



Minutes from the meeting of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Slovak Academy of Sciences (IIC SAS) with the management and scientific board of the IIC SAS organized on November 10, 2021

Members of the IAB:

prof. Dr. Ralf Riedel, Department of Materials and Geosciences, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany

prof. Kenneth Ruud, University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Dr. Mathieu Allix, CNRS, Orléans – Laboratoire CEMHTI, France

Ing. Kamil Lang, CSc., DSc., Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Husinec-Řež, Czech Republic

prof. RNDr. Karel Maca, Dr., Institute of Materials Science and Engineering, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic

Members of management and Scientific board of IIC SAS:

doc. Ing. Miroslav Boča, DrSc.; prof. RNDr. Juraj Bujdák, DrSc.; prof. Ing., Dušan Galusek, DrSc.;

doc. Ing. Miroslav Hnatko, PhD.; Mgr. Stanislav Komorovský, PhD.; Ing. Blanka Kubíková, PhD.;

doc. Ing. Zoltán Lenčéš, PhD.; RNDr. Jana Madejová, DrSc.; Dr. Vladimír Malkin, DrSc.; Ing. Helena Pálková, PhD.; Ing. Peter Tatarko, PhD.

At the beginning, director of the IIC SAS doc. Ing. Miroslav Boča, DrSc. welcomed the members of the IAB and introduced them to the management and scientific board of the IIC. Then he presented the activities and achieved results during year 2020, which were also reported in the annual report of the Institute.

All the members of the IAB agreed that the Institute as whole is doing well with good publication activities and citations, and has areas of excellence where it is recognized internationally. Of course, the Institute cannot cover all areas of inorganic chemistry with sufficient strength to gain international competitiveness, therefore the IAB suggested the following activities:

- to specify the key topics and key people of the Institute (maybe to select a new “risky” topic) and support such topics (can be time-limited, e.g. for 5 years, based on internal evaluation);
- to support the selected young scientists with possibility to set up junior teams, which can result in new ideas, new topics, new projects;
- to attract postdocs also from abroad and give them conditions for development of their topics;
- to solve the problem with a lack of PhD students by the participation of the institute in bachelor and master studies (it can help to attract the graduate students for PhD study). The problem with a lack of students was partly solved in school year 2020-2021, as the Institute has 12 PhD students (10 foreigners and 2 Slovak students).

There was a longer discussion on the success rate of the Institute in the applications for European projects (Horizon 2020, ERA-NET, etc.), as the ratio between submitted and accepted projects was rather low, 10:1. According to the IAB it is an average success rate in EU, but for increasing the success rate they advised:

- to join strong successful consortia;
- to hire a professional company for writing the project proposal;
- to become an expert for European calls. It would enable to better understand the expectations of Europe, which would hopefully enhance the success rate of the institute;
- to focus also on the applied research with a potential for transfer of the obtained results to practice and set up Knowledge & Technology Transfer structure.

Concerning the engagement of domestic and foreign companies to common projects the IAB recommended to improve the PR of the institute with the popularization of research activities of the institute.