



## NEWS UPDATE

ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRES

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### Information for ASPAC Members

February 2004

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## WELCOME TO THIS EDITION

This ASPAC News Update contains information on:

- ASPAC proposal to undertake an APEC regional project
- Call for bids to host ASPAC Conferences in 2004, 2005 and 2006
- ASPAC welcomes new members to the Executive Council
- Australia Medal for Dr Sue Stocklmayer
- Exhibitions at the National Science and Technology Museum, Taiwan
- PETROSAINS – Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS Science Communication Program
- Malaysia's National Science Centre hosts Centenary of Aviation Exhibition
- Nobel Prize Centennial Exhibition to be hosted by the National Science Centre, Malaysia

## ASPAC PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE AN APEC REGIONAL PROJECT

The ASPAC Secretary has been working with input from the ASPAC Executive Council to prepare a submission for the Australian Government to propose a new project for science centres and museums in the Asia Pacific region. It is planned to announce this proposal at the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministers' Meeting on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation, to be held 10-12 March 2004 in New Zealand.

The proposal is to seek APEC support for a multi-faceted program involving regional activities and cooperation coordinated by ASPAC to support and advance the work of science centres and museums in the Asia Pacific Region.

The ASPAC Secretary will be sending to all members further information about the proposal, and requesting members' support in encouraging APEC officers within their country to consider supporting the proposal.

## CALL FOR BIDS TO HOST ASPAC CONFERENCES IN 2004, 2005 & 2006

Each year, ASPAC holds a two to three day conference. This conference provides an opportunity for staff of member institutions to join together for a program of lectures, discussion sessions, workshop sessions, professional tours and social events.

This conference usually attracts 50 to 150 delegates, including participants from the host institution, bringing together in one place a rich diversity of inputs and discussions that will inform the future thinking of science centres/museums in the region.

The host institution must be a full member of ASPAC. Participants pay a registration fee to fully or partly offset the costs of hosting the conference. Staff of ASPAC member institutions pay a reduced registration fee.

Conferences have been held as follows:

1997 Inaugural Meeting to establish ASPAC as a network: hosted by National Science Centre for Education, Bangkok, Thailand

**1998 1<sup>st</sup> ASPAC Conference:** hosted by China Science and Technology Museum, Beijing, China

1999 Science City, Calcutta, India hosted a short ASPAC meeting as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Science Centre World Congress

**2000 2<sup>nd</sup> ASPAC Conference:** hosted by Nagoya City Science Museum, Japan

**2001 3<sup>rd</sup> ASPAC Conference:** hosted by National Science Museum, Bangkok, Thailand

2002 Questacon, Canberra, Australia hosted a short ASPAC meeting as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Centre World Congress

**2003 4<sup>th</sup> ASPAC Conference:** hosted by PETROSAINS, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Executive Council of ASPAC is seeking proposals from full member science centres and museums to host the Conference in the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The 2005 Conference will also include the next General Council Meeting with elections of new officers. We would welcome a full proposal from your institution. **All bids should reach the ASPAC Conference Working Group by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2004.**

Please avoid coinciding with other major conferences. Please include in your proposal:

- Conference dates
- Conference venue
- Travel information
- Hotel accommodations (including price range)
- Host science centre/museum characteristics
- Host city characteristics
- Any other coinciding events (cultural events, launches, exhibitions)
- Proposed registration fee

Please send your proposal to host an ASPAC Conference in either 2004, 2005 or 2006, together with any attachments, to:

Dr Chew Tuan Chiong  
Chairperson, ASPAC Conference Working Group  
Singapore Science Centre  
Science Centre Road, Singapore 609081  
Tel: +65 64252501 Fax: +65 65659533  
Email: [tc\\_chew@science.edu.sg](mailto:tc_chew@science.edu.sg)

All bids should reach the ASPAC Conference Working Group by **29<sup>th</sup> February 2004**. For further assistance, please contact:

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## **ASPAC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chee-kuen Yip, President of ASPAC welcomes the appointment of three additional members of the ASPAC Executive Council.

**Dr Chew Tuan Chiong**, Chief Executive of the Singapore Science Centre and immediate Past President of ASPAC. Dr Chew is taking on the special responsibility of heading up a working group to select the host organisations for the next 3 ASPAC Conferences (refer to previous article).

**Mrs Leticia Moran-Zerda**, Director of the Philippine Science Centrum and past member of Executive Council. Mrs Moran-Zerda is taking on the responsibility of heading up a working group to examine the special needs of smaller science centres and to recommend ways in which ASPAC may better serve their needs.

**Mr Geoff Snowdon**, Associate Director of PETROSAINS Discovery Centre and immediate Past Secretary of ASPAC. Mr Snowdon is taking on the responsibility for developing an enhanced ASPAC Awards Scheme and, in addition, developing a way forward to implement the outcomes of the Exhibitions Working Group at the last ASPAC Conference.

## **AUSTRALIA MEDAL FOR DR SUE STOCKLMAYER**

ASPAC congratulates Dr Sue Stocklmayer, the Director of the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at the Australian National University in Canberra, on her award of an Australia Medal announced on Australia Day, 26 January 2004. This honour recognises the outstanding

contribution that Dr Stocklmayer has made to the field of science communication. Her National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science has recently joined ASPAC and we join in congratulating her on her achievements.



*Photo: Dr Sue Stocklmayer, Director, National Centre for Public Awareness of Science, the recipient of an Australia Medal honouring her services to science communication.*

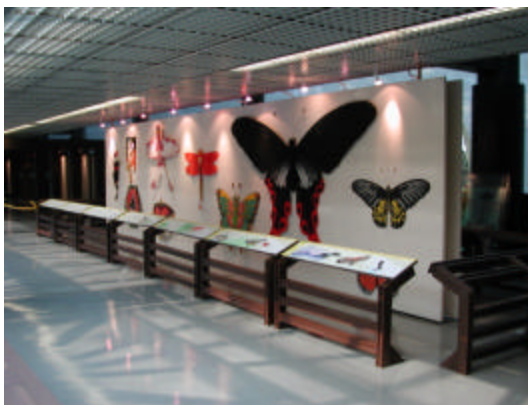
## **EXHIBITIONS AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM, TAIWAN**

To celebrate the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of powered flight by the Wright brothers, the National Science and Technology Museum in Taiwan held a special exhibition **The Dream of Flying -100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Powered Flight**. The public are able to review the history of how humans have made the dream of flying come true and the history of aviation. The spotlight of the exhibition is the replica of 1/2 scale of the Wright Flyer-1, the world's first airplane. Other exhibits to capture visitors' attention include the cockpit replica of a Boeing 747 and its engine, both of which are presented

as original scale. This exhibition is supported by two major Taiwan's enterprises: the China Times and China Airlines.



Another parallel exhibition on display is [A Rhapsody of Kites](#). Kites play a very crucial role in people's dreams of flying. Visitors learn more about the history and legends of kites. This exhibition also presents various styles of kites to impress visitors by their intricate, marvelous and aesthetic handicrafts. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.nstm.gov.tw> or contact: [loszuyi@mail.nstm.gov.tw](mailto:loszuyi@mail.nstm.gov.tw).



## **P**ETROSAINS – UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS SCIENCE COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

Imagine spending your semester break under the tutelage of PETROSAINS to become a science communicator! This was exactly how 19 PETRONAS international scholars from Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) spent their 2003 year-end holiday, and judging from their response, it was a time well spent indeed.

The students, some of whom come from Sudan, Cambodia, Turkmenistan and Equatorial Guinea, participated in the PETROSAINS-UTP Science Communication Program where they were given valuable insights on the real working environment. They were also given the opportunity to hone their communication and presentation skills, as well as develop their science process skills.



And after several weeks of workshops and training, the students were able to put their knowledge to practice when they presented, in groups of four people, a mini science show at the GALERI PETRONAS. Held in conjunction with their graduation ceremony, the science shows came complete with experiments, illustrations and animated

explanations - proof that the program was indeed successful!

According to PETROSAINS General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Tengku Nasariah Tengku Syed Ibrahim, the students have clearly benefited from the program. "I can see a marked difference in them, from being timid and shy to talking science as if they have been here for three years and not three weeks!" She added that the communications skills that they have acquired "will certainly go a long way towards their future", as she once again congratulated the 19 proud students for successfully completing the program.



The Best Science Communicator 2003 award went to Hussam Mohammed from Sudan while Miguel Angel from Equatorial Guinea clinched the Most Outstanding Leadership Role award.

The program is held annually as part of PETROSAINS' initiative to stimulate participants' interest in science and technology.

## ASPAC Website

You can now visit the new ASPAC website. ASPAC News Updates are available on the website. Check out the site at:

[www.aspacnet.org](http://www.aspacnet.org)

## NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE HOSTS CENTENARY OF AVIATION EXHIBITION

On 17 December 1903, the Wright Brothers made history by flying for twenty seconds. To celebrate this unique human achievement, the NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE (PSN), Bukit Kiara hosted the **CENTENARY OF AVIATION** Program from 6 December 2003 to 31 January 2004.

The objective of this program was to increase awareness and nurture interest among Malaysians by bringing public attention to the impact and importance of aviation on all our lives. This program also aimed to educate and to encourage young people to undertake careers in Aerospace related professions.

The program showcased the history of aviation, displayed the technology and machines that have made aerospace history and the science of propulsion, aerodynamics and flight.

Several educational and interactive activities have been planned such as quizzes, workshops, talks on careers in aviation and many more.

For further information, please e-mail: [wankhaz@psn.gov.my](mailto:wankhaz@psn.gov.my)

## **NOBEL PRIZE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION TO BE HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE, MALAYSIA**

The year 2001 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nobel Prize. More than 700 Laureates have received this prestigious Prize for their outstanding contributions in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economics.



The Nobel Foundation established the Nobel Museum in Stockholm in commemoration of the centennial of the Nobel Prize. A vital part of this museum is to produce temporary exhibition on modern science and culture. The first of these exhibitions is the Centennial Exhibition themed “Cultures of Creativity: Individuals and Milieus”. This exhibition has been created in duplicate whereby one is on display at Stockholm while the other that is known as the “The Nobel Prize Centennial Traveling Exhibition”, is for display at other venues outside Sweden.

The National Science Centre Malaysia is pleased to announce that it will be the sixth of the ten venues selected worldwide to host this prestigious Exhibition. The Exhibition will be on from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

This exhibition highlights individual creativity, creative milieus, the Nobel System, Alfred

Nobel and his time, timeline and the Nobel Laureates 1901-2001.

The Theme that has been chosen for the Centennial Exhibition is Creativity. The main, underlying questions of the Exhibition will be: “What is creativity and how creative activity can best be encouraged?” and the question of “Which is more important to the creative process: the individual or the milieus, that is, the environment in which the work is being done?” The answers to these questions will be illustrated through the exhibition in a manner that will be thought provoking to the visitor.

The organizers of the exhibition are the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment Malaysia, the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and the National Science Centre. Please visit our website: [www.psn.gov.my](http://www.psn.gov.my) for further information.

## **ASPAC INFORMATION**

Contact the ASPAC Secretary

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