



MEDIA RELEASE

Professor Goverdhan Mehta named ICSU President-Elect

Paris, France – The International Council for Science (ICSU) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Goverdhan Mehta, Director of the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), to the position of ICSU President-Elect.

Professor Mehta is a recognized expert in the chemistry of complex natural and non-natural products, the design of new reactions and reagents, and the use of photodynamic therapy for cancer treatment. He has published more than 300 research papers in leading international journals and contributed to several monographs in areas of contemporary interest in organic chemistry. In addition, he has developed innovative processes and new technology for industrial applications.

Professor Mehta has loyally served ICSU in a number of capacities, including a recent term on the Executive Board (1999-2002). Previously, he held the positions of Chair of ICSU's National Committee for India and Chair of the Indian National Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). He also brings a wealth of international science experience from other associations, particularly the Inter-Academy Council where he currently serves as Co-Chair.

Professor Mehta obtained his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Poona. After pursuing post-doctoral research at Michigan State and Ohio State Universities, he joined the faculty of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1969. Professor Mehta has also held positions as Professor and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Hyderabad. His outstanding commitment to science has been recognized through several prestigious professional memberships and awards including the Srinivasa Ramanujan Research Professorship (INSA: 1992-1997); the Pandit J.L. Nehru National Award for Excellence in Science (1994); the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award (Germany: 1995); and, the Third World Academy of Science Medal for Chemical Sciences (2000).

Professor Mehta's term as ICSU President-Elect will officially begin in March 2003, 18 months prior to his taking office as President following ICSU's 28th General Assembly in September 2005. The current President of ICSU is Professor Jane Lubchenco, a marine ecologist from Oregon State University in the U.S.

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Founded in 1931, the International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation representing a global membership that includes both national scientific academies (101 members) and international scientific unions (27 members). Drawing on this wide spectrum of expertise, ICSU addresses major international, interdisciplinary issues typically beyond the scope of individual organisations. The Council also builds on this expertise by initiating, designing and coordinating multidisciplinary research programmes, particularly in the areas of global environmental change and sustainable development.

ICSU acts as a focal point for the exchange of ideas, the communication of scientific information, and the development of scientific standards and networks. The Council addresses important matters of concern to scientists, such as education and capacity building for science, access to data and information, science in developing countries, and freedom in the conduct of science. By harnessing the power of a network that connects hundreds of thousands of scientists around the world, ICSU is actively *strengthening international science for the benefit of society*.

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