

Topic 2. Career Development and Accreditation of Chemists

(1) The current trend of chemistry education at higher education institutions.

Each participating society is requested to present its specific situations, if there were any, in line with this theme. Especially, it is expected to raise an issue of the present state of a postgraduate course of each country: some examples on this issue may be the curriculum of the master course schooling, accreditation system for the graduates of the graduate school, and the selection of the carrier to pursue after graduation. In Japan, for instance, a big change in the infrastructure of the so-called National Universities broke out quite recently. There were 99 universities governed by MEXT (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) until the end of March this year. All those universities have changed into corporation bodies since April, and are requested to support themselves in the aspects of both finance and administration.

(2) The education system of professional chemists and chemical engineers with special reference to the roles of the chemical societies.

After finishing the undergraduate education at the institutions such as universities or colleges, most chemists are expected to extend their careers to meet with the required levels based on the global standard. To assist such a career development for the individuals, the construction of the system so called the CPD (Continuing Professional Development) is anticipated. In this respect, the CSJ launched the preparatory committee for the construction of the accreditation system, the Professional Chemist Japan (PChemJ), in 2003.

Each participating society is requested to present the current situation regarding to the CPD in the field of chemistry of his own nation. The CSJ hopes to have the opportunity to discuss on the possibility of establishing an international accreditation system for the chemists and the chemical engineers.

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