



ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRES

NEWS UPDATE

September 2004

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION

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- **New project approved at APEC Meeting in Singapore**
- **ASPAC welcomes Science Projects, UK as new Associate Member**
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EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION AVAILABLE UNTIL 30 SEPTEMBER

Don't miss out on the 5th ASPAC Conference in Hong Kong, 1-4 December 2004. **Save by registering at the early bird rate by 30 September.**

The theme is "Science Centres: Nurturing Creativity" and an exciting program of sessions is being developed, featuring presenters from around the world.

Pre-conference workshops (free to delegates) on topics including 3D prototyping; amusement rides; and occupational safety and health will be held on 30 November and 1 December.

A meeting of the ASPAC Executive Council will be held on the morning of 1 December,

followed by a meeting of the ASPAC General Council during the afternoon. Member institutions are invited to send a delegate to the General Council meeting. Further details of this meeting will be distributed.

Post conference tours include a Harbour Tour (Evening of 4 December); Territories Tour (All day on 5 December); and Macao Tour (All day on 6 December).

For the latest details and to download a registration form, visit the Conference website <http://hk.science.museum/aspac2004>

APPLY FOR AN ASPAC FELLOWSHIP BY 1 OCTOBER

Applications for the 2004 ASPAC Fellowship are due **no later than 1 October 2004**. Up to three fellowships will be awarded to staff of Full Member institutions, enabling them to participate in the 5th ASPAC Conference in Hong Kong, 1-4 December 2004. Application forms and criteria are available on the website: www.aspacnet.org/awards.html

Completed application forms must be forwarded to the ASPAC Assistant Secretary **by 1 October 2004**:

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NEW PROJECT APPROVED AT APEC MEETING IN SINGAPORE

ASPAC has played a key role in the development of a new APEC regional project to study the impact of science centre programs and activities, and capture and disseminate best practice.

This project was first proposed at the 4th APEC Ministers' Meeting on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation held in New Zealand in March 2004. The proposal was widely welcomed by ministers and heads of delegations attending that meeting.

After that meeting, the 21 member economies of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) were invited to approve the proposal as a new APEC project.

At the 27th APEC Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG) Meeting held on 14-15 September 2004, Brenton Honeyman presented the project proposal to delegates. The meeting then formally approved this project.



Photo: Entrance to the APEC Building in Singapore where the 27th APEC ISTWG Meeting was held

Australia, as the proposing economy, will provide, through Questacon:

- project coordination and secretariat services
- website development and administration

Canada, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand have already agreed to be co-sponsors of this project, and several other economies are considering becoming co-sponsors. All economies are being encouraged to support the project by agreeing to one or more of the following financial or in-kind contributions:

- Becoming a co-sponsor of the project
- Contributing funding towards the cost of a project officer and specialist consultancy services
- Hosting a meeting, seminar or workshop to assist the project's objectives
- Promoting or enabling the participation of science centres and museums within their own economy

It is important to understand why this project has been developed as an APEC project.

APEC, established in 1989, has 21 members – referred to as “member economies” – which account for more than 2.5 billion people, a combined GDP of 19 trillion US dollars and 47% of world trade. It also proudly represents the most economically dynamic region in the world, generating nearly 70% of global economic growth in its first 10 years.

APEC's 21 member economies are:

Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Chinese Taipei; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Thailand; United States of America; and Viet Nam.

APEC has a number of working groups that support the goals of APEC. One of these is the Industrial Science and Technology Working Group (ISTWG). At the recent APEC Science Ministers' Meeting, four key areas of focus were identified for this working group:

- Human capacity building
- International science and technology networks
- Connecting research and innovation
- Strengthening technological cooperation and encouraging best practice

This new project relates to all four of these areas and, as such, will provide our science centres and museums with an opportunity to demonstrate to our governments the nature and extent of the important impacts we are making on our communities.

More and more, science centres are being seen as a key part of each country's infrastructure in:

- Communicating important messages to the community about the value and contribution of science and technology to economic and social wellbeing
- Providing learning experiences which support and enhance formal learning in schools as well as lifelong learning



Photo: 27th APEC ISTWG Meeting in session

In summary, this project has two target audiences in mind:

- Ourselves, that we might benefit from the sharing of data and best practice
- Our governments, that they might better understand the valuable impacts that we are making, and the resources we require to continue or expand our impacts

It is this objective of strengthening dialogue and understanding between our sector and the government sector which is the basis for establishing this project as an APEC project. We encourage all science centres and museums, no matter how large or how small, to participate in this project. Whether your science centre/museum has many resources or limited resources, you are making important impacts on your community. It is important that we capture this information and share it with each other as well as with our governments through APEC.

Many science centres and museums have already confirmed their participation, not only those who are ASPAC members, but also those in other economies beyond the ASPAC region, but within the APEC community.

Preparation for the Project Scoping Meeting on 4 December 2004 during the 5th ASPAC

Conference in Hong Kong is progressing well. Three keynote speakers have agreed to join us for this meeting:

- Dr Mamoru Mohri, Director, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Japan
- Lesley Lewis, Director General and CEO, Ontario Science Centre, Canada
- Dr Paul Cheung, Chairman, APEC ISTWG, Hong Kong

Their input will provide an excellent stimulus for us as we meet to discuss the opportunities and specific details of this project.

For further information about this project, contact:

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ASPAC WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

ASPAC welcomes **Science Projects** in the UK as an Associate Member. Science Projects is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of learning through interactive exhibitions.

The organisation runs **The Observatory Science Centre** and **Inspire Science Centre** in the UK.

Science Projects also operates a number of travelling exhibitions for schools, science centres and museums.



Photo: Sound Tubes, a popular exhibit at Inspire

The organisation has also been designing and building hands-on interactive exhibitions for more than 18 years for institutions around the world.

For more information, visit the website www.science-projects.org

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN VIET NAM ON 20-22 OCTOBER 2004

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Centre for Regional Research and Development (CRD) in Viet Nam, together with the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) in India, are organising an International Conference on “**The Changing Role of Science Centres and Museums in Developing Countries**”.

From planning programs, to securing funds and facilities, sessions will address a variety of issues important to today’s science centres and museums.

Nominations to participate in this workshop in Hanoi, Viet Nam, must be received by 30 September 2004. For further information, contact:

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TRADITIONAL TAIWANESE SCIENTIFIC TOYS

The National Science and Technology Museum in Kaohsiung, Taiwan has produced an activity kit consisting of four scientific toys and instructions for their use.



Photo: Activity kit, showing the contents of Traditional Taiwanese Scientific Toys

ASPAC members interested in obtaining this activity kit are invited to contact Ms Szu-yi Lo by email: loszuyi@mail.nstm.gov.tw

Traditional Taiwanese Scientific Toys costs NT250 (about US\$8) plus postage and packaging.

ASPAC INFORMATION

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