

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION

This ASPAC News Update contains information on:

- **International Forum on the Sustainable Development of Science Museums in the 21st Century**
- **ASPAC welcomes CPAS as a new Full Member**
- **Oil and Gas Discovery Centre, Brunei**
- **CIMUSET Conference: A Conference for Science and Technology Museums**
- **National Science Show Festival in Thailand**
- **Director's Position advertised for Science Alive!**
- **New Certificate and Diploma Course for science centre staff**



Photo: Entrance to the China Science & Technology Museum

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE MUSEUMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The China Science and Technology Museum hosted this forum in Beijing from 22-23 September 2003 on the occasion of their 15th anniversary.

Over the past fifteen years, CSTM has gone through tremendous changes, both in terms of physical scale and in regard to its exhibition content and form. It has developed from a small museum with 7,500 square metres of exhibition area to a total area of 43,000 square metres. This has been accompanied by a steady increase in its annual number of visitors and an ever increasing role in promoting public understanding of science.



Photo: Students enjoying one of the many hands-on exhibits at CSTM

Mr Brenton Honeyman (ASPAC Secretary) delivered a congratulatory message to CSTM on behalf of international delegates and colleagues around the world. He paid tribute to the accomplishments of CSTM during the last 15 years and, in particular, to the visionary leadership of Dr Wang Yusheng (CSTM's current Director General) and Prof Li Xiangyi (CSTM's former Director General), both of whom have made important contributions to the science centre industry within the ASPAC region and further afield.



Photo: Forum presenters (from L to R) Dr Higuchi, Japan; Mr Hinatsu (Japan); Mr Yip (Hong Kong SAR); Dr Wang (CSTM, China)

ASPAC was well represented at the forum. Mr Chee-kuen Yip (ASPAC President and Chief Curator, Hong Kong Science Museum) arrived direct from Slovenia to present a paper on "Sustainable development: A financial perspective"; Dr Keiji Higuchi (ASPAC Vice President and Director, Nagoya City Science Museum) presented a paper on "Linking science museums with local community"; Dr Wang Yusheng (ASPAC Councillor and Director General of CSTM) presented a paper on "Innovation: the source of science museums' vitality"; Mr Brenton Honeyman (ASPAC Secretary and Executive Operations Manager of Questacon) presented a paper on "Sustainable development of science centres and museums: impact and relevance".

Two other ASPAC member institutions also contributed to the forum. Mr Kenichi Hinatsu, Director of Secretariat, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (MeSci), Japan, and Dr Chang Sang-ku, Director General, Science Technology & Exhibition Research Centre, NSM, Korea, presented papers.



Photo: Delegates from Japan, Hong Kong and Korea enjoying the hospitality of their CSTM hosts

ASPAC WELCOMES CPAS AS A NEW FULL MEMBER

ASPAC continues to grow! Since the last news update, the National Centre for Public Awareness of Science (CPAS) based at the Australian National University in Canberra, has joined as a Full Member. The Centre, the only accredited UNESCO Centre for science communication, is very active in the Asia Pacific region, conducting programs and workshops for teachers, for practicing scientists as well as students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Centre is a partner with Questacon in conducting the Shell Questacon Science Circus program which takes interactive science to students and communities across Australia. CPAS also manages the web-based network entitled the UNESCO Pacific Science Exchange for Scientists and Science Communicators. ASPAC welcomes CPAS as its newest member.

The total number of member organisations is now 32 as follows:

- 27 Full Members
- 3 Sustaining Members
- 2 Associate Members

OIL AND GAS DISCOVERY CENTRE, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC), located in Seria Town 100kms from the capital of Brunei, was officially declared open by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Dipertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 14th September 2002.

It is aimed at demonstrating the oil and gas life cycle as well as highlighting new developments within the industry and to provide educational opportunities through science interactives. It creates an exciting

learning environment for both young and not so young through fun, hands-on experiences in a stimulating environment.



Photo: The Gallery of the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre

OGDC is comprised of a Gallery, an Exhibition and Interactive Area, Theatre and Cafeteria. The Gallery houses the reception and waiting areas, shop, administration offices, conference room, a VIP lounge and a viewing gallery providing beautiful views over the South China Sea. This area can be used for displays and exhibitions which are free to view. We provide lots of interesting activities for the local community as part of our mission to be a focal point for community activities in the region.

The 1200 square metre Exhibition Hall consists of 7 galleries that follow the oil and gas theme: Formation, Exploration, Drilling and Extraction, Transportation, Refining, Polymers and New Energy. Interactive exhibits are dispersed throughout these theme areas, giving visitors the opportunity for hands-on experiences and learning. The interactive exhibits cover a range of different science themes with new exhibits being introduced every 3 months. OGDC is located in the largest of the four districts in Brunei but, with a total population of less than 60,000, we are very aware of the need to have many interesting activities and regular changes of exhibits to ensure repeat visitation.

The Theatre, which accommodates up to 75 people, can showcase science, discovery and exploration films and has been used for conferences, workshops, presentations and by a local film club. There are plans to introduce a 3D projection system in 2004.



Photo: The cafeteria of OGDC

The Cafeteria is built over an artificial lagoon and children are able to play at the nearby playground or feed the lagoon fish while the parents can relax and enjoy a meal or other refreshments. A skateboarding area, jogging track and grand chess area are also features of OGDC where visitors can take full advantage of the great climate.

Our plans for 2004 include the completion of an activity centre with two areas that can be used as classrooms or activity rooms. We will be employing a teacher to develop science programs for visiting schools. We also plan to develop a camping area that can be used by visiting schools as part of their outdoor education program while taking advantage of the education programs that will be available in the Exhibition Hall and Activity Rooms. We have already purchased 16 tents for use on our overnight camping activities that we run during the holidays.

OGDC is a busy, interesting place to work. We have a small dedicated team of seven full-time staff with some additional part-time and cleaning staff. We have had over 28,000

visitors in our first year of operation, including just over 10,000 school visits. We hope the plans we have in place will provide us with continued growth of visitor numbers over the coming years.

Mr Neville Petrie
Head of OGDC
neville.petrie@shell.com

CIMUSET CONFERENCE: A CONFERENCE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUMS

Although named as a science museum since its establishment in 1991, this was the first time for the Hong Kong Science Museum to participate in an international conference assuming its role as a museum rather than as a science centre.

Held from 12 to 17 September 2003, the Conference of CIMUSET, an international committee for science and technology museums of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), was organised together with ICTOP (for Training of Personnel) and MPR (for Marketing and Public Relations) committees. This conference, although publicised as being held in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, had its daily conference sessions held in different places in Slovenia, with one day of events in Zagreb, Croatia.



Photo: Technical Museum of Slovenia

Many members of ASPAC are also museums with some having very extensive collections. With the global trends of reduced funding for museums and increased costs in managing and conserving collections, the CIMUSET conference discussed the principles and importance of identifying collections for science and technology museums.

The conference recognised that historical objects can tell stories of science and technology that fabricated exhibits cannot easily do. A combination of interactive hands-on exhibits together with some “hands-off” objects may give visitors a more interesting opportunity to explore the underlying principles.



Photo: Demonstration of a steam engine as part of the CIMUSET program in Slovenia

This CIMUSET conference was attended by about 40 participants. The next annual conference of CIMUSET will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2004 together with the triennial General Assembly of ICOM.

YIP Chee-kuen
ASPAC President and
Chief Curator
Hong Kong Science Museum

NATIONAL SCIENCE SHOW FESTIVAL IN THAILAND

During 6-8 August 2003, the National Science Centre for Education (NCSE) in Thailand hosted the National Science Show Festival. This event was supported by the private sector company, Nanmee Book Publishing Ltd. The event program included:



Photo: Lively performance by one of the teams competing in the National Science Show Contest

National Science Show Contest: 13 teams of secondary school students from each region in Thailand, competed in this event. Each team had previously been the winners of their regional competition.



Photo: Students demonstrating a scientific principle during their science show at the National Festival



Photo: Eugenia O'Brien, Guest Presenter from Questacon entertains NSCE staff and students attending the National Contest.

Special Science Show: Eugenia O'Brien, a presenter and outreach education officer from Questacon, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre, presented some special science performances for Thai students and the staff of NSCE. This event was an excellent example of cooperation between ASPAC members, and we are grateful for the assistance of Brenton Honeyman, ASPAC Secretary, in arranging this.

Teacher Workshop: This focused on how to develop stimulating teaching materials using easy-to-do activities and locally available materials.

Jarinya Tanomtin
Head, Basic Sciences
National Science Centre for Education
Thailand

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

DIRECTOR'S POSITION ADVERTISED FOR SCIENCE ALIVE!

Science Alive in Christchurch, New Zealand has been an active member of ASPAC for many years. The Centre's current Director, Mr Brian Taylor, has been a longstanding advocate and supporter of ASPAC. We thank Brian for this support, and wish him every success in the new venture that he is establishing.

Science Alive is therefore advertising for a new director. Applications should be sent to Gill Evans, Secretary of Christchurch Science Technology Trust Board, c/- PO Box 13339, Christchurch, New Zealand by 13 October 2003 (refer to advertisement below).



Director/CEO

- To lead our rapidly expanding business
- To grow our multi million dollar export market
- To further our core objective of science and technology education

Applications by 13 October 2003
to Gill Evans, Secretary of Christchurch Science
Technology Trust Board,
c/- PO Box 13339, Christchurch, NZ

Tel +64 3 364 2404, Fax +64 3 364 2469
Email gill.evans@canterbury.ac.nz
www.sciencealive.co.nz

NEW CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA COURSES FOR CENTRE STAFF



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NEW FOR 2004!

by Australia's National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science in cooperation with Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma Programs

specially designed
for science centre staff

The programs develop skills in a wide variety of areas important to science centres, including exhibit design, personal communication and presentation, understanding your public, and evaluation. It will bring you up to date with the latest research in science centres, and give you opportunities for practical hands-on experience at Australia's national science centre, Questacon. The program will be conducted at the National Centre for Public Awareness of Science, the only accredited UNESCO Centre for science communication. You do not need a science degree to be eligible for the Certificate or Diploma program, and fees for 2004 programs are being kept to a minimum.

For more information contact
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about items published in this edition of the ASPAC News, or for publication of items in future editions, please contact:

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The Executive Council distributes ASPAC News as an email attachment every two months. It includes news about ASPAC events and activities, issues impacting on the science centre industry in this region, and news about the people and activities of ASPAC member institutions.

Please ensure that the ASPAC Secretary is kept informed of any changes to your email contact details.

What is happening in your science centre?

Please send news (and jpg photos)
of activities which will be of interest
to ASPAC members.

Please send to the ASPAC Secretary at
the address above.