

Letter from the CCQM President, Dr Sang-Ryoul Park, to participants in the 25th and registered participants for the 26th meeting of the CCQM

Dear Members of CCQM,

It is truly unfortunate, but we have decided to postpone the 26th meeting of the CCQM amidst the COVID-19 pandemic out of a concern for the safety of meeting participants.

This is the first time in CCQM history that we will forego our annual face-to-face meeting. Even so, we will carry on with our important work through any means possible. Our working groups will discuss urgent matters through video conference. For the plenary meeting, we will discuss essential agenda items by email. Relevant documents will be circulated, and your feedback will be received and reflected to make necessary decisions. I hope you will all actively engage in this process so that we can uphold the CCQM tradition of excellence, in spite of these trying times. If the pandemic regresses rapidly and important discussion items remain outstanding, we may consider a backup meeting later this year, although this does not seem realistic at the moment.

Please find attached the key agenda items that should be considered by the CCQM, via electronic communication, a number of which will be supported by documents that are being developed and will be sent to you in the coming weeks/months. As the documents become available, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please spend some time reviewing them and share your thoughts. In order to facilitate the process, we have developed commenting forms, which I would ask you to complete and submit to the CCQM Executive Secretary (rwielgosz@bipm.org) by the commenting deadline set for each document on which comments are requested. We hope to gather together all comments on CCQM documents by the end of June, analyze these within the CCQM Strategic Planning WG, and provide responses for your consideration.

One particular discussion item with respect to which I would like to have your sincere attention is the CCQM Vision and Mission Statements. Provided is what I have drafted for the CCQM strategy document for the time period of 2021-2030 based on common materials and some of my own ideas. It would be greatly improved if all CCQM members' thoughts were added and harmonized. To this end, please speak out and share your thoughts with other members; your doing so will facilitate stronger consensus and allow us to carry out our work more effectively.

Possibly as an extension of the group discussion on the CCQM Vision and Mission Statements, I would also like to ask that you share your thoughts on CCQM activities. Your input is necessary, as we have become a big group, including both NMIs with advanced programmes as well as those just initiating them, that may have quite different interests in CCQM activities, although, of course, this does not necessarily present a disadvantage. If we have clear idea on this, we can organize our activities accordingly so that we work for all members with the best balance of our activities. For this purpose, we had set forth a roundtable discussion as part of the CCQM plenary meeting.

Most technical discussion is well covered in each technical working group. Policy-related discussions would be better done among directors of the Chemistry and Biology divisions of each NMI or DI, who normally attend the CCQM Plenary session, to achieve more impactful outcomes. The roundtable

discussion was meant to facilitate policy dialogue among CCQM delegates in a rather relaxed environment to enable better understanding and achieve stronger consensus among members. It is unfortunate, that the first roundtable discussions will not take place as planned. We will, however, try to hold such discussions at the earliest possible chance. I hope this addition will eventually make our meeting more vibrant and impactful and hope for your enthusiastic engagement.

Looking ahead to our first ever series of electronic meetings for CCQM, I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding, as well as your enthusiastic participation. Of course, I am looking forward to seeing you all in person if we are able to have a face-to-face backup meeting at a later date. We will continue to monitor the impact of the current global situation on our activities, and provide updates in the weeks and months to come. I wish all of you the very best during this difficult time.

Best regards,

Sang-Ryoul Park, President of CCQM

March 27th, 2020