

Newsletter #9

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Steve Chambreau Vice-President

KC Wang Chief Operations Officer

*Lois Ongley Bangladesh Education
Initiative leader*

Patrick Wang Corporate Treasurer

Vacant Development Officer

Vacant Communications Officer

501 (c) (3) Status

Chemists Without Borders, an international humanitarian organization, has been granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the United States of America. The IRS has classified Chemists Without Borders as a public charity, which means that all contributions to the organization are tax exempt. This status is generally required prior to soliciting funds from major foundations and other funding agencies.

Chemists Without Borders was founded on the principal that through the use of proven chemical technologies and related skills, human suffering in developing countries can be alleviated by mobilizing global resources and expertise, knowledge and creativity, developing self-reliance operating models, organizing shared processes and activities and partnering through social entrepreneurs and humanitarian organizations.

Rolande Hodel, President of AIDSFreeAFRICA and Board Member of Chemists Without Borders, said “Chemists Without Borders and AIDSfreeAFRICA had a meeting of hearts knowing that we already have the solutions to the most pressing problems humankind faces. It is not rocket science. But it takes a great organization such as Chemists Without Borders to pull it all together, to connect the dots and to deliver the vision it takes to implement what is so obvious that is has been overlooked for so long. “

“Receiving 501(c)(3) status was critical for our future operations and it provides possibilities for others to contribute to alleviating human suffering in developing countries,” said Bego Gerber, president and co-founder of Chemists Without Borders. “Funding will continue to support our commitment to providing affordable medicines, vaccines, and medical devices to the people who need them most, supplying environmental solutions such as arsenic

cleanup in water, facilitating sustainable energy technologies, supporting self-reliance education and providing disaster relief.”

New Appointments

K. C. Wang, COO

K. C. Wang is Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Chemists Without Borders, and a seasoned management executive with more than fifteen years of experience in progressive leadership positions combining requirements in operations, sales, marketing, services, manufacturing, supply chain and partnership development in the for-profit sector. As COO, he is responsible for overseeing and managing performances of all operational and administrative functions including finance, operational planning, site operations, human resources, technology, internal communications and development, and programs which he validates, plans, prioritizes and balances for performance management. Specifically, he develops and manages organizational infrastructure including processes, methodologies, tools, resources, policies, protocols and culture. He also supports CEO's duties in fundraising, public affairs, membership and partnership functions.

Prior to his appointment to the COO role at Chemists Without Borders, K. C. was General Manager and Managing Director of business operations in high tech industries as well as Marketing Director and Manager at DuPont and Hewlett-Packard. Known for his business acumen and cross culture leadership, Mr. Wang is specialized in building high performance, cross-border organizations and teams with in-depth understanding of cultural styles and predilections combined with mastery of languages in English and Mandarin. He grew businesses and delivered successes domestically as well as overseas through achieving operational excellence and developing organizational strengths.

Mr. Wang grew up in Taiwan, attended National Taiwan University (BS, Chemical Engineering) there. He also earned his degree of Masters of Business Administrations from San Jose State University, and Masters in Chemical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. He is a consultant in business strategies, partnerships, operational and intercultural management.

Lois Ongley, Bangladesh Education Initiative Leader

Lois Ongley was recently appointed Bangladesh Education Initiative Leader of Chemists Without Borders. Experienced in a variety of educational settings (as a Girl Scout leader, High School teacher and chemistry/geochemistry professor) and with prior service as both the founding President and Treasurer of the Association for Women Geoscientists. Lois brings another dimension to our work.

She is currently Associate Professor of Chemistry at Unity College in Maine, a small environmentally focused undergraduate institution. Her research expertise is water quality with a more specific interest in arsenic contamination. She has earned geology degrees (a BA at Middlebury College and a MS at Texas A&M University) and a Ph. D. in Environmental Science & Engineering (Rice University).

Arsenic Remediation Initiative

Chemists Without Borders is interested in determining the feasibility of using ground water hyacinth root as a sorbent for arsenic in drinking water. Initially, we plan to develop a project development team with 2-4 people interested in working closely on this project. Next, we plan to research the feasibility and social impact of the project, and determine the validation requirements. Finally, we will recommend the feasibility of the project and if feasible, make a project plan which includes 6-8 milestones with a timeframe and list of deliverables. At the end of the project, we need to have a validation process which will determine the success of the project, and the possibility of scaling the project up to a larger and/or more long term program.

Steve Chambreau accompanied workers from the California Department of Boating and Waterways to survey and harvest water hyacinth to be used in the arsenic remediation pilot project. Water hyacinth is considered an aquatic weed, and is the fastest growing plant known. It poses a significant threat to the San Francisco Bay Area delta region by choking out the waterways. The California Department of Boating and Waterways has an eradication program which is based on spraying herbicides part of the year, and physical removal of the plant when herbicides cannot be used due to the threat to migrating and endangered species. The main spray used is a glyphosphate called Aquamaster, which is similar to RoundUp, but approved for aquatic use.

We procured eleven pounds of water hyacinth root to test for arsenic removal from drinking water as has been described in the article "A Biomaterial Based Approach for Arsenic Removal from Water," (*J. Environ. Monit.*, 7, 2005, 279-282). Instead of using an atomic absorbance method, which is expensive, a colorimetric-based means for quantitative testing of arsenic makes the required instrumentation needed much more widely available. (*Anal. Chim. Acta.*, 526, 2004, 203-209). This testing would be an excellent opportunity for chemical education as well: since we have more than enough hyacinth root to perform the required testing, we are looking for others who would be interested in validating these tests and perhaps even using this as part of an analytical or environmental laboratory class. Please read http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/files/Grainger_Proposal_Te_22320F.pdf and contact Steve Chambreau at stevechambreau@chemistswithoutborders.org if you are interested.

Bangladesh Education Initiative

During a recent visit to Bangladesh, Chemists Without Borders member Nazneen Khanam, interviewed many scientists and concerned citizens about the arsenic in the groundwater of the Ganges/Brahmaputra River Delta. During her visits she met with Professor MYA Mollah who noted that there are many chemical environmental problems in Bangladesh. Professor Lois Ongley, the Bangladesh Education Initiative Team Leader, is now working with Professor Mollah to help determine what is needed to analyze and remediate waters contaminated with tannery waste and textile dyes. Our goals for this initiative include the specification and establishment of enhanced lab facilities at the University of Dhaka and establishing an undergraduate educational experience for students to assist with the project work. Professor Ongley is pursuing a Fulbright Grant to pursue this goal. Contact Lois Ongley at longley@unity.edu if you have an interest in this work.

Opportunities

We are currently seeking:

1. Communications Officer. This Officer is responsible for executing communications campaigns with donors, members, partners and employees. They are also responsible for managing communications resources such as advertising, publications and press releases.
2. Development Officer. This Officer is responsible to identify, develop, and manage strategic relationships with a portfolio of foundation and corporate donors. Please see http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/files/open_positions.pdf for more details on the Communications Officer and Development Officer positions.
3. Bookkeeper or Accounting Aide. Experienced Bookkeepers preferred, and accounting students encouraged to apply. Please contact kcwang@chemistswithoutborders.org for more details.
4. We are also looking for volunteers to help with fundraising efforts, such as foundation research and grant writing. Please contact Bego Gerber at begogerber@chemistswithoutborders.org for more details.

Donate now!

There are several ways to donate to Chemists Without Borders. You may donate via PayPal (<http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/donate.html>) or you may send a check directly to Bego Gerber, President, Chemists Without Borders, 831 Monica Lane, Campbell, CA 95008.

Alternately, should you have contacts at foundations or other institutions that might be interesting in supporting Chemists Without Borders, please send us that information as well. We need a contact name and phone number.

