



**GREEN CHEMISTRY POSTGRADUATE SUMMER SCHOOL ONLINE**  
**6-10 July 2020**  
**Venice, Italy**  
[www.unive.it/ssgc](http://www.unive.it/ssgc)

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Ladies, Gentlemen, Students, Friends and Colleagues,

I am Pietro Tundo, Chair of the Summer School, Chair of the Interdivisional Committee of Green Chemistry for Sustainable Development and President of Green Sciences for Sustainable Development Foundation.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School which for the first time is held by Remote; the Summer School has the scientific support of IUPAC, to which the Scientific Committee belongs, and it is organized by the Green Sciences for Sustainable Development, a non-profit Foundation.

It is a great achievement that about half of the postgraduate students attending the School (about 200 in total) come from developing countries and have been awarded with a scholarship. So many grants were possible thanks to the gratuity of the Sponsors who believed in our challenge and opportunities: that is, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, PhosAgro, Ca' Foscari University, the Royal Society of Chemistry, ACS/GCI, EuChemS, Kaimei Technology Co. Ltd. China, IYCN, ICAS International. Moreover, this Summer School has obtained the endorsement from UNESCO Roma, from Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare, and from the Municipality of Venice.

The Summer School by Remote is more challenging than an event in person: while the students have the opportunity to be connected from everywhere, personal contacts are lost.

We believe that the participation of Students to the Summer School activities is secured by the top-level scientists and by involving the students in the discussion of the lectures (13 scientific sessions) and, not less important, through the seven poster sessions.

So, the programme is very rich and intensive, and we hope to meet expectations of such many students, from 43 Countries all over the world.

Green Chemistry was introduced in 1996; meanwhile Green Chemistry has been evolved. While originally focused on mass-balance, energy saving and non-toxic synthesis, the term is now used in a wider sense, including environmental degradability, recyclability, exploitation of natural resources.

At present, various governments see Green Chemistry as a tool for realising their particular sustainability needs. Different Countries have different problems to solve, of course; thus, we experience now that decision-makers have high expectations for the science of chemistry. This is an emergent, positive and unexpected result, given by globalization. Green Chemistry might be seen as the field in Chemistry which directly responds to the appeal of humankind.



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Green Chemistry is a future-oriented approach to reconcile and foster the research in the chemical sciences with society and its needs. So, we necessitate as many as possible new and surprising proposals coming from pure and applied research, in order to have the possibility to select the best solution. Because most items of modern life are dependent or connected with chemistry, the scientific contribution of Green Chemistry will be essential for global SD.

In conclusion, basic sciences are needed now more than before, as they are the pillars for our growth.

While we pay attention to the increasing emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and the increasing number of new chemical compounds that are spreading in the environment, it is difficult to foresee an end to this sinister and destructive trend. Nature is not in a hurry but humankind is: we must keep in high consideration the consequences of our rapid industrial development.

A new partnership is necessary among academic, governmental and industrial researchers, to share scientific bases and to cooperate in the management of sustainable development issues.

We may propose that a small portion of profits from industrial activities be reinvested in the sustainable development to be beneficial to everybody. A few industries have already indicated that it is possible to invest up to 5% of their revenues in research and collaboration with Academia in Green Chemistry and sustainable development. This figure might be reasonable given that chemical industry increases constantly and very considerably its business, year after year.

Because of COVID 19, sustainable green growth is said every day to becoming a crucial topic. Is this true? The answer is left to politicians, and we look forward to their feedback.

The experience from the 12 Summer Schools on Green Chemistry, held from 1998-2019 with more than 1000 students attending, tells us that young people are particularly attracted by Green Chemistry, because they look at it as a means to invest their talent at a particular, strategic moment of their lives. Green Chemistry is a good key for students to look around the scientific disciplines and to decide how and where to go forward.

Just to say that five of the 25 teachers of the Summer School were students of one of the previous 11 editions held in Venice. I would like to wish to all students of this edition a great success in their professional careers, with the hope that they will bring back to their Countries remarkable scientific results, as many students from previous editions did.

From the outcomes of this online Summer School we will learn on how to manage the next Summer School, which we do expect to be held in person in Venice; the Green Sciences for Sustainable Development Foundation will surely support and follow the activities of this initiative.

Pietro Tundo  
*Chair of the Summer School*