



Collaboration with developing nations helps the American Chemical Society (ACS) foster the development of the chemical enterprise and its practitioners. For the past several years, the American Chemical Society (ACS) has focused its efforts on programs that build human and institutional capacity in Latin America and Africa. Our efforts in these regions will continue as we develop long-term goals and strategies for ACS international activities more generally. **ACS welcomes proposals from other C6 countries to develop joint collaborations in the developing world, particularly in Latin America, Asia, and Russia.**

ACS interactions with developing nations increasingly are taking place through contacts with the national chemistry societies. For example, ACS sponsors short- and long-term visits to the United States and abroad. Researchers from selected countries in Latin America and Central Europe may apply for \$2,500 grants from a pool of approximately \$30,000 annually. Participating scientists visit at least two laboratories with the goal of developing new research collaborations. The chemical society of the applicant's native country must endorse the application. Another example of these joint activities is a joint ACS-Society of Brazilian Chemistry workshop in environmental chemistry, which will take place at the Federation of Latin American Chemical Societies meeting in Brazil in June 2004. A grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to facilitate U.S.–Brazilian research collaborations funded the workshop.

ACS, the Royal Society of Chemistry and IUPAC jointly sponsored the December 2003 conference, “*Frontiers of Chemical Sciences, Research and Education in the Middle East.*” Top-level scientists from Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates attended the meeting, which featured plenary lectures by six Nobel Laureates in chemistry. A second conference is being planned for 2005. **ACS would welcome additional sponsorship of this conference.**

ACS, with support from the Pittsburgh Conference (PITTCON) and the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, has hosted a group of 15-20 chemists from a different region of the world at the annual PITTCON meeting since 1995. ACS works with the appropriate national chemical societies to identify participants. This year, the participants came from China. ACS defrays local costs and arranges for each participant to attend an ACS Short Course free of charge. In previous years, groups have been invited from Africa, Asia, and countries of the former Soviet Union.

ACS also enhances access to scientific information in developing countries. Project Bookshare helps to build the capacity of institutions to teach and conduct research in the chemical sciences and related fields. Individuals and organizations donate journals and books and ACS ships the donated materials to academic institutions in developing nations worldwide and to underserved institutions in the United States. Twenty-ton (18.2 metric ton) containers have been shipped to 42 libraries in 31 countries since the Project's inception. More than 80 tons (72.7 metric tons) of materials were shipped in each of the last eight years. Last year, ACS established a deeply discounted pricing mechanism for licensing web access to developing nations that cannot afford to pay the full subscription rate for ACS journals. ACS is partnering with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications' Program for the Enhancement of Research Information to identify appropriate nations and deliver this service.

Some ACS international programs do not involve other national chemical societies. The Global Instrumentation Program aims to enhance collaboration between researchers in the United States and developing countries. The program, currently in an experimental phase, is being targeted at Latin American researchers and makes state-of-the-art analytical facilities in North American laboratories available to chemical scientists in the developing world.

ACS has produced in-depth reports on the chemical enterprise in Latin America and Africa, covering industry, government, education, and learned and professional societies. These reports are crucial in assisting the ACS International Activities Committee and other Society units to identify new opportunities for the chemical sciences in these regions.