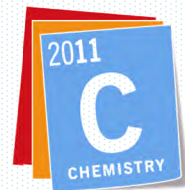


# IYC-2011 @ CSIR-CECRI

Reliving the moments ...



## International Year of **CHEMISTRY** 2011

Chemistry—our life, our future

*The International Year of Chemistry 2011 was a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of mankind. It also coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nobel Prize awarded to Madame Marie Curie—an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women to science. The year was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies, providing a chance to highlight the benefits of international scientific collaboration. The goals of IYC2011 were to increase public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs, to encourage interest in chemistry among young people, and to generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry.*



## CSIR-CECRI

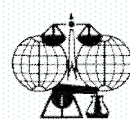
Electro-Chemistry—energizing lives

Under the able guidance and continued support of Dr. V. Yegnaraman, Director (2009-11) and Dr. Vijayamohanan K. Pillai, Acting Director (2011 onwards), IYC-2011 celebrations at CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute were planned as per the following outline:

- Awareness/Motivation programme for school students
- Motivation/Training programme for school teachers in chemistry
- Motivation/Training programme for science teachers in colleges
- Competitive programmes for research scholars
- Workshops/Seminars on core areas of CSIR
- Lectures by eminent personalities



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International Union of  
Pure and Applied  
Chemistry

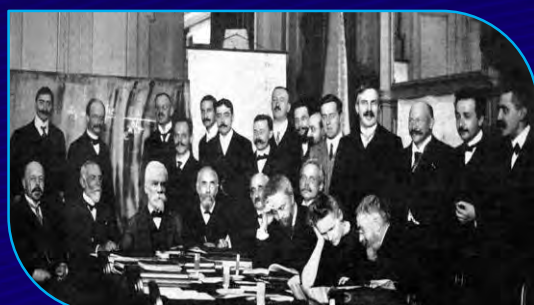
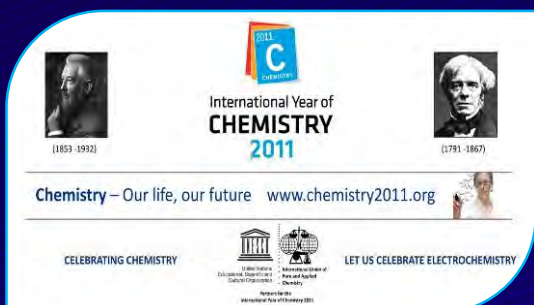
Partners for the International Year of Chemistry 2011





A three-day **Faculty Training and Motivation Programme** under CSIR-HRDC's scheme of Faculty Training & Motivation and Adoption of Schools & Colleges marked the beginning of IYC-2011 celebrations at CSIR-CECRI. Lecturers and assistant professors in the faculties of chemistry and physics from all over the district participated in this event and updated themselves with the latest trends.

**Posters of IYC** cropped up and a festive fragrance filled the campus. Even whispers in the corridors centred on **Marie Curie, Michael Faraday, C.V. Raman, Alfred Nobel, Albert Einstein...** The year-long celebrations were interlaced with lectures, motivation/training/awareness programmes, scholar seminars, competitions, tips & tricks, etc.



Dr. K.L.N. Phani, Senior Principal Scientist and Head, Knowledge Resource Centre, CSIR-CECRI kickstarted the IYC lecture series with a talk on **Chemistry-2011-IYC: Celebrating Chemistry** on April 4, 2011. He encapsulated several aspects of chemistry that touch human welfare.

Moving on, to assess the scholastic skills, a competitive **In-house Scholar Seminar** was conducted in April, 2011. All the scholars of the institute took part energetically in this event, which required them to speak on topics selected by lots. Dividing them into three groups, the preliminary round was conducted during April 18-20, 2011 and final for the toppers of each group was held on April 27, 2011. All the participants were provided with educational kits and books. The prize winners were suitably rewarded.







In order to sow the seeds of science in young minds, a two-day **Tri-Lingual Workshop** was organized for the students of CSIR-CECRI Kendriya Vidyalaya on August 17 and 18, 2011. Lectures, demonstrations, competitions, laboratory visits, hands-on training, etc. constituted the event. It was well received and the students were highly appreciative of the organizers for this unique opportunity.

As a part of CSIR-CECRI's **Hindi Month Celebrations**, an essay competition in hindi on International Year of Chemistry (**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रसायनविज्ञान वर्ष - 2011**) was organized on September 12, 2011. Staff members, research/project fellows and B.Tech. students participated enthusiastically.



On September 27, 2011, Dr. Anil Kumar of IIT-Mumbai gave a **captivating Lecture Demonstration in Chemistry**. He also performed some mind-boggling scientific magic tricks, leaving the audience spell-bound and in awe. However, after every trick, he removed the veil of secrecy by explaining science behind it.

On November 15, 2011, Prof. P. Gautam of Anna University, Chennai delivered a lecture on **AFM Studies of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilms on Porous Silicon**. It was an intoxicating cocktail of chemistry and biology. Prof. A.K. Ganguli of IIT-Delhi delivered a lecture on **Controlled Synthesis of Nanostructures using Microemulsions** on November 30, 2011. He dealt with nanostructured micellar units that are precursors to nanoscopic products.







A **One-day Science Motivation Programme** was organized on December 9, 2011 by the CECRI Ladies Forum at the Government Higher Secondary School, Ariyakudi (adopted by CECRI). Various programmes including competitions like science exhibits, elocution and quiz were conducted. A large number of basic science books were donated by the forum to the school library. The event inculcated a spirit of science in the students.

Prof. A. Rajakumar of IIT-Kharagpur delivered a keynote address on **Analytical Challenges in Unraveling the Environmental Proxies from the Antarctic Ice Samples** on December 12, and a lecture on **Recent Trends in the Visible Light Assisted Photocatalysis for Environmental Remediation** the next day. His talks threw light on the unraveled path to this area of research.



A two-day **Motivation Program for Chemistry Teachers** was organized by CSIR-CECRI on December 12 and 13, 2011. Teachers from all over the district participated in this event and updated themselves on developments in the chemical sciences.

Many of the participants thanked the organizers for rewinding their memories to the (g)olden days of their student life. For a welcome change, it was the turn of the teachers to sit on the audience side and to learn from the lectures and demonstrations and they played the student role to perfection. In so doing, they kindled the motivation and positive energy of CSIR-CECRI staff members!







Prof. V.K. Gupta of IIT-Roorkee gave a lecture on **Chemical Sensors for Monitoring Heavy Metals, Anions and Drugs** on December 14, 2011. The audience were left addicted to his sensible thoughts and new ideas.

Prof. Amala Dass of the University of Mississippi gave a lecture on **Gold Nanomolecules: Gold Nanoparticles of Molecular Definition** on December 15, 2011. Even though it was a short nano-talk, it was a precious one!

Prof. C.R. Raj of IIT-Kharagpur gave a lecture on **Nanoscale Materials for Electrochemical and Optical Sensing** on December 19, 2011. His talk rekindled the senses and served as an eye-opener to the audience.



A one-day workshop on **Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD)**, a flagship project of CSIR, led by its visionary **Prof. Samir K. Brahmachari, DG-CSIR**, was organized on December 20, 2011. OSDD envisions affordable healthcare to all by drawing on the expertise available across the country for this noble cause. Experts from all over the country participated in this event, which provided a platform for collective effort.

Dr. R.R. Hirwani of CSIR-URDIP, Pune gave a lecture on **Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning** on December 23, 2011. He also inaugurated the **CSIR-CECRI's Repository in CSIR Central**, an open access initiative of CSIR for its publications. He stressed the significance of IPR through patents and open access, which enlarged the vision of CSIR-CECRI researchers.

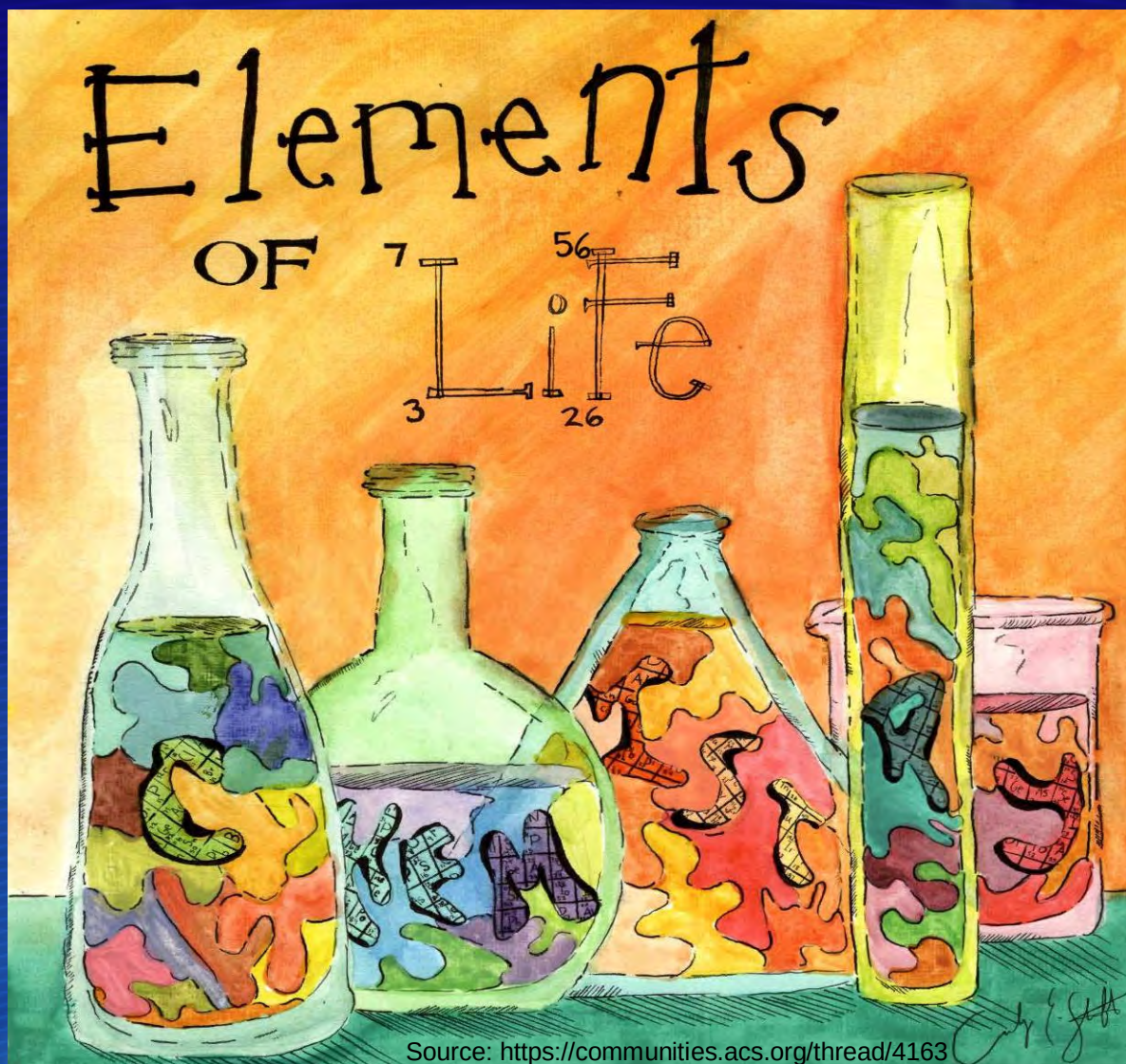






The IYC-2011 wrapping-up lectures were delivered by Prof. S. Chandrasekaran of IISc, Bangalore, who spoke on **Chemistry: Our Life, Our Future; Chemistry for Sustainable Development** on December 22, 2011 and by Prof. Sabu Thomas of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, who spoke on **Viscoelastic Phase Separation Process and the Development of Micro and Nanomorphologies in Epoxy Based Blends** on December 29, 2011. Both the lectures were fascinating and befitting the occasion.

And they were blended with sustainable futuristic thoughts most suited for the betterment of our life and future—**CHEMISTRY!**



Source: <https://communities.acs.org/thread/4163>