



**Saudi Arabian International Chemical Sciences
Chapter of American Chemical Society**
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ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2008

CONFERENCE:

- The Saudi Arabian International Chemical Sciences Chapter of the American Chemical Society (SAICSC-ACS) organized its first International Laboratory Technology Conference & Exhibition (LABTECH 2008) during the period October 20-22, 2008 at Gulf Hotel Convention Center at Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. The Conference theme was “Future Challenges to Meet Global Demands for Quality Testing”. The conference brought together regional, national and international experts in all aspects of laboratory operation, including staff development, quality management, health, safety and the environment. The Conference was attended by 400 delegates. More than seventy five eminent speakers participated in the Conference technical program. Ninety three (93) booths exhibited state of the art laboratory instruments, laboratory suppliers, and various technical services. At the conclusion of the Conference, it was Announced the establishment of a GCC (Gulf Cooperative Council) Laboratory Management Association to be supported by ALMA and ACS. Sowelim Al-Shamrie, RT Lab Superintendent has been appointed as the President. The next conference will be chaired by high authority from Kuwait Research Institute.
- The Saudi Arabian International Chemical Sciences Chapter of the American Chemical Society (SAICSC-ACS) has started the preparation for the 8th International Conference & Exhibition on Chemistry in Industry which will be conducted on Oct. 18-20, 2010 at Gulf Hotel Convention Center at Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS DURING MONTHLY DINNER MEETINGS:

- January 19, 2008, “Introduction into the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Model for Business Excellence”, by Dr. Karl J. Koller, CEO of TQM Consulting Group Inc. (TQMCG), Switzerland.
- February 26, 2008, “Synthetic Organic Chemistry: A versatile Tool to Access New Therapeutic Targets”, by Dr. Nisar Ullah, Assistant Professor, Chemistry Department, KFUPM, KSA.
- March 11, 2008, “Nano-sized Metal Sulfide Catalysts by Novel Hydrothermal Synthesis for Hydrodesulfurization of 4,6-Dimethyldibenzothiophene”, by Dr. Chunshan Song, Director of the EMS Energy Institute and Professor of Fuel Science Pennsylvania State University, USA.

- June 1, 2008, the SAICSC-ACS hosted a panel discussion on “The Opportunities, the Challenges and the Applications in the Kingdom”. The panel comprised:
 - Dr. Zain H. Yamani, Director Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Dhahran, KSA
 - Dr. Sami Habeeb, Director Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology, King Abdul Aziz University, Jiddah, KSA
 - Dr. Abdelmounam Sherik, Research & Dev. Center, Saudi Aramco, Dhahran, KSA
- June 23, 2008, "Structural Change in Saudi Economy and Petrochemical industry", by Dr. Raja Al-Marzoqi, Assistant Professor of Economics and Director of Asian Studies Center at Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh, KSA.
- November 19, 2008, organized the 20th anniversary celebration day of the SAICSC-ACS which was held at Dhahran International Hotel under the gracious patronage of Mr. Abdallah S. Jum'ah, CEO and President of Saudi Aramco.

3 Month Development Program for Chemists

As part of our efforts to prepare human resources for the future, a three month comprehensive training program for the laboratory chemists has been conducted by three PhD holders. The objective of this program is to develop the company’s existing laboratory chemists in the areas of method development, experiment design, and equipment maintenance and troubleshooting.

SAICSC-ACS names Prince Turki honorary board member



HRH Prince Turki bin Abdallah, right, receives a plaque from Sowelim G. Al-Shamrie.

During a recent Board of Directors visit to HRH Prince Turki bin Abdallah Al-Saud, the Saudi Arabian International Chemical Sciences Chapter of the American Chemical Society (SAICSC-ACS) appointed Prince Turki as an honorary board member in recognition of his support to the society. During the visit, SAICSC-ACS chairman Sowelim G. Al-Shamrie gave welcoming remarks, followed by a presentation outlining the society’s activities as well as its role in

promoting the advancement of the chemical sciences within Saudi Aramco through organizing conferences, technical exchange meetings and awareness programs. Prince Turki expressed his keen interest and support for the society and shared his views on the important role that Saudi Aramco technical societies play in fostering knowledge, supporting the professional and personal growth of its members and presenting a positive image of Saudi Arabia in the international arena.

Concern:

As Chairman of the SAICSC-ACS, I would like to express a sincere concern has been highlighted during our Board of Directors meetings regarding the ACS support to past nine (9) conferences organized by the SAICSC-ACS. The main advocacy behind this concern is that we have invited the ACS to play a pivotal role in the success stories of those conferences, yet ACS failed to meet our expectations, be it as simple as not sending gifts to be distributed during conference days or be it as tangible as apologizing for not accepting our invitations that were sent to current and previous ACS presidents to participate in the opening ceremonies of previous conferences organized by our chapter.

In spite of the fact we have recognized as one of the active chapters among Saudi Aramco societies if not the most active local chapter since we have successfully organized three different conferences on different focus topics such as Chemistry in Industry (CHEMINDIX) , Green Industry, and Laboratory Technology (2008 Labtech).

Sincerely yours,

Sowelim G. Al-Shamrie, 2008 SAICSC-ACS Chair
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