

## ACS International News

ACS Office of International Activities  
January/February 2008

The American Chemical Society Office of International Activities publishes ACS International News in electronic form on a bimonthly basis. 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://www.acs.org> and click on "Meetings" along the top 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](mailto:intlacts@acs.org).

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## C O N T E N T S

### International Currents

#### **Registration for 2008 Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference is Now Open**

The 12th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference will be held June 24-26, 2008 at the Capital Hilton, in Washington, DC. The conference is organized each year by the American Chemical Society Green Chemistry Institute with the active involvement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other U.S. federal government agencies, global companies, academia, and other professional societies. Learn more at: <http://www.gcande.org/>

#### **U.K. and China Launch Venture to Support Joint R&D**

In what is being billed as the first collaborative research and knowledge transfer partnership between China and the U.K., Innovation China UK (ICUK) made its debut in late November 2007. The venture was launched at Queen Mary, part of the University of London, by Fu Ying, Chinese ambassador to the U.K., and Ian Pearson, British minister of state for science and innovation. ICUK will involve five British and more than 20 Chinese institutions of higher education. Learn more at: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/85/i48/8548notw5.html>

#### **World Chemical Outlook Uncertain but Growth Around the World is Possible**

Chemical and Engineering News has released its annual World Chemical Outlook, providing assessments of present and future performance of the chemical industry in different parts of the world in 2008. Though a US recession remains possible, experts believe that both the US and global economies will grow in 2008. Read more about the US outlook at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8602cover1.html> and more about the Canada outlook at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8602cover2.html>. To learn more about regions of the world outside North America, see the links specific to each region in the section below entitled "Regional News and Resources."

#### **ACS Committee on Corporation Associates and UK Society of Chemical Industry Launch Initiative to Tackle Global Challenges**

The ACS Committee on Corporation Associates and the UK Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) have entered into a partnership to organize a series of events focusing on "Global Innovation Imperatives," designed to foster knowledge exchange and innovation on topics of particular urgency for the global community. Although details have yet to be finalized, the first phase of the

initiative will focus on water—its availability and purification. Corporation Associates and SCI will be hosting a Town Hall Session at the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans on Sunday 6 April 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Riverbend Ballroom of the Marriott Convention Center Hotel. The Town Hall session will focus on water and will kick off the technical programming sponsored by the ACS Division of Environmental Chemistry.

Read more about this promising initiative at <http://www.thegii.org/gii/>.

### **2007 Edition of ACS Directory of Graduate Research is Now Available Online**

Published every two years, the ACS Directory of Graduate Research is an extensive listing of graduate programs in chemistry throughout the U.S. and Canada. It can be extremely useful for both experienced researchers and students seeking research mentors, collaborators, and professors. The Directory can be searched based on research area, geography, institution, and other variables. The 2007 edition is now available and can be searched completely free of charge at <http://www.acs.org/dgrweb>. The print version can also be purchased through this website.

### **THE IAC CORNER**

The IAC Corner is an ongoing feature of ACS International News. Each issue will include an article by a member, associate, consultant, or liaison of the International Activities Committee (IAC) about ACS programming around the world.

#### **Fostering Peace Through Scientific Bridges**

*Dr. Zafra Lerman, IAC Consultant and Head, Institute for Science Education and Science Communication, Columbia College Chicago*

Science can be a powerful force for bringing together cultures, and the Malta conference series for Middle East researchers is a powerful example. The third installment, Malta-III, was held in Turkey from 8 to 13 December 2007, and if the enthusiastic feedback from participants is any indication, it exceeded all expectations.

Sponsored by several national chemical societies (ACS, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker), international scientific organizations (IUPAC and UNESCO), and Columbia College Chicago, the Malta series aims to foster scientific cross-fertilization and collaborations involving researchers in the Middle East. The series has already led to a research project on water purification involving scientists from Israel and Palestine, and an agreement from the Weizmann Institute to host graduate students from other countries in the region. Named for the location where the first two meetings were held, the Malta series is formally titled "Frontiers of Chemical Science: Research and Education in the Middle East."

This latest meeting in Turkey continued the tradition of fostering dialogue through science. "It is the first time in my life," said one Iraqi participant, "that I met Israeli scientists. They are nice people, they are excellent scientists, and I look forward to collaborate with them." Another participant noted that the community-building went beyond the scientific. "We did not shy away from the political situation," the researcher said, "which made it much easier to discuss solutions."

Following the format of previous Malta conferences, the Turkey meeting featured plenary lectures by Nobel Laureates from around the world: Aaron Ciechanover (Israel), Richard Ernst (Switzerland), Roald Hoffmann (USA), Tim Hunt (UK), Walter Kohn (USA), and Sherry Rowland (USA). The 87 scientific participants came from all over the Middle East: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

Intensive workshops covered the following topics: Air and Water Quality, Science Education and Green Chemistry, Alternative Energy Sources, Medicinal and Natural Products, and

Nanotechnology and Materials Science. In addition, the participants unanimously adopted a Resolution calling on world governments to address the critical shortage of clean water in the Gaza strip. The document has already been delivered to Tony Blair, who is working as the Middle East envoy on behalf of the US, Russia, UN, and EU.

You can read more about the Malta-3 meeting in C&EN:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/85/i51/8551notw7.html>

Plans are already underway for Malta-IV to be held in 2009 in the Middle East, preferably in Jordan. For the first time in the history of the Malta series, Middle Eastern chemists have agreed to serve on the Organizing Committee. With each Malta meeting, we hope to increase the momentum to build peace through scientific collaboration.

## **Regional News and Resources**

### **Africa and the Middle East**

#### **UNESCO Takes Mini-laboratories and Microscience to the Middle East**

For a decade now, UNESCO has been introducing the methodology for microscience into the education systems of both developed and developing countries. One of UNESCO's key partners in this endeavor is the RADMASTE Centre, Witwatersrand University, South Africa. Training workshops in microscience have been organized in some 84 countries and recently, UNESCO has turned its attention to the Middle East. Learn more at:

[http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=5923&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=5923&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

#### **Conference to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Chemical Society of Ethiopia**

The Chemical Society of Ethiopia (CSE) is pleased to announce the celebration of its 25th anniversary with a conference and other activities that address the overall theme of "Chemistry in the New Millennium: Eradicating Poverty and Combating Climate Change." The celebration will include: a chemistry open day competition for high school and university students, a green chemistry workshop, the 25th International Annual Conference of the CSE, and an industrial exposition and symposium. The International Conference will be held at Addis Ababa University. For more information, go to <http://www.aau.edu.et/faculties/sc/CSE/home.html>.

### **Asia**

#### **Shopping the World: Competition from Indian and Chinese Newcomers leads Established Contract Research Firms to Adapt**

Contract research organizations (CROs) are faced with increasing competition from Chinese Indian firms that are increasingly moving from the production of commodity chemicals to providing more specialized services. CROs outside these countries are adopting various strategies to remain competitive. Read more at

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/85/8548cover.html>

#### **World Chemical Outlook in Asia**

Chemical and Engineering News has released its 2008 chemical outlook for Asia. A healthy chemical industry seems likely in the new year, but its stability will depend on economic conditions in other parts of the world. Read more at

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8602cover5.html>.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **World Chemical Outlook in Latin America**

Chemical and Engineering News has released its 2008 chemical outlook for Latin America. Growth seems likely, as the region experiences its longest period of sustained growth in more than a generation. Read more at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8602cover3.html>.

## Europe

### **Brand-new Research Institute in Austria Looking for its First Professors**

Austria hopes to add another jewel to its crown of world-class institutions of scientific research. The Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria), located near Vienna, aims to function as a premier postgraduate training and research institution. It is actively soliciting applications for its inaugural group of professors and young independent researchers. Read more about the institute at [www.ist-austria.ac.at](http://www.ist-austria.ac.at)

### **Networking Opportunities for Austrian Scientists in the US**

Austrian researchers in the US need not feel isolated from their fellow countrymen. The OST Network of Austrian Scientists & Scholars (<http://www.ostina.org/content/view/7/14/>) was established by the Austrian Embassy in Washington DC to focus on helping the Austrian government reach out to Austrian scientists in North America. Encouraged by this initiative, the Austrian Scientists and Scholars in North America was founded in 2002 (<http://www.ascina.at>), and local chapters are appearing around North America.

### **European Commission Promotes Exchanges Between Industry and Academia**

The European Commission recently announced the "Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways" scheme to organize researcher exchange between businesses and universities. The program is designed in particular for small businesses, which are the majority of companies in Europe, in an effort to stimulate their growth and development. Read more at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

### **World Chemical Outlook in Europe**

Chemical and Engineering News has released its 2008 chemical outlook for Europe. The prediction is that growth will occur but more slowly than in 2007. Read more at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/86/8602cover4.html>.

## Funding Opportunities

### **RISE - Research Internships in Science and Engineering**

**DEADLINE: 31 January 2008.** RISE gives students in the fields of biology, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering and physics the chance to spend a summer working with German doctoral students on serious research projects. The doctoral students help integrate the undergraduate directly into the lab work and serve as personal and professional mentors. All participants receive stipends from DAAD to help cover living expenses, and the partner universities and research institutions provide housing assistance. Learn more at: <http://www.daad.de/rise/en/>

### **IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists**

**DEADLINE: 1 February 2008.** The IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists has been established to encourage outstanding young research scientists at the beginning of their careers. The prize will be given for the most outstanding Ph.D. thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences, as described in a 1000-word essay. <http://www.iupac.org/news/prize.html>

### **Polymer International - IUPAC Award 2008**

**DEADLINE: before 15 March 2008.** The Executive Editor of Polymer International and the IUPAC Polymer Division are proud to establish an award for creativity in applied polymer science or polymer technology shown by a researcher under 40. The prize is USD 5000 plus travel and

accommodation to attend MACRO 2008, where the winner will present a lecture. Read more at <http://www.iupac.org/news/archives/2007/PolymerInt-award.html>.

**Performance Materials Award of 50,000 euros From DSM Innovation Center B.V.**

In an agreement with the IUPAC Polymer Division, DSM Innovation Center will hold a symposium on performance materials during each IUPAC World Polymer Congress and will present an award of 50 000 euros at each symposium. Read more at [http://www.dsm.com/en\\_US/html/da/about\\_pm\\_new.htm](http://www.dsm.com/en_US/html/da/about_pm_new.htm)

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

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