



International Organization
for
Chemical Sciences in Development

Press Statement

**Vivian Wing-Wah YAM
appointed President of IOCD**

Namur, 1 March 2022: **The International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development / Organisation Internationale des Sciences Chimiques pour le Développement (IOCD) is delighted to announce that Professor Vivian Wing-Wah YAM from Hong Kong, China has been elected by IOCD's General Assembly to serve as its next President.**

Professor Yam follows in the footsteps of the two outstanding scientists who have previously held this position: IOCD's founding President, the Nobel Laureate Glenn T. Seaborg (USA) served from 1981 until 1992, when he was succeeded by the Nobel Laureate Jean-Marie Lehn (France), who stepped down at the end of 2021 after an extraordinary 30 years of service as IOCD President.

Educated in chemistry at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and receiving BSc (1985) and PhD (1988) degrees, Professor Yam is Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy at HKU, where she has served as Head of Chemistry (2000-05) and, since 2021, Interim Dean of Science. Her research work focuses on inorganic/organometallic syntheses, supramolecular chemistry, photophysics and photochemistry, and metal-based molecular functional materials.

Professor Yam's career has been marked by many major awards for her highly distinguished scientific contributions, among which she is a Laureate of the *UNESCO-L'Oréal Award for Women in Science* (2011). In 2020 she was awarded the Porter Medal by the European Photochemistry Association, the Inter-American Photochemistry Society and the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association, for her contributions to photochemistry; and in 2021, she was honoured with designation as the inaugural *Pioneer in Energy Research* by ACS Energy and Fuels and has had a Special Issue of this journal dedicated to her.

Both IOCD's outgoing President, Professor Lehn, and IOCD's Executive Director, Professor Federico Rosei, warmly welcomed the appointment. They noted that Professor Yam is an outstanding scientist who has also shown great dedication to sustainable development and to advancing the role of women in science, both of which are core to IOCD's mission.

Professor Yam said she felt humbled to be elected to serve as IOCD's third President and looked forward to working with the members of IOCD to further promote the central role of the chemical sciences in meeting the great challenges that the world faces in the 21st Century – in particular, in achieving a sustainable and equitable future for all.

About IOCD

IOCD was founded in a meeting hosted at UNESCO, Paris in July 1981 and subsequently registered in Belgium as a not-for-profit non-governmental organization. It is affiliated with UNESCO, UN-ECOSOC and IUPAC. The mission of IOCD is to promote the pursuit and application of the chemical sciences for sustainable, equitable human development and economic growth, through repositioning chemistry as a science for the benefit of society.

Further information about IOCD can be found at www.iocd.org.



Vivian Wing-Wah Yam

Stephen A. Matlin
Secretary, IOCD