



ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRES

# NEWS UPDATE

January 2006

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## MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all members of the new Executive Council. As the immediate past President, I thank you for volunteering your time and expertise as you take up ASPAC's challenging work for the next two years.

It is pleasing to welcome several new faces to the ASPAC Executive Council, including Dr Mamoru Mohri (Director of Miraikan, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Japan); Paulina Chan (Curator, Hong Kong Science Museum); Thanakorn Palachai (Director, Office of the President, National Science Museum, Thailand); Herudi Kartowisastro (Director of the Science and Technology Centre of Indonesia); and Dr Youli Zhao (Deputy Director General, China Science and Technology Museum). The membership of ASPAC has expressed its confidence in you and supports you as you take up your roles on the Executive.

I am so pleased to pass on the President's role to Tengku Nasariah Ibrahim who has already made such a significant contribution as Treasurer and Convenor of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASPAC Conference. Thank you, Tengku, for taking on the leadership of ASPAC. With your enthusiasm, insight and aspiration, I have no doubt that you will be taking ASPAC to new heights.

Thank you to Brenton Honeyman for his hardworking and dedicated work on behalf of ASPAC over several years. His contributions as ASPAC Secretary in establishing the new website, the new informative newsletters, and the new APEC Science Centre Impact Project have elevated the profile of ASPAC in valuable ways. Personally, Brenton, it would have been so much more difficult for me without your support. I wish you well as you continue your role as ASPAC Secretary for a second term.

I take this opportunity to especially thank the outgoing members of Executive Council that I have worked with over the past term – Prof Keiji Higuchi (Vice President), Gaye Hamilton and Genevieve Wadham (Assistant Secretary), Prof Yusheng Wang (Councillor), Manop Issaree (Councillor), Dr Tuan Chiong Chew (Past President and Coopted Member), Leticia Zerda-Moran (Coopted Member) and Geoff Snowdon (Past Secretary and Coopted Member). I have appreciated the valuable support I have received from each of you. In particular, I wish every future success to Keiji, Gaye and Geoff who have recently retired from their science centre positions.

Thank you to Genevieve Wadham who took up the work of Assistant Secretary after Gaye's retirement. You have done a remarkable job in conducting the election process.

As the outgoing President, I will follow the excellent footsteps of Dr Chew Tuan Chiong, the former past president, and give support to the ASPAC and the Executive Council in any way I can.

I hope that you will support our next Conference Convenor, Alan Brien, and attend the 6th ASPAC Conference at Scitech Discovery Centre in Perth, 9-13 May 2006. Please remember the early bird registration deadline of 31 January 2006.

Thank you to all members of ASPAC. Your support for me and the work of ASPAC over the past two years has been greatly appreciated. I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Chee-kuen Yip  
Past President, ASPAC  
Director and Chief Curator  
Hong Kong Science Museum

## JOIN US IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA



**Venue: Scitech Discovery Centre**  
**Dates: 9-13 May 2006**

Register by going to the website [www.scitech.org.au/aspac/registration.html](http://www.scitech.org.au/aspac/registration.html) before 31 January 2006 and take advantage of the early registration rate.

The aim of this conference is to explore the concept of the science centre, why we do what we do and better ways to engage and excite the public about science and technology.

### **Tuesday May 9: Orientation to Perth, Registration and Welcome Reception**

Delegates have the option of visiting the highlights and attractions of the city of Perth by booking a pre-conference tour.



Photo: The city of Perth

Further details are at [www.scitech.org.au/aspac/extras.html](http://www.scitech.org.au/aspac/extras.html).

Delegates register at Scitech Discovery Centre between 2.00 and 5.00 pm and then renew acquaintances and meet new colleagues at the Welcome Reception.

### **Wednesday May 10: Sending the Right Message**

"Science communication" is a buzz phrase that science and technology centres freely use to express what it is that they do. But what is the role of "science communication" in a science centre? And how do we know that what we are doing is working? The day will provide an opportunity to explore the role of science centres in our cities, why we communicate science and the importance of scientific literacy in our communities.

### **Thursday May 11: Creating, Delivering, Engaging**

The main product created by a science centre is its exhibits, and a science centre's strength is judged on the quality and diversity of its exhibits and exhibitions. This day will examine different types of exhibits and exhibitions, from static displays to full body engagement in virtual reality experiences. Aspects will include travelling exhibitions and the use of technology in exhibits and science centre experiences.

## Friday May 12: Reaching Out

Science centres are not just about the visitors who come through the doors. They're about the whole community, from schools through to corporate business. Developing partnerships and getting our message out is a key issue for every science centre to manage. This day will investigate making the most of our current partnerships and how to develop new ones, and will look into innovative outreach programs for visitors outside our centres. The day will include a visit to see Scitech's outreach program in action at a school in the Perth area.



## Saturday May 13: Tackling Challenging Topics, APEC Science Centre Impact Project

How do science centres and museums engage with their visitors on new breakthroughs in science and technology, on controversial issues in science and technology, or on topics that are intrinsically complex and difficult? This day will allow you to explore this question, through presentations from keynote speakers as well as small group discussions. For more details about this project, refer to [www.aspacnet.org/apec](http://www.aspacnet.org/apec).

## Sunday May 14 to Monday May 15: Optional Post-Conference Tours

Delegates have the option of booking a post-conference tour to enjoy more Western Australian attractions. Further details are at [www.scitech.org.au/aspac/extras.html](http://www.scitech.org.au/aspac/extras.html).

## More information

For the latest information about the Conference, contact:

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or refer to the Conference website:  
[www.scitech.org.au/aspac](http://www.scitech.org.au/aspac)

## APPLY NOW FOR ASPAC FELLOWSHIPS

Applications for 2006 ASPAC Fellowship Awards are to be submitted by **Friday 17 February 2006** to the ASPAC Secretary.

Each year two or three people from full member institutions are selected for ASPAC Fellowships. The awards allow the successful applicants to travel to and participate in the annual ASPAC Conference. This year, the conference is being held in Perth, Western Australia, 9-13 May 2006. Each fellowship provides up to US\$1500 towards costs of travel, accommodation and registration.



Photo: ASPAC Fellowship 2004 Winners, Genevieve Hernandez, Ganigar Chen, and Corrie Williams with the Executive at the 5<sup>th</sup> ASPAC Conference.

Preference is given to applicants from Full Member institutions who are not in a position to afford to send a representative to the Conference, to applicants who have been invited to contribute to the program, and to applicants who have limited opportunities to meet professionally with other science centre staff. Proposals must describe how the fellowship will benefit not only the recipient and his/her institution, but also the wider membership of ASPAC.

Further information and application forms are available on the website:

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

## **W**EBSITE UPDATES

Contact details for members of the new ASPAC Executive Council are available on the ASPAC website:

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

Contact details for ASPAC members can be located at:

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

Members are encouraged to check the details for their institution and to notify the ASPAC Secretary of any changes.

## **F**URTHER INFORMATION

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