

Chanika Kongsawat, from the National Science Museum in Thailand, was one of three ASPAC Fellows who attended ASPAC 2012 in Singapore. This is her reflection on her experience as a Fellow.

My experience at the ASPAC 2012 conference

This is my first opportunity to take part in the ASPAC conference. There were many things to learn. I enjoyed learning new things and meeting with many fantastic people.

There were many good experiences and I am impressed with the people and their works. There were 3 memorable experiences at the conference I would like to mention:

Firstly is the workshop. I joined 3 workshops that I can apply to my work and got lot of ideas to improve my project. Also I have worked together with other museum's employees, where ideas and information were shared.

Secondly, during the conference I presented my project about "Traveling Exhibition of Healthy Sexuality". It was a very good opportunity to share the information with other museum staff. After the presentation, many members of audiences who were interested in this project came to talk and share their experience with me. We have similar concerns in educating this topic, such as how to balance between the scientific and the psychological information or how much the children should know about healthy sexuality. On top of this, the most important issue is the public's reaction to the exhibition. I considered the discussion about the solution to this concerns were very constructive.

It was not only the presentation of my work, but also by listening to other people work opened my eyes to learn new things and obtain new information, such as new technique, new tools, new activities and new way to approach and engage visitors.

Finally, what is most important is that I had a chance to meet many terrific people who work in many fields in science museums and science communication. We exchanged our contact, so we can keep in touch for information exchange, work and advice with each other in the future. I have to thank ASPAC fellowship for giving me a great opportunity to join this year conference.
