



**Note: This version has an addendum: REPORT ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF THE GAMBIA (CSG)**

## **FASC Newsletter 2, February 2024**

*The year marches on. Highlights in the newsletter include i) information on many events relating to women in science ii) details of many local and international conferences/workshops of interest to members and reports from The Gambia on their Chemical Society launch and the election of the new executive of the Chemical Society of Nigeria*

*Neil Coville.*

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*27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry Education.*

**DETAILED CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

See adverts at the end of the Newsletter.

See FASC website for data on conferences <https://www.faschem.org/>

## ABOUT FASC

### FASC website

Information on the FASC history, the updated FASC constitution, old copies of the newsletter, copies of the African Journal of Chemistry etc., has been loaded onto the site.  
<https://www.faschem.org/>

### FASC membership and invoices

#### Payment of fees

*Online payment is now available to all Members and Societies*

*Please email [fasc.chem@wits.ac.za](mailto:fasc.chem@wits.ac.za) and request an online payment link – Note it will be in ZAR. The Equivalent daily rate will be used when the payment link is created. You can enter card details via a safe site.*

*Mrs Laila Smith*

**Membership Fees**

Please apply online: [http://www.faschem.org/contact/membership\\_application](http://www.faschem.org/contact/membership_application)

### Advertising in the FASC newsletter

The newsletter will provide a means of getting messages to our member countries. This newsletter thus provides a means of advertising employment opportunities, conferences, and workshops, and even for companies/Universities to promote themselves. We encourage member countries to use the Newsletter for advertising purposes. All conferences and events will be advertised for free; if not a FASC country, there could be a small charge. For advertising costs, contact the FASC office in South Africa: [laila.smith@wits.ac.za](mailto:laila.smith@wits.ac.za)

## CHEMISTRY NEWS

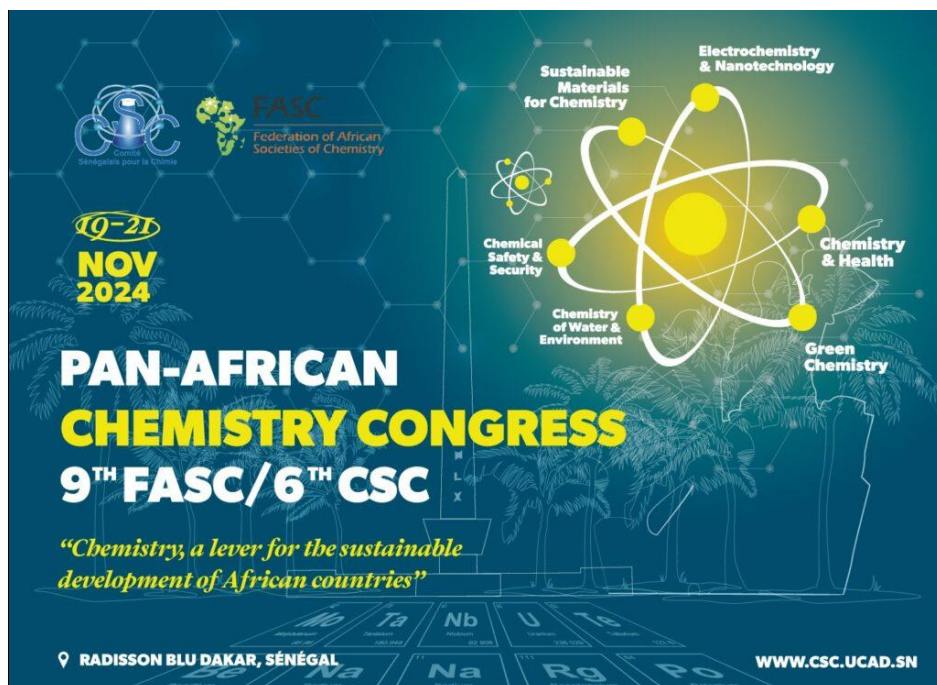
### FASC news

#### i) FASC Congress 2024



Senegal will host the African Chemical Societies for the General Assembly of the **Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC)**. It will be held in conjunction with the **Annual Days of Chemistry of Senegal** (Journées Annuelles de Chimie du Sénégal – JACS), the major event of the Senegalese Committee for Chemistry (**CSC**), from 19 to 21 November 2024 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar Sea Plaza, Corniche Ouest, Dakar, Senegal. The conference is themed “**Chemistry, a lever for sustainable development of African countries**”.

Federation of African  
Societies of Chemistry



FASC|JACS 2024 will be jointly organized by CSC and FASC along with their partners among which are RSC, ACS, IUPAC, OPCW and West African Society of Chemistry (SOACHIM/Senegal) and in collaboration with Senegalese universities. The aim of this conference is not only to bring together Africa's scientific, technological, and industrial communities, but also to rethink together a structurally sustainable development centered on mankind and its priority investments. Chemistry is heavily involved in solving problems of African societies linked to health, energy, environment, water supply and nutrition, and therefore plays a key role in the sustainable development of African countries.

**Prof. Modou Fall;** [modou.fall@ucad.edu.sn](mailto:modou.fall@ucad.edu.sn)

PO Box 15756, Dakar-Fann, Senegal

Phone: +221775557200

<https://csc.ucad.sn> (under Congrès and FASC|JACS 2024)

## ii) ACRISE

Dates and venue for the Education conference organised by FASC has now been determined.

The coming ACRICE meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Giraffe Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania'

1. The local organizing committee is already in place.
2. The International Organizing/ Advisory Committee will be placed on the conference website

More information on ACRISE, including online registration will appear shortly.

*Dr Clarence Mgina*

## African Chemical Societies News

### i) Nigeria

**Chemical Society of Nigeria Inaugurates 16th President & Executive Committee**



The Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) inaugurated Professor Rufus Sha'Ato as its 16th President at a ceremony held at the Raw Materials Research and Development Council Auditorium in Abuja on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Professor Sha'Ato a distinguished chemist with over three decades of experience in academia, was elected by CSN members at the Society's Annual General Meeting held in Awka, Anambra State in September 2023. In his inaugural address, the new president outlined his vision for the Society, including but not limited to:

- Mainstreaming CSN into national life to promote understanding of the centrality of chemistry in socio-economic development in Nigeria and globally.
- Re-invigorating the Society's operating systems to improve performance and tackle emerging issues creatively.
- Enhancing the CSN annual conference through international partnerships.
- Engaging in capacity building of individual members in entrepreneurship.
- Enhancing the engagement of successor generations of chemists.
- Repositioning the financial management and funding base of the Society.
- Building on existing national and international partnerships and forging new ones.

Professor Sha'Ato also expressed his commitment to working with CSN members to address gaps in the Society's operations and to ensure that CSN plays a vital role in the implementation of the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (NSTIP) 2022 and the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Roadmap (NSTIR) 2030.

Professor Sha'Ato is to serve with an equally elected team made up of Dr. Peter E. Berezi, Vice-President; Ms. Stella E. Nweze-Akpa, General Secretary and ten other executive members. The team will serve the CSN for three years.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering of government officials, industry leaders, and academics.

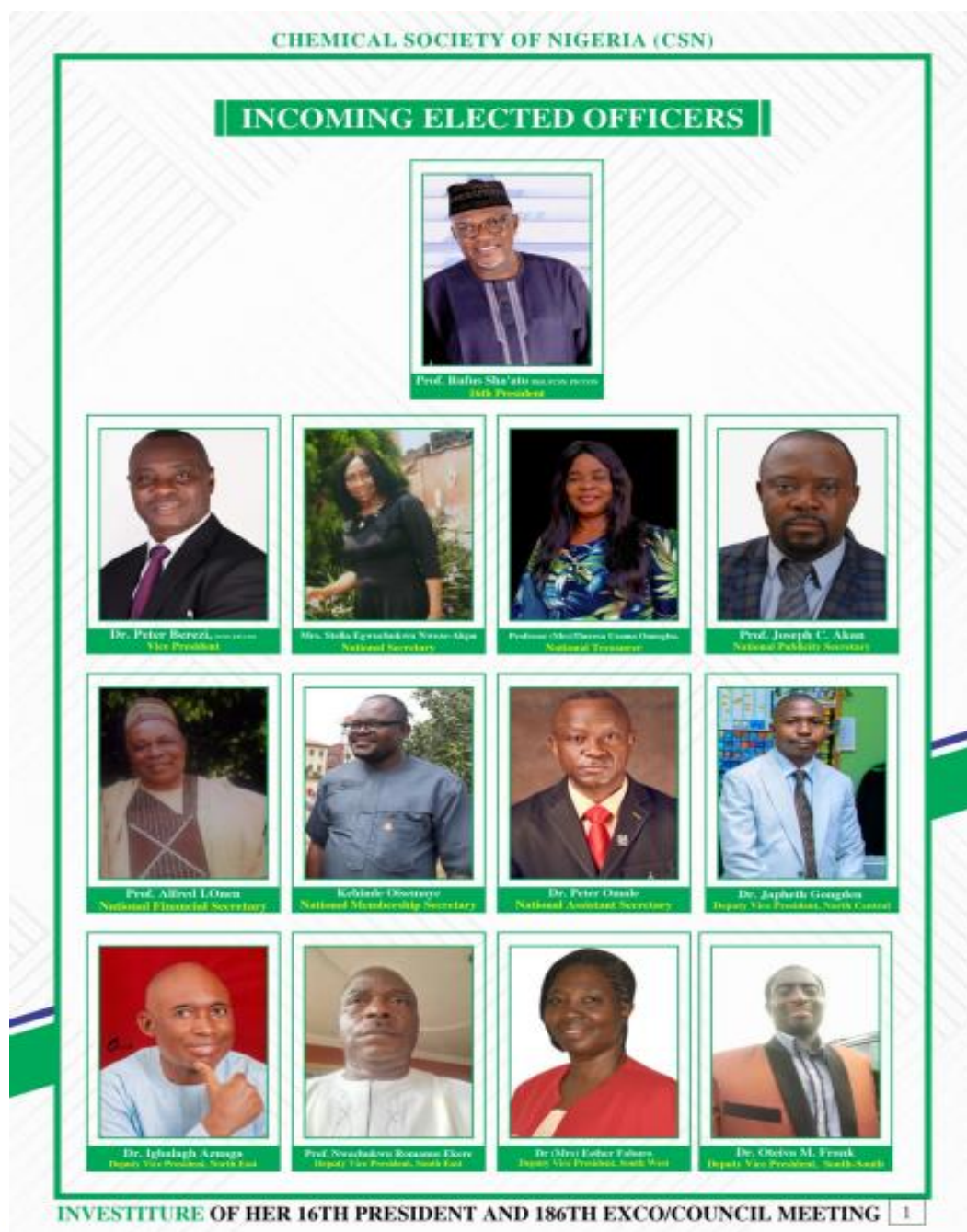
### About the Chemical Society of Nigeria

The Chemical Society of Nigeria is the premier professional body for chemists and allied professionals in Nigeria. Founded in 1971, the Society is dedicated to promoting the advancement of chemistry and its allied disciplines in Nigeria and beyond.



# FASC

## Federation of African Societies of Chemistry



## ii) Morocco

The African Training School on Green Chemistry & Environmental Sustainability (GreenChemAfrica) is a one-week training program dedicated to the latest advancements in sustainable chemistry and processes. The first edition of this training school will take place at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in **Benguerir, Morocco, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. We extend our warm invitation to passionate and enthusiastic PhD students (later-stage graduate students, e.g., third year and beyond), postgraduates, and early career professors and researchers, as well as industry professionals, from all countries across Africa.

Applications for this exceptional opportunity are now open, and we would like to ask you to share this information with African PhD students and early career researchers within your network. It's

worth noticing that this program is highly selective and a limited number of fellowships will be granted enhancing accessibility to this unique program at the scale of our continent.

For further information and application please visit the website:

<https://susmat.um6p.ma/greenchemafrica/>

**SUSMAT Team** (Youssef HABIBI <[Youssef.Habibi@um6p.ma](mailto:Youssef.Habibi@um6p.ma)>)

### iii) Senegal

Senegal will host the African Chemical Societies for the General Assembly of the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC). It will be held in conjunction with the Annual Days of Chemistry of Senegal (Journées Annuelles de Chimie du Sénégal - JACS), the major event of the Senegalese Committee for Chemistry (CSC), from 19 to 21 November 2024 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Dakar Sea Plaza, Corniche Ouest, Dakar, Senegal. The conference is themed "Chemistry, a lever for sustainable development of African countries" (see above for more details).

FASC|JACS 2024 will be jointly organized by CSC and FASC along with their partners among which are RSC, ACS, IUPAC, OPCW and West African Society of Chemistry (SOACHIM/Senegal) and in collaboration with Senegalese universities. The aim of this conference is not only to bring together Africa's scientific, technological, and industrial communities, but also to rethink together a structurally sustainable development centered on mankind and its priority investments. Chemistry is heavily involved in solving problems of African societies linked to health, energy, environment, water supply and nutrition, and therefore plays a key role in the sustainable development of African countries.

### iv) Tunisia

The fifth International **Symposium Medicinal Plants and Materials - MPM 2024** is an international congress which provides an open forum for academic researchers and industrials to present their original works and projects and exchange ideas and technological experiences.

The fifth edition of **MPM 2024** is intended to intensify and promote cooperation between academia, research institutions and relevant industries. It is also hoped that the conference will promote innovation and creativity among researchers working in the sustainable process and make important contributions to the industry of the future.

The fifth conference on **Medicinal Plants and Materials - MPM 2024**, will be held at Rosa Beach Hotel, located in the east of Tunisia, between Sousse and Monastir and directly on the shore of the blue sea on a beautiful white sand beach, considered the most beautiful of the whole region of the Sahel. Welcoming participants, distribution of documents and check in will start on Thursday 09 May 2024 from 14:30. Check out will be on Sunday 12 April 2024 after lunch. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we warmly welcome you to Monastir (Tunisia) and look forward to your participation in this symposium from May 09 to 12, 2024. The **MPM 2024** program will include plenary lectures, thematic lectures, oral presentations, poster presentations and training courses. The official languages of the congress will be French and English.

(see advert at the end of the newsletter); <http://www.sctunisie.org/mpm2024/>

### v) The Gambia

**Report on the launching of the Chemical Society of The Gambia (CSG)**



The Chemical society of The Gambia (CSG) was launched on Thursday, *25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024* at the Law Faculty Auditorium, University of The Gambia, Kanifing Campus

**The full report will be put on the FASC website**



## Commonwealth Chemistry

### i) Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries

**11 March 2024, 12:00 GMT**

We are excited to communicate with you about the next Commonwealth Chemistry event which is the second event being organised by the Commonwealth Chemistry Early Career Network with the needs and challenges of early career chemists in mind and it also coincides with Commonwealth Day.

The 'Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries' webinar will take place on 11 March 2024 at 12:00 GMT and will celebrate Commonwealth Day. The webinar will feature three inspirational speakers talking about topics that will empower women Chemists for their professional advancement, enhancement of their expertise in publishing, catalysing the synergy between women Chemists in academia and industry, and equipping them with soft entrepreneurial skills.

This online event is free to attend and open to anyone across the Commonwealth, but registration is required in order to receive the link to view the webinar.

There will be the opportunity to submit questions to the presenters during the webinar.

More information can be found on the [event webpage](#).

This event is **open to all and is free to attend**, so please promote this opportunity to your members and contacts.

We have created promotional material including imagery and pre-written text for social media, emails or newsletters that you may wish to use to promote the event within your membership. You can find these items on the [Commonwealth Chemistry website](#). These can be used either directly or with your own chosen words to share the invitation with your communities.

Please note that you will need to enter the following password to access the promotional materials webpage: **Commonwealth23**

We hope that you find these materials useful, though please let us know if you would prefer the material in another format.

We will also be sharing the event on our new [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly known as Twitter\)](#) accounts in the coming days; we hope you can like and share these posts to help us spread the word.



Many thanks for your help in promoting our 'Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries' webinar, we look forward to seeing you there.

*Dr Andrew Shore and Mrs Rachel Thompson, Commonwealth Chemistry Secretariat*  
[secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org](mailto:secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org) | [www.commonwealthchemistry.org](http://www.commonwealthchemistry.org)

## Royal Society of Chemistry News



### ii) Global essay competition: Young Voices in the Chemical Sciences for Sustainability

2024 Competition: Call for essays

The International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD), in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), is launching the second year of its annual essay competition on the role of the chemical sciences in sustainability. The competition is open globally to entrants under 35 years of age. The theme for the 2024 competition is: How can the chemical sciences contribute to 'decarbonizing' the production of energy and to eliminating the generation or release of greenhouse gasses from large-scale manufacturing and agricultural processes?



# FASC

## Federation of African Societies of Chemistry



## Global essay competition: *Young Voices in the Chemical Sciences for Sustainability*

2024 Competition: Call for essays \*\*\*Deadline extended to 31 March 2024

The International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD), in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), is launching the second year of its annual essay competition on the role of the chemical sciences in sustainability. The competition is open globally to entrants under 35 years of age. The theme for the 2024 competition is:

**How can the chemical sciences contribute to 'decarbonizing' the production of energy and to eliminating the generation or release of greenhouse gases from large-scale manufacturing and agricultural processes?**

Essays will be grouped into seven regions for shortlisting and selection of winners, based on the entrant's country of normal residence. Each regional winner will receive a prize of US\$500 and their entries will be published in *RSC Sustainability*. The shortlisted essays selected as Finalists will be collected in an annual compendium, *Young Voices in the Chemical Sciences for Sustainability*, published as a PDF online and available on IOCD's website. Individual shortlisted entries will also be featured from time to time on IOCD's website. See [here](#) for the 2023 regional winners and [here](#) for the 2023 finalists. The seven regional groupings are:

- East Asia & Pacific
- Europe & Central Asia
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Middle East & North Africa
- North America
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Theme: Broad flexibility will be applied in assessing the approach taken by entrants to framing the theme, which might be addressed, for example, through (but not limited to) contexts such as those related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, specific international challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss or plastics pollution, or critical resource shortages. Whatever framing of the problem is adopted, essays will be judged on how well they highlight the importance of scientific approaches grounded in the chemical sciences for solving sustainability challenges. Entrants are encouraged to take a broad, global perspective, including reflecting on the intersection of science, society and policy aspects, rather than to describe a particular scientific advance in great technical detail. Entrants should create their own title for their essay, related to the theme set.

2. Essay constraints and timelines: Essays must not exceed 1500 words of main text. Literature references to indicate sources should be given and original Tables or Figures may be included, in excess of the limit of 1500 words. However, the essay itself should be self-explanatory without requiring further background reading. Entries will initially be screened for compliance with competition rules (including entrant's age, word count, relevance to the set theme, absence of plagiarism, conformity with the publication requirements of *RSC Sustainability*) and then reviewed for shortlisting. Eligibility is limited to entrants who are under 35 years of age on the submission deadline day of 31 March 2024. The aim is for selection of shortlisted candidates to be completed by mid-April and the regional finalists determined by the end of May.

Prizes: The regional winners of the annual competition will each receive a cash prize of US\$500 from IOCD and a Winner's Certificate and their entries will be published by the RSC in *RSC Sustainability*. The competitors shortlisted for the final round of the Competition will each receive a Finalist's Certificate and their entries will be published by IOCD in the annual compendium, *Young Voices in the Chemical Sciences for Sustainability*.

Submissions: Essays must be submitted in English as a Word document, not later than midnight GMT on 31 March 2024 to [essay@iocd.org](mailto:essay@iocd.org) accompanied by a completed Entry Form, which is available on IOCD's website along with the detailed rules of the Competition at <http://www.iocd.org>.

1/1

Dr Lydia Rhyman

### vi) PACN meeting in Kenya.

*This meeting will now take place in late 2024. More information will be available later in the year.*

## African Journals of Chemistry

### African Journal of Chemical Education (FASC)

The African Journal of Chemical Education (AJCE) is celebrating its 14th year in 2024. AJCE has been publishing articles for the last 14 years uninterrupted. In addition, it has been publishing Special Issues occasionally.

This is to ask you to send your research manuscript for possible publication. AJCE regular issues appear twice a year (January and July).

Enquiries and manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief: email [eic@faschem.org](mailto:eic@faschem.org), PO Box 2305, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dr. Temecheegn Engida e-mail: [temechegne@faschem.org](mailto:temechegne@faschem.org)

See the FASC website for a list of Journals published in Africa.

## Research Opportunity

### WARA Residency Fellowship (Deadline is 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024)

In the interest of enhancing transatlantic exchange and collaboration, the West African Research Association, with funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US State Department, offers Residencies for WARA member institutions to host a West African Scholar on their campus. Each residency will last 4-8 weeks and will provide the visiting scholar with opportunities for library research, guest lecturing, and/or collaborative work with American colleagues. Please note that residencies are short-term exchanges and are not meant to fill faculty positions. WARA will pay the round-trip travel costs of the selected scholar as well as a stipend of \$3500 to help cover meals and local transportation costs. Host institutions are encouraged to provide additional support in the form of housing, office space, library privileges, laboratory facilities, or other supports for the period of the residency.

For details on eligibility visit WARA Residency Fellowship – WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION | WARA

## CONFERENCES/WORSHOPS (AFRICA)

See the FASC webpage for more details on the conferences listed below.

### North Africa

#### Tunisia

- **5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Medicinal Plants & Materials** 09 -12 May 2024, Rosa Beach Hotel, Tunisia, between Sousse and Monastir. <http://www.sctunisie.org/mpm2024/>

#### Morocco

- **African Training School on Green Chemistry & Environmental Sustainability (GreenChemAfrica)** 21-27 April 2024, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Benguerir, Morocco, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### Southern Africa

#### South Africa

- **SACI Inorganic and Carman 2024** 4-6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa
- **Analitika 2024** 10-14<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa
- **Chem4Energy** 20-24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, MuldersDrift, South Africa

#### Zambia



- **5th H3D Symposium, 2024** “Emerging Treatments for Drug Resistant Infections of Bacterial and Mycobacterial Origin Radisson Blu Mosi-Oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort in Zambia, Zambia; 21-24 May

## West Africa

### Senegal

- **IoT4AQ workshop** 14th and 15th of March 2024 at the Alioune Diop University, in Senegal

## Conferences/Workshops (International)

See end of the newsletter for adverts and the FASC website.

- **Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries.** 11 March 2024, ZOOM,
- **World Forum for Women in Science.** The event will be held in a blended format. Online Conference: April 15-17, 2024 and In-Person Networking Event in Rome: April 19, 2024.
- **27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry Education.** July 15-19 2024, Pattaya, Thailand

## Conferences/Workshops details

### 1. World Forum for Women in Science

**2024 / Italy** **World Forum for Women in Science (WFWS)**

**8<sup>th</sup> Forum** **Women in Science Without Borders (WISWB)**

**ONLINE CONFERENCE**  
15/17 APRIL 2024

**NETWORKING EVENT**  
19 APRIL 2024  
- ROME, ITALY -

**ENVISIONING TOMORROW**  
Science for the SDGs and New Partnerships for Sustainable Future

In our interconnected world, achieving SDG17: Partnership for the Goals is vital to creating a shared gender inclusive sustainable future, and this is an endeavor scientists and stakeholders must undertake together. WFWS-2024 brings together diverse science voices from around the world to engage in dialogue and knowledge-sharing. Beginning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ethical approaches, transnational collaboration, and science are emphasized as tools for diplomacy and positive change. Join us to explore how through global cooperation, science can bring about a more equitable, sustainable and united future.

**CALL FOR SUBMISSION**  
We invite cutting-edge submissions (abstracts) from scientists and all stakeholders (not restricted to females) for 15-minute presentations including research papers, case studies, and policy analyses. Accepted topics are zero hunger (food and agriculture); good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; climate action; and partnerships for the goals. Papers should offer innovative insights, solutions, or perspectives on these themes that aim to have an impact on society.  
» Deadline by the 18th of February.

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE**  
Prof. Amal Amin founding Chair of WISWB and WFWS  
Nerina Finetto founding director of Traces4Dreams  
In partnership with the Festival delle Scienze Error and Wonder, Rome, Italy.  
Fondazione Musica per Roma, Italy; Codice Edizioni, Italy.

**REGISTRATION**  
Please complete this registration form.  
Click the link or scan the QR code to access the form:  
<https://forms.gle/aRSPgFwXCOcXly6>

**TRACES4DREAMS**

contact@women-in-science-without-borders.network

## 2. Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries

**Empowerment of Women Chemists in the Commonwealth Countries**

Webinar organized by the Early Career Network, Commonwealth Chemistry

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 12:00 - 13:40 GMT via ZOOM



**Dr. Alejandra Palermo**  
Head of Global Inclusion at the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom  
**Opening Remarks**



**Prof. Catherine Ngila**  
Executive Director, African Foundation for Women & Youth in Education & STI, Kenya  
**Tools for Establishing Research Collaborations**



**Dr. Laura C. Fisher**  
Executive Editor, RSC Advances, United Kingdom  
**Publishing Strategies**



**Prof. Nimanthi Jayathilaka**  
Department of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka  
**Exploring Entrepreneurship**

**REGISTER NOW**  
SCAN ME  
<https://www.eventforce.net/roc/2952/register>

**CONTACT**  
Secretariat of Commonwealth Chemistry  
[secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org](mailto:secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org)

**COORDINATORS**  
Prof. Cynthia N. Ijeto, Nigeria  
Prof. Naumih Noah, Kenya

## 3. 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry Education

**The 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry Education**  
"Power of Chemistry education for advancing SDGs"  
Royal Cliff Hotels Group  
Pattaya, Thailand. July 15-19, 2024

**Plenary Speakers**



**Prof. Peter G Mahaffy**  
Canada



**Prof. J Catherine Ngila**  
Kenya



**Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara**  
Thailand

**Apply for Scholarships**  
200 Scholarships for school teachers and students.  
5 IUPAC scholarships for young scientists.  
Application submission deadline **February 29, 2024.**

**ICCE 2024 Program Themes**

- Chemistry education in informal education and life-long learning context
- Redesigning chemistry laboratory teaching
- Innovative technology for chemistry education
- Chemistry and science teacher education and continuous professional development
- Chemistry and chemical science education for environmental and social sustainability
- Policy reform, and quality assurance in chemistry education
- Ethics, diversity, equity and inclusion in chemistry education
- Emerging educational trends in chemistry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Important Dates**

Abstract submission deadline	February 29, 2024
Notification of abstract acceptance	March 31, 2024
Proceeding submission deadline	April 30, 2024
Early bird registration	March 31, 2024
Pre-registration deadline	June 30, 2024

**Symposia**

**Symposium A:** The 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Microscale Chemistry (12ISMC)  
**Symposium B:** Modeling-Based instruction and assessment for chemistry education  
**Symposium C:** Connecting Competency-based Chemistry Education and the Challenge of Sustainable Development  
**Symposium D:** Advancing Chemical Safety and Security Education  
**Symposium E:** (Joint Education and Industry Symposium) Systems Thinking in Chemistry for Sustainability  
**Symposium F:** Green and sustainable chemistry in the chemistry curriculum: Advances and models

**Workshops**

- Workshop on Microscale/Small-Scale Chemistry
- Workshop on Systems Thinking and Sustainability
- Workshop on Chemical Safety and Security for CWC
- Workshop on Green Chemistry and UN SDGs

**Logos:** IMPAC, Chula, BUU, Bangkok Bank, Dow, ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

[www.icce2024thailand.com](http://www.icce2024thailand.com)



#### 4. MPM 2024

الندوة الدولية الخامسة حول النباتات الطبية والمواد

**5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Medicinal Plants and Materials**

**MPM 2024**

09 - 12 May 2024  
Rosa Beach Hotel,  
Sousse Monastir,  
Tunisia

For registration and more information  
[www.sctunisie.org/mpm2024](http://www.sctunisie.org/mpm2024)

#### 5. SACI Inorganic and Carman 2024

**INORGANIC AND CARMAN 2024**

**SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE**

**COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS**

## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

**2024 SACI INORGANIC AND CARMAN CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE**  
**CHAMPAGNE SPORTS RESORT, CENTRAL DRakensberg**  
**KZN, SOUTH AFRICA**  
**2 – 6 JUNE 2024**

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDES ACCOMMODATION		
Category of Participant	Early Bird 19 Jan 2024 – 31 March 2024	Late Fees 1 April 2024 – 15 April 2024
SACI Member	R14500	R16500
SACI Student Member (sharing)	R12000	R14000
Non-SACI Member	R16000	R18000
Non-SACI Student Member (sharing)	R12500	R14500
Accompanying Person	R10000	R10000

**TOPICS**

Inorganic Chemistry

Supramolecular Chemistry

Materials Chemistry

Reaction Kinetics

Organometallic Chemistry

Coordination Chemistry

Bioinorganic Chemistry

Green Chemistry

Theoretical Chemistry

Industrial Chemistry

Catalysis

Crystallography

Thermodynamics

Electrochemistry

Physical Chemistry

**IMPORTANT DATES**

22 January 2024	First Announcement
22 January 2024	Early Bird Registration (online)
22 January 2024	Abstract Submission
19 February 2024	Second Announcement
31 March 2024	Deadline for Abstract Submission
31 March 2024	Deadline for Early Bird Registration
1 April 2024	Start Late Registration (online)
15 April 2024	End of Registration
5 May 2024	Notification of Abstract Acceptance

Registration:

<https://www.saci.co.za/INORG2024/registration.html>

Abstract submission:

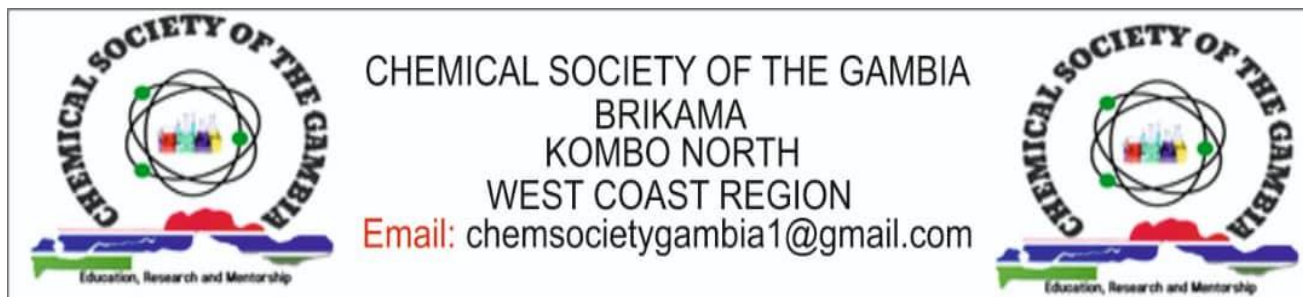
<https://www.saci.co.za/Scripts/Submissions/>

Or contact the chairperson: [singht1@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:singht1@ukzn.ac.za)



## ADDENDUM

## REPORT ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF THE GAMBIA (CSG)



## REPORT ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF THE GAMBIA (CSG)



The Chemical society of The Gambia (CSG) was launched on Thursday, **25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024** at the Law Faculty Auditorium, University of The Gambia, Kanifing Campus at around 10:00 am.

### ***Event Proceedings***

Mr. Ousman Bah ushered the audience into the program. He then introduced the Master of Ceremony (MC) of the event in the person of Mr. Sulayman Gaye.

The MC introduced the members of the high table which included Mr. Oladele Oyelakin, chair to the advisory board, CSG, Mr. Sainey Cham, president of the CSG and Dr. Ismaila Badjie, CEO Inovarx Global.

After a rundown of events on the programme guide, the MC commented on the significance of the occasion before inviting the first speaker Mr. O. Oyelakin to the podium.

### **Welcome Note by Oladele Oyelakin**



In his welcome remarks, Mr. Oladele gave a brief history of Chemistry education in The Gambia and the establishment of the Chemical Society of The Gambia.

#### **➤ *Chemistry Education in The Gambia***

Speaking on Chemistry education, he recounted the circumstances surrounding the establishment of the University of The Gambia in 1999 through some interactions with Nova Scotia Gambia Association which eventually led to collaboration with St. Mary University, Halifax in Canada. To this effect, successful students were awarded degrees after completing prescribed courses at the time. Mr. Oyelakin was among the few members of staff hired in 1999. After being instituted by an act of parliament as a university, there were two students majoring in Chemistry. Amidst a lot of challenges and unfavourable learning conditions, the pair eventually became the first chemistry graduates of the University of The Gambia.

In an effort to improve quality and foster understanding and appreciation of the discipline, Mr. Oladele and team started practical sessions with students by taking them to Brikama. Eventually,

the number of students offering Chemistry increased to 3, 6, and 8 in the subsequent batches. To the glory of God, UTG currently has about 20 students as Chemistry majors.

It is worthy of mention that UTG chemistry graduates have gone on to do well even beyond the borders of this country. The likes of Dr. Ebrima Tunkara, who works as a process engineer at Intel, USA, and Dr. Njaw Njie, who works for a battery company in Germany, are few examples.

### ➤ *Chemical Society of The Gambia*

Mr. Oyelakin described the CSG as an association of young people with prospective aims and vision. He further emphasized that such an association can benefit members in several ways including knowledge exchange and intellectual growth. Further to this, there can be research support and collaboration with other scientists especially within the sub region and beyond.

One of such collaborations is the Commonwealth Chemistry in which the Gambia was represented at a conference sometime last year, May 2023. The Gambia could possibly host such event in the near future.

Furthermore, chemistry (chemical) societies can offer mentorship to the younger generation who would eventually become experts in various fields while contributing significantly towards national development.

### **Remarks by the President - Chemical Society of The Gambia**



In his speech, Mr. Sainey Cham emphasised the role of science in development and the significance of chemistry in understanding all other scientific disciplines. He noted that the Chemical Society of The Gambia was formally registered on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2022. He maintained that even though some chemical societies across the globe are celebrating 100 years, 70 years plus and so on, he is happy that The Chemical Society of The Gambia will also celebrate its own in due time.

According to the president, it is among the objectives of the society to:

1. promote and encourage Chemistry education;
2. organise seminars on relevant issues affecting the people and the environment; and
3. To fund or raise funds for research and scholarship in chemistry and chemistry related endeavours.



Mr. Cham went further and highlighted on membership, international collaborations and cooperate social responsibilities as summarized below.

### ➤ *Membership*

On membership, Cham noted that the CSG recognizes three types of members namely; graduate members, affiliate members, and student members.

- ***The Graduate Members:*** This comprises individuals who have acquired a certificate, diploma or degree in Chemistry.
- ***The Affiliate Members:*** This category includes those that may not have a degree or certificate in Chemistry, but are affiliated to it either by workplace, the consciousness of its significance or some other means.
- ***The Student Members:*** In this group, we have the students who may or may not be Chemistry majors that are interested in identifying with the vision of the society.

### ➤ *Registration*

Registration into the CSG is done by completing a registration form for a fee of D100.00 only. Once the payment is made one is then granted permission to complete the online registration which can otherwise be done manually.

### ➤ *Social Cooperative Responsibility*

The society takes it up as a challenge to offer free tutorial classes to secondary school students in preparation for the West African Senior School Certificate Education (WASSCE). This is done every year by members who volunteer to serve as tutors in different centres across the country. The benefit of this tutorial programme is that there has been a steady increase in the performance of students in Chemistry at WASSCE level which is also reflected in the enrolment at tertiary institutions.

### ➤ *Research*

Research is among the mission of the society. This will enable us to give advice to relevant stakeholders in making important decisions for national development. Towards this end, the research and publication unit of the society has outlined some of the key research areas to focus on as soon as the funds are adequately mobilised. Meanwhile, some members of the society have conducted researches, some of which are already published while others are underway to be published.

One of such researches was; ASSESSMENT OF WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS IN NYAMBAI, BRIKAMA, THE GAMBIA by O. Oyelakin.

### ➤ *International Collaboration*

The society is currently registered with the Commonwealth Chemistry, special thanks to Dr. Dawda Badjie - the current executive director of the National Environment Agency NEA.

All efforts are currently being committed towards registering the CSG with the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry as well as IUPAC.

### ➤ *Funding*

The main source of funding has been membership dues and pledges. Graduate members pay D1000.00 while school (university and College) going students pay D500.00 monthly

It is worth mentioning that the CSG was supported by Commonwealth Chemistry towards the launching of the society. The president concluded by encouraging all to be committed towards taking the CSG to the next level through individual and collective efforts.

### **A Statement by Dr. Dawda Badjie - Executive Director of NEA**



Dr. Badjie served in different capacities in both public and private sectors. At NEA, he rose through the ranks to the deputy executive director and currently the executive director, NEA.

### ***Topic: The Role of Chemistry in Mitigating Environmental Challenges***

Dr. Badjie emphasised that Chemistry is relevant to almost everything that we use and interact with in our day-to-day life. He noted that chemistry is the central science as it cuts across various scientific disciplines and plays a pivotal role in understanding those sciences.

The NEA boss elaborates on how chemistry enables us to navigate the effects of climate change and environmental challenges through the workings of Green Chemistry and related fields.

According to him, the National Environment Agency relies on chemistry for most of their work as they are continuously involved in analysis of levels of different pollutants in different environments. In addition, they investigate the residual effects of various chemicals in different settings, all of which cannot be done in the absence of chemistry.

Dr. Badjie concluded by emphasizing that only chemistry has the power to unravel some of the subtle, yet pervasive, effects of environmental contamination. His take-home message was “out of sight is out of mind, but not out of the environment”.

## **A Statement by the President of the Traditional Healers Assembly of The Gambia**



For his part, Mr. Salieu Puye, president of the Traditional Healers Assembly of The Gambia, stressed the fact that if chemistry is to be relevant to only one field, then that field would be medicine. He noted that the formulation of herbs that are used for healing in traditional medicine are all chemical based. He also talked about the secondary metabolites in plants, which includes the defensive mechanism of plants in fighting against disease and infection.

In conclusion, Mr. Puye encourages all students to pursue science, most importantly chemistry while confirming their association's resolve to register and be part of the Chemical Society of The Gambia.

### **Refreshment Break**

## **A statement By a Representative of the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology**





Mr. Buba Ngum who represented the minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology reiterated the ministry's commitment to supporting science and science-related interventions in the country.

He added that the minister himself, who had wanted to be present at the occasion but could not due to some cabinet commitments, will always leave his doors open to CSG and be eager to support their agenda. He concluded by encouraging all members to work together as they contribute their quota towards nation-building.

### **Keynote speech: Dr. Ismaila Badjie – CEO, Inovarx Global**

#### ***TOPIC: LET'S SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT***



Dr Ismail D Badjie began by appreciating the fact that the history of Chemistry in Africa dates back 2000 years ago. He stressed that for an organization such as the Chemical Society of The Gambia to be alive and relevant within the realities of The Gambian context, three critical questions must be answered:

***Why now? ... What for? ... And Where to? ...***

***Why now?*** It is very important to, first of all, know why there is a need for all to come together at a time like this and be united in a society with a common goal.

***What for?*** Everyone must know the reason for which we need to form this society.

***Where to?*** There must be a clear vision as to where we want to reach as a society in the near future.

Dr. Badjie maintained that his inspiration for chemistry emerged as a result of a simple titration experiment as early as high school days some 20 years ago at Gambia High School. He was marvelled at the fact that water could be created from that corrosive acid and base by some chemical interaction between the reagents.

He went on to relate that science and spirituality go hand in hand. In demonstrating this, Dr. Badjie explained that Islamic mysticism was, most of the time, conducted by people they called alchemists as they were able to use their knowledgebase to serve the purpose of humanity as healers.

For us to better appreciate chemistry and see its relevance in our society, The Innovarx CEO believes that we must be able to realize that most of what we use or interact with in our daily lives is chemistry.

However, oftentimes it appears difficult for Africans to understand chemistry well enough with ease because the concepts in it were presented in books that were written by some other people far from our continent which makes it difficult for us to see ourselves in it. For instance, he recalled all the chemistry courses that he had to take up to the level of being awarded a doctor of Pharmacy, but none of them included the chemistry that was being practiced in Timbuktu as well as that of Egypt. He emphasized that if chemistry could be explained to us within the realities of the Gambian and African context, then the concepts would have been better appreciated.

To demonstrate the relevance of chemistry in our society, he gave examples of the women selling fragrance, the tie and dye, batik as well as the goldsmith who makes bangles which is typical of the chemistry of Senegambia to the woman cooking who would use vinegar and sodium chloride in their right proportions to prepare and serve a wonderful meal with a palatable taste that all would appreciate and the tattoos of our great grandparents and so on. It is therefore about time that we recognise, appreciate and support this wonderful traditional chemistry in our society so that our nations can develop.

Towards his conclusion, Dr. Badjie reiterated the need for a change of mind-set as a people. It is about time we begin to change the minerals (soil) of this country to silicon chips that can power the future. For this to happen, there must be a shift of mind set such that we stop looking down on our traditional healers but challenge and encourage our scientists and governments to be committed to research. He assures that if all relevant stakeholders can dedicate resources towards research into such natural resources as the “baobab”, the neem tree, moringa etc. then the solution to our problems would be here and now; for we would start solving our problems in our own way. The future of any nation depends on Science and Technology. For the day you lose your powers to study and understand chemistry, then our food, technology, agriculture and healthcare would be seriously affected.

On a final note, he challenged invited secondary students and all to be intellectually curious and also take ownership of the CSG for when one takes full ownership of institutions and organisations such as this, then one is now part of the process of building the nation. Dr. Ismail promised that his company, Inovarx Global, would take ownership of CSG and offer any form of support that it could. Before leaving the podium, he encouraged all to see everything that they interact with through the lens of chemistry. He believes that when one does so, then one would realise that the greatest chemist is the one who lives on high - The Lord God Almighty.

### **Award of Certificates**

Certificates were awarded to members of CSG who volunteered to support WASSC Candidates on practical chemistry during the 2022/2023 academic year.

### **Official Launching**

The guest speaker, Dr. Ismaila Badjie was once again called upon to formally and officially launch the CSG for operation.

### Poster Presentation

Four members of CSG at this point were invited to present posters of their researches. The four members and their respective research topics are given below:

- Mr. Ebrima AA Jallow topic: Aflasafe efficacy in the mitigation of aflatoxin in The Gambia
- Mr. Bakary Konateh topic: Local Production of Bioflakes
- Mr. Alagie Bah topic: photochemical analysis of sap, root and leave extracts of calotropis procera from selected regions of The Gambia.
- Mrs. Bilkisu A. Jallow topic: Analysis of vitamin A, Iron and Iodine in common consumed foodstuffs in The Gambia.



The program was finally brought to a close after a vote of thanks.

**Report prepared by:** secretariat department (Mr. Ousman Bah and Mr. Lamin Gomez)



Sign: .....



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## Federation of African Societies of Chemistry