

International Year of Chemistry 2011

Dear readers and authors of the 'Russian Chemical Reviews',

On the behalf of the Publishers, the Editorial Board and the Editorial staff of the journal, we would like to wish you happy New Year 2011, which was declared by the 63rd General Assembly of the United Nations as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC).

Chemistry has become fundamental to our existence. These days, humankind feels and understands the importance of chemistry, chemical materials and processes for the environment protection and sustainable development, provision of people with pure water and healthy foodstuffs, energy, effective pharmaceuticals and new methods for disease control and prevention.

These issues were reflected in the UN Resolution on the IYC and in the slogan 'Chemistry: our life, our future' proposed by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

During 2011, various international and national activities will be held in the framework of the IYC including scientific congresses, conferences and meetings in various areas of chemistry and allied subjects, exhibitions demonstrating the progress in chemistry and chemical engineering, a set of lectures and TV programms, contests and olympiads. School pupils and school chemistry teachers, chemistry students and young scientists are expected to actively participate in many of these events. In addition, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to Marie Curie, special meetings will be devoted to the role of women in science.

In Russia, the International Year of Chemistry coincides with the Tercentenary of the Great Russian scientist M V Lomonosov. His name is associated, in particular, with the foundation in 1748 of a chemical laboratory modern for his time, which marked the beginning of regular chemical research in Russia. Also, in 2011 we will celebrate 150th anniversary of A M Butlerov's Theory of Chemical Structure of Organic Compounds as well as Sesquicentenary of Academician N D Zelinsky, a prominent Russian chemist. Scientific congresses and conferences will be dedicated, within the framework of the IYC, to these memorable dates.

The XIX Mendeleev Congress on General and Applied Chemistry, which is to be held in September, 2011, in Volgograd, is expected to be the key event of the International Year of Chemistry in Russia. Considerable interest would also be aroused by the scientific session of the General Meeting of the RAS titled 'Chemistry for the Innovation Development of Russia' (December 2011, Moscow), the VI Moscow International Congress 'Biotechnology: State of the Art and Prospects of Development' (March 2011, Moscow) and some other scientific arrangements.

The 'Russian Chemical Reviews', being among the most successful Russian scientific journals, plans to publish selected materials of those presented at the scientific events of the IYC. This will be a worthy contribution made by our journal to Chemistry, Chemical Education and Chemical Technology and, as we hope, will give a new impetus to the development of chemistry and related sciences in Russia.

We invite you to cooperation and look forward to receiving interesting reviews and constructive proposals.