

CHEMISTRY, OUR LIFE, OUR FUTURE

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Dna Prof. Nicole J. Moreau, președinta IUPAC (Uniunea Internațională a Chimiei Pure și Aplicate), se adresează participanților la Simpozionul chimiștilor din România și Republica Moldova „Chimia este viața noastră, viitorul nostru” (Chișinău, 5 mai 2010). Ea aduce mulțumiri pentru organizarea evenimentului dat.

Este important ca în acest an, declarat Anul Internațional al Chimiei, să fie organizate evenimente naționale și internaționale atât în țările mici, precum Republica Moldova, cât și în țările mari, pentru a pune în valoare importanța chimiei ca știință ce explică modul în care este creată lumea din jurul nostru și caută metode mai eficiente de a răspunde necesităților în ceea ce privește sănătatea, energia, mediul etc.

Dear colleagues from Moldova and Romania,

On the eve of your conference «Chemistry, our life, our future», to be held in Chisinau, it is my pleasure to wish you a very fruitful meeting. Unfortunately, due to another commitment, here in France (I cannot always say „no” to French events and travel worldwide during this International Year of Chemistry), I cannot attend the Moldo-Romanian Conference. But I’ll try in this short message to do as if I were in your city, talking directly to you.

I have first to thank Professor Gheorghe Duca’s and all the organizers for this invitation. You probably think that I do not know a lot about Moldova and Chisinau. This is not totally exact: of course, as most educated people do, I have been told at school about the ancient Dacian people, about the fact that, during Roman period, this part of Dacia was never a Roman Province, and about a very complicated and not always very happy more recent historical facts. I also know that Moldova is a member of the International Organisation of Francophonie. But there is something else that not so many people know abroad: I am aware of Dina Verny, who founded the Maillol Museum and recently died in Paris; she was Aristide Maillol’s muse (the painter was born in Perpignan, as I did my family and myself). Dina was also deeply active during the second World war, where she helped anti-fascist Spaniards to cross the „Pyrenees Orientales”, and my father told me about the „lady with the red dress” – her dress was a landmark for those crossing the mountain. I only recently understood that my father’s story lady



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and the Moldavian lady who created the Maillol’s museum in Paris were the same person.

But let us come back to your meeting, to Chemistry and to IYC. As you know, IUPAC asked to UN, and obtained in December 2008, that an International Year of Chemistry could be declared. IUPAC and UNESCO were placed at the helm of the event by UN. We decided to organize only a few cornerstone events and activities, and that most activity is focused nationally and open to all.

If we want this year to be a success, we should celebrate it everywhere, in all countries, small as well as big ones. Moldova, less than 1/10th of France – itself already not a very big country –, is an example for the wide success of IYC, and we have to thank you for this participation and for your help for a better image of chemistry towards the public, stakeholders and politicians.

Moreover, the fact that Moldova was among the first countries to adhere to the Pan-European Ecological Network, through its national network, is very precious for the image of chemistry. This tends to indicate that Chemistry should be considered not as an enemy of biodiversity and of Nature and Mankind well-being, but as one of the solution providers to face the problems our planet is faced to. So, altogether we must explain what Chemistry is really, that it is first the science that can explain how our world is made, and also a science that looks for better means to answer the needs as regards health, energy, nutrition and water, environment, materials.

Before concluding, I should thank you again for organizing this conference and celebrating IYC, remember you to celebrate also women in chemistry, and now, I am sure that your meeting will be a full success.