



ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRES

NEWS UPDATE

March 2004

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION

This ASPAC News Update contains information on:

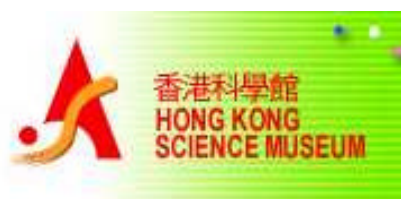
- **Hong Kong Science Museum to host 2004 ASPAC Conference**
- **ASPAC membership fees**
- **ASPAC regional project proposal welcomed by APEC Science Ministers**
- **ASPAC welcomes new member**
- **News from the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (MeSci)**
- **Opening of Wenzhou Science and Technology Museum**
- **Science News Corner at Hong Kong Science Museum**
- **Call for 4SCWC Session Proposals extended to end of April 2004**
- **Survey of economic impacts of science centres**

HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM TO HOST 2004 ASPAC CONFERENCE

This recommendation by the ASPAC Conference Working Group, chaired by Dr Chew Tuan Chiong, has been endorsed by the ASPAC Executive Council.

Congratulations to the Hong Kong Science Museum on their successful bid to host the 2004 ASPAC in December 2004. Make sure

that you set aside budget now so that you don't miss this important meeting.



Each year, ASPAC Conferences bring together in one place a rich diversity of inputs and discussions that inform the future thinking of science centres and museums in the region.

Each year, ASPAC offers two fellowships to support science centre staff who normally do not have the opportunity to travel to another science centre or participate in an ASPAC Conference. ASPAC will shortly call for applications for the 2004 ASPAC Fellowship program.

Further details will be published in future editions of the ASPAC News, and on the ASPAC website.

ASPAC MEMBERSHIP FEES

Full, Sustaining and Associate Members will soon receive an invoice for 2004 membership fees.

ASPAC REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL WELCOMED BY APEC MINISTERS

As reported in the last edition, an ASPAC Regional Project was developed by Questacon with input from the ASPAC Executive Council. The Australian Minister for Science, the Hon. Peter McGauran, MP, agreed to propose this project at the 4th APEC Ministers' Meeting on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation, which was held during 10-12 March 2004 in New Zealand.

Thank you to those who made contact with their governments to encourage them to support this project proposal. The proposal was welcomed by the Ministers, not only by Ministers from countries in the ASPAC region, but also by Ministers from other APEC countries outside of our region. The communiqué from the meeting reports that APEC encourages its member countries to work together "to enhance the contribution which science centres and museums make to increasing communities' knowledge of the benefits of science and of science careers".

In summary, the project is to develop and implement a project to study the impact of science centre programs and activities, and capture and disseminate best practice. The next steps are planned as follows:

- Working with country representatives (ISTWG members) and ASPAC members, the ASPAC Secretary will seek to clarify the financial and other kinds of contributions that each country will commit to this project. A relatively small amount from several countries will provide sufficient funding to support the project.

- A meeting will be planned as an add-on meeting to the ASPAC Conference in Hong Kong in December to scope the project in greater detail.

As the project is being established, the ASPAC Secretary has agreed to act as interim project officer to move the project forward through the various governmental and APEC processes, and to liaise with the Hong Kong Science Museum in the preparation of the add-on meeting to scope this APEC project. It is likely that other (non-ASPAC) countries will send representatives to this meeting, thereby increasing the number of delegates to the ASPAC Conference.

For further information, contact the ASPAC Secretary, Brenton Honeyman (contact details published at the end of this edition).

ASPAC WELCOMES NEW FULL MEMBER

The Communications Museum in Macao-China has joined ASPAC as a Full Member. This new museum in Macao Special Administrative Region is planned to open at the end of 2004, and looks forward to being part of the network in order to learn from other science centres and museums.

The Communications Museum is a non-profit museum managed by Macao Post. It will be developed as a scientific museum that encourages visitors to understand the history and development of Macao postal and telecommunications services by operating work-based equipment and interactive exhibits.

In 2000 square metres of exhibition space, galleries will focus on the themes of postal,

philately and telecommunications and fields of science including electricity, magnetism, electronics, radio broadcasting, and optical fibres.

For further information, contact:

Ms Olivia K I WONG
Museum Coordinator
Communication Museum
Macao Post, Largo Do Senado
Macao-China
Email olivia_wong_2000@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EMERGING SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (MeSci)

Here is a summary of some of the special events and activities at MeSci during the first quarter of 2004.

From 17 March to 31 May 2004, MeSci is organising a special exhibition entitled *F.C.R.B. Stadium Project - Play Football with Earth: Energy, Materials, Sport, Architecture, Industrial waste*. Huge stadium benches will be set up in MeSci, together with exhibits about fashion, sports and manga (Japanese comics) focusing on football. Visitors will be introduced to earth-friendly architecture design of a football stadium using ecologically appropriate materials.

From 19 October 2003 to 3 April 2004, MeSci is conducting Science Workshops entitled *A message from a Nobel Prize chemist* developed in collaboration with Dr Hideki Shirakawa and MeSci staff. The workshop features seven chemical experiments on conductive plastics, fragrances, and rubies.



Photo: Participants enjoying the Science Workshop – A message from a Nobel Prize chemist

From 27 to 28 March 2004, MeSci is hosting Spring Volunteer Events, a series of scientific experiments organised by MeSci volunteers with visitors' participation.

MeSci has also produced a travelling exhibition entitled **Exploration of TIME!**

This highly unusual science exhibition features various concepts of time with diverse perspectives. Focusing on time viewed from life science, the exhibition illustrates an internal sense of time, such as DNA's body clock, and the heart beat of different animals, which questions the conventional certainty of "accurate" time.

A unique collaborative work between researchers, designers, and artists has resulted in an exhibition that attracts a wide range of people, including the elusive young adult group.



Photo: Part of the travelling exhibition "Exploration of TIME" produced by MeSci

During its display at MeSci from 19 March to 30 June 2003, the 700 square metre exhibition attracted 130,054 visitors. For more information, including hire fee, contact Nahoko Ando, email n-ando@miraikan.jst.go.jp

OPENING OF WENZHOU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

ASPAC congratulates Mr Chen Jianxin, Director, and his staff on the opening of the Wenzhou Science and Technology Museum in Zhejiang province, China on 15 March 2004. We look forward to learning more about the region's newest science and technology museum. These photos show a little of the museum's impressive building and galleries. The new contact details for the Director are:

Mr Chen Jianxin, Director
Wenzhou Science & Technology Museum
Shifu Road / No 211 Mailbox
Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China
Tel +86 577 2888 6565
Fax +86 577 2888 6564
Email chenjx@wzstm.com



Photo: View of the Wenzhou Science and Technology Museum



Photo: View of one of the Electromagnetism gallery.



Photo: View of the Power and Mechanics gallery.

SCIENCE NEWS CORNER AT HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM

One of the challenges facing many science centres is how to communicate the latest news of breakthroughs in science and technology to our visitors. Here is how the Hong Kong Science Museum is tackling this challenge. The **Science News Corner** at HKSM is an information centre for exhibiting science research projects of local universities, new discoveries and the latest technology. It helps to keep the public in touch with latest science news.



Photo: Science News Corner

This 50-square metre Corner, located in the permanent exhibition hall on the second floor of the Museum, features four distinct zones of interest, namely, SciTech Profile, Hot Talk, Science Window and Science Web.

SciTech Profile focuses on science research projects that are currently being conducted in local universities and are related to frontier science and latest technology. New discoveries and inventions with scientific and social significance will be on the top of the list.

Hot Talk provides information on recent science findings and innovative discoveries which are of public concern around the world.

Science Window elaborates the exhibition content through science documentaries and video programs of relevant subjects.

Science Web enables visitors to have a further understanding on the topics through surfing recommended websites with in-depth information.

For further information, visit the website:
www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkscm/

CALL FOR 4SCWC SESSION PROPOSALS EXTENDED TO 30 APRIL

The International Program Committee (IPC) met in Rio de Janeiro in February to consider over 140 proposals submitted for the 4th Science Centre World Congress to be held in Rio de Janeiro, 10-14 April 2005.

A great excitement is building as we get closer to this worldwide event held every three years! The local organising committee is working hard to produce an unforgettable experience in Rio ... don't miss it!

After considering the proposals submitted so far, there are still opportunities to present in the program. You are invited to submit a proposal to present a session as part of the **Parallel Session Program**, by completing the Session Proposal Form at the congress website www.museudavida.fiocruz.br/4scwc. Please send a copy of your proposal also to session4scwc@fiocruz.br

Your proposal should address one of the following sub-themes or strands. Before you submit a proposal, we recommend that you contact the IPC member listed next to the strand most relevant to your proposal:

- **Social inclusion and access to science centres/museums**
Convenor: Mr Walter Staveloz,
wstaveloz@ecsite.net
- **Models and perspectives for science centres/museums**
Convenor: Dr Per-Edvin Persson,
pelle@heureka.fi
- **Management and sustainability of science centres/museums**
Convenor: Mr Jim Marchbank,
marchbank@sciencenorth.ca
- **Science communication, science and society**
Convenor: Dr Julián Betancourt,
mludus1@interred.net.co
- **Audience research in science centres/museums**
Convenor: Ms Bonnie VanDorn,
bvandorn@astc.org
- **Exhibitions, communication approaches and evaluation**
Convenor: Ms Bonnie VanDorn,
bvandorn@astc.org
- **Science centre/museum education and formal and informal learning**
Convenor: Mr Brenton Honeyman,
bhoneyman@questacon.edu.au
- **Virtual technology**
Convenor: Mr Ingit Mukhopadhyay,
ncsmin@giascl01.vsnl.net.in
- **Science and art**
Convenor: Dr Julia Tagüeña Parga,
jtag@servidor.unam.mx

Sessions may be presented in one of the following formats:

Panel

Three or more presenters (from different regions of the world) provide an individual presentation on a particular topic, facilitated by a session coordinator, followed by discussion.

Group Discussion

Convenor(s) provide a brief presentation to stimulate small group discussions on a particular topic, followed by reports of the discussions.

Workshop

Workshop leaders actively involve participants in learning news skills and techniques.

Speakers' Corner

Presenters give 15-minute presentations on topics of their own choice.

Science Show

Presenters perform 20-minute live science shows.

Poster Presentation

During poster session times, contributors are available to discuss their poster topics with other delegates. Poster display format is limited to 1.0 m by 80 cm.

The extended deadline for submission of proposals is 30 April 2004.

For presentations on Panels, Group Discussions, Speakers' Corner, and Workshops, please write an Extended Abstract (from 600 – 800 words). Poster Presentations and Science Shows require only a 300-word abstract. The abstract should be written in English.

For panel proposals and group discussion proposals, it is important that speakers are from at least two continents. Speakers should not be repeated in more than two panels and/or group discussions and/or workshops.

For information about registration, accommodation and conference tours, please contact 4scwc@gauche-eventos.com.br. You may also visit the Congress website for the latest information at www.museudavida.fiocruz.br/4scwc.

SURVEY OF ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SCIENCE CENTRES

ASPAC members will soon receive a survey requesting data for the second phase of the International Study on the Impact of Science Centres on their Communities.

The first phase, reported in the March 2003 edition of ASPAC News, focused on identifying studies on the individual, societal, economic and policy impacts of science centres.

This second phase is responding to the need for more data on economic impacts of science centres. ASPAC encourages all Full Members to participate in this survey which will help provide us all with information which is useful to us as individual institutions and also our worldwide profession as a whole.

ASPAC INFORMATION

Contact the ASPAC Secretary

Mr Brenton Honeyman
Office of the Director
Questacon – The National Science and
Technology Centre
King Edward Terrace
Canberra ACT 2600, Australia
Tel +61 2 6270 2811, Fax +61 2 6273 4346
Email: bhoneyman@questacon.edu.au