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International Year of
CHEMISTRY
2011

IYC Russia opening ceremony press release

MOSCOW, Russia -- IYC opening ceremony took place on Feb. 15 in the Grand Hall of the **Russian Academy of Science**.

The opening speech on behalf of the Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** was delivered by the head of the IYC Russia organizing committee, Vice-President of RAS, Academician **Sergey Aldoshin**:

«Dear friends!

I sincerely welcome you and congratulate you on the inauguration of the International Year of Chemistry in Russia. It is widely celebrated in the world, promoting development of chemical science and introduction of innovative products and technologies. For our country, participating in the IYC is of great importance, as it is intended to draw public attention to this very important direction of research and production activities, paves the way for the arrival of a new generation of talented scientists and researchers and the development of international cooperation. It is noteworthy that the International Year of Chemistry is held in the 300th anniversary of one of the founders of Russian science **Mikhail Lomonosov** and the centenary of the outstanding scientist **Marie Sklodowska-Curie** receiving Nobel Prize. Their discoveries in the field of chemistry served as the foundation for many more great achievements of civilization.

I wish you success and all the best».

Among those who addressed the ceremony were Chairman of the Senate **Sergey Mironov**, IUPAC President Nicole Moreau, Minister of Education and Science **Andrey Fursenko** Lomonosov Moscow State University President Victor Sadovnichiy and other representatives of the scientific, educational and social organizations, industrial associations and companies working in the field of chemistry. The ceremony was attended by a number of Russian Chemists Union representatives, namely RCU President **Victor Ivanov**, EuroChem Director General **Dmitriy Strezhnev**, «Tatneftekhinvest-holding» CEO **Rafinat Yarullin**, PhosAgro Director General **Maxim Volkov**, executives from **SIBUR** and other companies, CEOs of international companies, heads of R&D-institutions and universities.

At the ceremony, the following presentations were made:

1. «Marie Curie: the Thread of Fate»
Natalia Tarasova, RAS corresponding member
2. «Problems of personnel training for chemical education and science in Russia»
Valeriy Lunin, academician

3. «New chemical elements on the border of the Mendeleev Periodic Table»
Prof. Sergey Dmitriev
4. «Materials and chemical technologies for aerospace engineering»
Evgeniy Kablov, academician
5. «New trends in deep processing of fossil and renewable hydrocarbon»
Salambek Khadzhiev, academician
6. «Achievements of Chemistry to the benefit of the Russian gas sector»
Prof. Alexander Ishkov

The ceremony was concluded with a celebratory student concert.

2011 was declared the International Year of Chemistry by the **63rd UN General Assembly** on Dec. 19th, 2008. The resolution states that the success of the fundamental chemistry to a large extent determines the current level of understanding of the structure of the material world, and chemical technologies and processes that play a key role in tackling global challenges such as climate change, providing the world's population with clean water, food and energy, conservation of the natural environment. **IUPAC**-proposed motto of the IYC "**Chemistry is our life, our future**", emphasizes the essential role of science in achieving sustainable development. One of the goals of the IYC is promoting recognition of the role of chemistry in different sectors and increasing the interest in chemical science among young people. It is expected that the lectures, exhibitions along with demonstration of chemical experiments, will show how important chemical research is for harnessing new types of energy, development of communication and transport, medicine, agriculture and food industry. The Year of Chemistry will give an opportunity to expand international cooperation of chemists and their associations, to attract students and young people to academic competitions, meetings and conferences, to awaken the interest in studying chemistry at school. The IYC initiatives were supported by the **Russian Chemists Union** and a Russian chemical company **PhosAgro** became one of the major sponsors of the IYC.

Worldwide celebrations to honor the opening of the International Year of Chemistry were held at **UNESCO** headquarters in Paris on January 27th. It was attended by a large delegation of the Russian Chemists Union, led by RCU VP, Senator **Andrey Guriev**.

