

P r e f a c e

This report represents the main papers and the principal discussion points of the Conference on Chemistry and Developing Countries held in London in April 1991.

The Conference was arranged in conjunction with the British Council and the Commonwealth Science Council as part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the original Chemical Society, now known as the Royal Society of Chemistry. It was, in fact, the second such Conference on Chemistry and Developing Countries, the first having been held in the University of East Anglia, Norwich in 1984 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the British Council, and in conjunction with the British Association for the Advancement of Science, whose Annual Meeting that year was held concurrently in Norwich.

The Director General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director General of the British Council, the President of IUPAC, the Chief Natural Resources Adviser to the UK Overseas Development Administration and a representative of the Commonwealth Secretary-General were among the keynote speakers at the opening of the Conference.

The Conference was concerned with two main concurrent themes - Chemistry for the Environment and Organising Science to Benefit the Third World. The overall and long-term aim of the Conference was to enhance the ability of scientists to contribute to the well-being of society - through new ideas, contacts, information and expertise - and generally to develop science and technology in order to increase the economic base of developing countries by stimulating wealth creation and job opportunities. Also, to use science more effectively in the safeguarding of health and the environment and the promotion of sustainable development.

The themes are so vitally important to the development of Third World countries that it is essential for effective follow-up action to be initiated without delay along the lines of the recommendations agreed at the Conference and detailed on pages 5-6. Such action is likely to involve the Commonwealth Science Council, with support from donor agencies and with professional coordination by The Royal Society of Chemistry.

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