

September/October 2006
The ACS International E-Newsletter
ACS Office of International Activities

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American Chemical Society Office of International Activities publishes bimonthly and in electronic form the ACS International E-Newsletter. It is designed to provide information on activities, networks, resources, products and services related to international aspects of chemical sciences, technology, engineering and innovation. For information on international meetings and conferences, we invite you to visit <http://chemistry.org/meetings> to search and view opportunities. Please share this email with your colleagues, and we also hope you will consider contributing content for future editions. Send your ideas and suggestions to intlacts@acs.org.

C O N T E N T S

International Currents

ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters

One way that chemists outside the US can take advantage of the tremendous networking possibilities of the ACS is to form an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter. The ACS currently has active chapters in Saudi Arabia, Hungary, and Hong Kong. Recently members in Greece and Germany expressed interest in the possibility of forming such chapters. If you are an ACS member living outside the United States and would like to register your support for a local chapter, contact Sherry Higdon at s_higdon@acs.org. It could be a powerful way for you to cultivate and maintain relationships with other chemists working in your country or region.

Painting a Picture of Global R&D

Like the subject matter itself, the practice of science around the world is evolving. International data show that global spending on research and development continues to grow, but the ranking of the top players has changed. Learn more at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/government/84/8429gov2.html>

The Ethics and Politics of Nanotechnology

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has released a report that advocates international action in the area of science and technology ethics in order to avoid disparate ethical standards between developed and developing countries on how nanotechnology is developed and used. Read the UNESCO report at:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001459/145951e.pdf>

The ACS Welcomes International Attendees

The ACS welcomed attendees from across the globe to the 232nd ACS National Meeting that was held in San Francisco last week. Listen to ACS President Ann Nalley's welcome address in German, Japanese, and Spanish.

<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/nationalmeeting/sf06/home.html>

Regional News and Resources

Africa and the Middle East

Uganda: Kyambogo's Bio-Ethanol Fuel Research Promising

The recent bio-ethanol fuel tests done by Dr. Bagenda Ssengonzi, the head of Kyambogo University Department of Mechanical Engineering and his team, have proved that ethanol distilled from Ugandan cereals and tubers can power industrial machinery. Read more about this research which began started eight months ago:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200609111046.html>

Benefits of International Collaboration for Building Scientific Capacity

Experts representing the US National Academies of Science, The UK's Royal Society, the Sweden-based International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) joined a panel of 11 international experts to discuss "International Collaboration in Scientific Research and Education: Successful Experiences and Initiatives".

Among the initiatives highlighted was the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA), hosted by the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Learn about the initiative at:

<http://www.twas.org/>

Nairobi Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology

The African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) has created a monthly forum to facilitate better understanding of science and technology with the goal of enhancing agricultural advancement through interaction of scientists with the media, law makers, and policy makers.

Learn more about the forum at:

<http://www.aatf-africa.org/>

Asia

R&D Takes Off In Shanghai

Chemical and drug companies rush to set up corporate laboratories, straining the availability of qualified scientists. What was a fad is now a craze. Just three years ago, a handful of chemical companies were setting up small R&D facilities in China, primarily in Shanghai. But now, it has become commonplace for chemical and pharmaceutical companies to establish labs in Shanghai, employing hundreds of people. The influx of new facilities is straining what was thought to be China's practically infinite pool of scientists.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/84/8434shanghai.html>

Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS)

Learn about the projects of FACS including Networks on Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Education, Environmental Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry and more at:

<http://www.facs-as.org/index-projects.htm>

Call to speed up studies of Chinese medicine

Modern research on traditional Chinese medicines should skip studies of the molecules involved and proceed directly to clinical trials on human subjects, argues a senior medical researcher.

Tang Jinling, a professor of epidemiology and public health at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, says many traditional remedies have already been proven safe because they have been used for generations. Read more at:

<http://www.scidev.net/content/news/eng/call-to-speed-up-studies-of-chinese-medicine.cfm>

Latin America and the Caribbean

Química - a WIKI on Chemically Related Activity in America Latina

The ACS has created a WIKI for individuals interested in the chemical landscape in Latin America. Química includes background and information on chemical trade, analytical instrumentation, key chemical companies, chemistry in higher education, professional societies

and associations, research laboratories and more. The WIKI format allows users to update and add content to the website, and also provides forums for discussion. Check out the WIKI at: <http://www.quimica.wikispaces.com>

Chemistry Education Workshop in Guatemala

In keeping with the interest of the American Chemical Society, ACS is promoting chemistry education not only in the United States but beyond their borders. In June 2006 a Chemistry Education Workshop based on Active Learning took place in Guatemala City. For a summary of the workshop in both English and Spanish and workshop photos go to:

http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=international/int_americas.html

Fall E-learning Courses Start Soon

Professional development is a must-do activity for most chemists, but travel to distant meetings for a short course can disrupt daily workflow. And waiting for a relevant local short course may not be an option. ACS now offers a wide variety of live Webcast short courses that let you train without traveling.

http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/feature_pro.html?id=c373e90d7cccd32d8f6a17245d830100

Europe

Transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium

In August 2006 90 chemical scientists representing the US, Germany, and the UK gathered in Durham, New Hampshire to attend the first Transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry Symposium. The symposium, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, and the Royal Society of Chemistry, gathered some of the most exceptional young chemical scientists under 40 years of age to present research at the frontiers of molecular mechanisms, catalysis, materials chemistry, chemistry of interfaces, chemical biology, and synthesis. Read more about the symposium at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/acsnews/84/8437acsnews.html>

DAAD Information Tour 2006: "Science in Germany: New Developments in Higher Education, Interdisciplinary Cooperation and Industrial Application"

In December 2006, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will sponsor an informational visit on current developments in Germany for North American faculty, scientists and administrators. The program will focus on the present situation of Science in Germany, and cover various aspects of higher education, interdisciplinary cooperation and industrial application. Get a copy of the invitation and the application at:

<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/resources/ACS/ACSContent/international/DAADinvite1.jpg>

English for a Specific Purpose (ESP:C)

A product of the European Union, ESP:C is an English language training course for chemists. The program is designed to help scientists master the language and skills which are indispensable for their professional development. View the website at:

<http://www.esp-c.org/>

New Links

CGIAR Virtual Library

The CGIAR Virtual Library is a website from which a user can search the online libraries of agricultural research centers sponsored by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). This website, which was funded primarily by the World Bank, also offers access to other leading databases used by development professionals. These include those of the World Bank and IMF, the London School of Economics, the Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development, and the Library of Congress, as well as 4,000 online journals. A researcher can find thousands of full-text documents, abstracts, or references related to development, agriculture, hunger, and poverty through this website. Read more <http://vlibrary.cgiar.org/>

Funding Opportunities

Sustainable Sanitation and Grey-Water Reuse in Developing Countries

This initiative aims at strengthening scientific capacity in the fields of sustainable sanitation and gray-water reuse in developing countries. The overall purpose is to improve the livelihood of poor people and the project will generate new knowledge relevant for a deepened understanding of cross-cutting biological, chemical, technical and socio-economic factors that are necessary for development of technology for sustainable sanitation and gray-water reuse. Get more information and an application at:

http://www.ifs.se/Programme/ifs_sida_sanitation_2006.asp

Call for Applications: Professional Development Award, IDRC Regional Office for South Asia

IDRC's Innovation, Policy and Science (IPS) Program Area and the Regional Office for South Asia seek applications from qualified candidates for a Professional Development Award. The award aims to provide an opportunity to young professionals to work and conduct research within the framework of strategic priorities outlined under the IPS Innovation Technology and Society (ITS) program, as well as assist in program development in the region.

http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-102088-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The ACS International E-Newsletter is sent out every other month by email. Should you have questions, comments or suggestions for content, please contact the ACS Office of International Activities at intlacts@acs.org. You can find out more about ACS international programs at <http://chemistry.org/international>.

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