

## Science Centre World Summit 2017 – ASPAC Fellow Report

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**Name of Programme** : Science Centre World Summit 2017  
**Date** : Nov 15-17 2017  
**Venue** : Miraikan, Tokyo, Japan

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### Content and programmes

#### 1. *How SCWS contributes to my professional development*

One of my areas of interest is on co development and co-engagement with Science. The following talks gave me a lot of ideas.

##### Using technology for engagement – Augmented reality

Anna Gunnarsson from Navet, spoke about the Aurasma app, using which she co-created AR content for her Science experiment book together with teachers and students. We plan to consider both the AR component and the co-creation aspect in our upcoming early childhood educator programmes

##### African Code Week

As Singapore is taking active steps toward the implementation of coding curriculum, we were impressed by the African code week project and its sheer capacity to scale. The Africa Code week is primarily a coding advocacy programme and its role is to create awareness of coding and not to create coders. At Science Centre Singapore, we are constantly trying to find a balance between inspirational advocacy programmes and programmes with deeper engagement.

#### 2. *How my attendance to SCWS benefits me, my institution and the wider audience*

##### Data analytics

The Data Analytics and Big Data track had several interesting talks. The New York Hall of Science shared about the programme with families on data modelling and analysis and shared that there was sustained family engagement of 98%

over multiple weeks. They also shared the need for Big data literacy in formal and informal spaces and the Big Data for little kids' project

## Reinventing the (Science) museum

Panellist Jim Richardson posed several relevant questions that could frame new directions for museums and Science Centres

- Could training adults be part of what you offer to the community?
- Could your museum help young businesses in your community?
- Could the museum setup a social enterprise? Working with social enterprise to get the community to create (sellable) designs during workshops
- Could your museum setup wellness programmes to benefit ageing audiences?
- When do museums make a difference?

## Proposed implementation of new programmes at Science Centre Singapore

Based on the sharing in the Big Data track, as well as sharing by programmes such as the “Young Person’s Plan for the Planet” the “Africa Code Week” and the “World Biogen Tour” we are currently trying to develop programmes that are large scale, scalable and impactful in the field of Big Data and Analytics. We hope to share some results in the next few years. Inspired by the talk by Jim Richardson, we are looking at how our new Digital Fabrication space can be used to make a difference in the community. The Tokyo Protocol also outlines key goals of the Science Centre which can shape these programmes.

### *3. What are the new challenges of my institution and how I learnt from SCWS 2017 to improve them*

## Engaging Youth at the Science centres

The panel involved several young people who had previously taken part in the World Biotech Tour. The post panel discussion was especially interesting as the young people gave opinions on how the teenager’s curiosity can be sparked at the Science Centre. Some of the reasons given include how the Science on the teenager’s curriculum is not so easily translated into exhibits that are observed at the Science Centre. i.e., the advanced exhibits show observable phenomena, but not the Science behind. One of the young people proposed to have programmes that can consider the diversity of opinions in the Science Centre. How can the young person’s thoughts and ideas come out in a programme?

While there was sharing on many programmes for youth by different Science Centres, perhaps the most impactful sharing was the talk by Ms Tigabu of Whizkids. One of the most important takeaways from her talk for me was the idea of finding a local champion. Paraphrasing Ms Tigabu – “Transformation starts from within – don’t strive for co-design, but give your design to a local champion to design and then mentor the champion... trust the local champion to create something better than what we envision ourselves.”

One possible way of finding local champions among the youth of Science Centre Singapore’s visitors is through our youth networks. We will be brainstorming on making these young people the local champions in Singapore’s Science Communication.

## Sessions attended during the SCWS 2017

1. PARTNERSHIP AND CO-ENGAGEMENT
2. ENGAGING YOUTH AT THE SCIENCE CENTRES
3. THE TOKYO PROTOCOL
4. DATA ANALYTICS
5. INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS
6. REINVENTING THE (SCIENCE) MUSEUM

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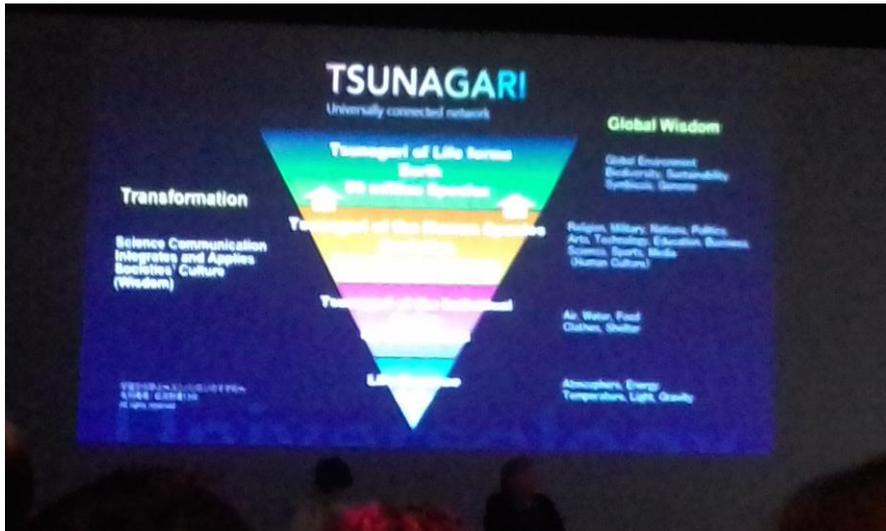
## Photos



Tigabu on finding a local champion



Dr Mori on the Tokyo Protocol



Tsunagari – Happiness on Earth is a scalable project contributed to by the different Science Centres in the Asia pacific network



Networking opportunities with fellow Science Centre staff and ASPAC fellows