputy Secretary Academicians.

The General Meeting elected Bureau of the Division comprising 15 members and made the decision about participation of Academician *B. F. Myasoedov* and Corresponding Member of the RAS *V. P. Larionov* in the work of the Division.

Corresponding Member of the RAS *V. Ya. Shevchenko* was elected Director of the Interbranch Scientific Research Center of the RAS on Technical Ceramics for the next term.

General meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The General Meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences, held to hear reports and elect new officials, took place from October 29 to November 1, 1996, in the new building of the Presidium of the RAS in Moscow. The General Meeting was attended by Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation *V. S. Chernomyrdin* and Vice-Premier of the Government of the RF Academician *V. E. Fortov*.

President of the RAS *Yu. S. Osipov*, who spoke at the opening of the General Meeting, stressed that he was presenting a report on the work accomplished by the Presidium rather than a report concerning the activity of the Academy. *Yu. S. Osipov* said that the main result achieved over the past five years is that despite the serious political, economical, social, and psychological problems in Russia, the Russian Academy of Sciences has preserved its unity; it is the main center of science in Russia and is among the leading centers of the world

science. At the same time, the reporter noted that by now, the Academy has virtually exhausted its "margin of safety," accumulated during previous years, which allowed it to keep away from the fatal verge, after which swift destruction of the basic science as a whole begins. Academician *Yu. S. Osipov* dwelt on the difficulties experienced by the Russian Academy of Sciences and on the lines of its development during the 1991–1996 period. While speaking about the financial position of the RAS, he noted that in 1996, the financial problems of the Academy have threatened its existence: budget means were allotted only for wages, and even these expenditures were strictly limited; no money was allotted from the budget for maintaining the infrastructure, for municipal payments, or for conducting scientific research. Only direct appeals to the top officials of the country made it possible to remedy situations, which were nearly catastrophic. The President of the RAS