

January/February 2007
The ACS International E-Newsletter
ACS Office of International Activities

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American Chemical Society Office of International Activities publishes bimonthly and in electronic form the ACS International E-Newsletter. It is designed to provide information on activities, networks, resources, products and services related to international aspects of chemical sciences, technology, engineering and innovation. For information on international meetings and conferences, we invite you to visit <http://chemistry.org/meetings> to search and view opportunities. Please share this email with your colleagues, and we also hope you will consider contributing content for future editions. Send your ideas and suggestions to intlacts@acs.org.

C O N T E N T S

International Currents

World Chemical Outlook

At this time last year, C&EN predicted that 2006 would be a year of growth around the world—and that is essentially what it proved to be. For 2007, companies in most regions are predicting continued growth, but it is generally a cautious prediction. Read the reports on the US, Canada, Latin America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region at:
<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/coverstory/85/8502cover.html>

Entrepreneurship in Polymer Technologies

Interested in the latest research and applications of Polymer chemical technologies? Think you have what it takes to carry your chemical knowledge into the industrial field? View for free three advanced case studies at:

http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=international\int_asia.html

If you are a member of ACS and the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (POLY) you can view additional presentations on this exciting topic at:

<http://www.polyacs.org/>

ACS invites your questions, suggestions, and opinions via email concerning the potential of such online content to meet your needs. Please send any questions and feedback to Mike Snyder (m_snyder@acs.org).

Benchmarking the Research Competitiveness of U. S. Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

Organized by Charles P. Casey, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Two National Research Council reports that assess the current international standing of U.S. research in chemistry and in chemical engineering will be released shortly before the Chicago ACS meeting. To highlight the results of these studies, ACS President Katie Hunt is sponsoring a Presidential Symposium on Tuesday afternoon March 27, 2007 from 2:00 - 4:30 PM. The studies were supported by NSF and DOE because it is crucial to benchmark the research competitiveness of U. S. chemistry and chemical engineering now because of concerns raised in the NRC report "Rising Above The Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future." Chemistry is facing a crucial time of change as it expands beyond its traditional core and towards areas related to biology, materials science, and nanotechnology, and is struggling to position itself to meet the needs of the future. Before addressing questions of how U.S. chemistry must shift to meet future needs, it is imperative to understand its current health and international standing. Get more information on the upcoming ACS meeting:

<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=meetings%5cchicago2007%5chome.html>

Coming to the USA to attend the ACS National Meeting in March?

The ACS Office of International Activities and the ACS Meetings Department has advice on the visa application process for scientists coming to the USA. Go to:

<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/resources/ACS/ACSContent/international/ComingtotheUSA.pdf>
<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=meetings\national\international.html>

Going to PITTCON 2007? This year the conference will be featuring several Networking Sessions on different topics, and they have asked the ACS Office of International Activities to run one session on 'Instrumentation Challenges in Developing Countries'. The session will bring together equipment vendors and developing-country scientists, as well as other scientists with interests in these regions, to discuss the challenges to setting up and maintaining a reasonably-equipped laboratory in the developing world. Please contact Chapin Rodriguez (c_rodriguez@acs.org) if you are interested in more information or wish to sign up for the session. See the session abstract at:
<http://www.pittcon.org/attendee/AttendeeNetworking.html>

Regional News and Resources

Africa and the Middle East

South Africa Considers Biofuel for Renewable Energy

The South African cabinet has approved an ambitious biofuels industrial strategy, announced the Department of Minerals and Energy last week. Get more information at:

<http://www.scidev.net/gateways/index.cfm?fuseaction=readitem&rgwid=4&item=News&itemid=3323&language=1>

Science and Technology in the Middle East: Historic Innovation, Modern Solutions

Following the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E., science and technology flourished in the Islamic world to a far greater extent than they did in the West. Learn more about the evolution on science in this region at:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/themes/science/index.html>

Global Forum: Building Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction

The World Bank will convene a Global Forum in Washington, DC on February 13-15 to discuss strategies, programs, and policies for building science, technology and innovation capacity in developing countries for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Visit this site to view the discussion paper around which the forum is organized:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSTIGLOFOR/Resources/discussion_paper.pdf

Asia

Globalization of Science Rolls On

Globalization of science is a hot topic. Yet, no single set of quantitative data gives a definitive fix on what is going on in science and where science is being done. There are data compilations - on R&D spending and investment, patent activity, and scientific manpower—that each give part of the evolving worldwide story.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/science/84/8448sci1.html>

Asian Nations Pledge Efforts to Save Energy, Develop New Sources

Sixteen Asian nations have pledged to work together to save energy and develop new supplies in the face of soaring world oil prices. The Cebu Declaration on Energy Security was issued at the end of the East Asia summit, which groups the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations with Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.
<http://www.aseansec.org/afp/200.htm>

Another Offer to Clean up Bhopal: Indian conglomerate proposes to restore infamous site

The Tata Group, one of India's largest business conglomerates, reportedly has offered to coordinate the cleanup of the old Union Carbide site in Bhopal. This would mark the second time in two years that a major company has volunteered to remediate the site, where thousands of people died in a 1984 chemical leak.
<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/85/i02/8502notw6.html>

Latin America and the Caribbean

Activity Based Chemistry in Latin America

In keeping with the interest of the Society, ACS is promoting chemistry education not only in the United States but beyond their borders. A series of workshops on Activity Based Learning in Chemistry Education have taken place in Latin America. View the workshop presentation at:
<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/international/ACSChemEdWorkshop.pdf>

Química – Un Proyecto de la ACS

The new ACS textbook, Chemistry (Química in Spanish), is now available in Spanish through Reverte Publishing. Read a review of this version of the text by Educación Química.
<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/international/EducQuimicaReview.pdf>

Looking for science teaching materials in Spanish?

The ACS has activities, articles, and games on chemistry for kids, in Spanish. View the materials at:
http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=kids\cc_kidspage_index_sp.html

Europe

Opportunities for U.S. Chemistry Undergraduates in Germany: Hurry! Application deadlines are 25 January 2007 and 1 February 2007!

Are you a chemistry undergraduate? Are you interested in living and doing research in Germany this summer? If you are a current sophomore or junior, the ACS encourages you to apply for the RISE program, run by the German foundation DAAD. This program allows students to carry out a 6- to 12-week paid research internship in German academic labs. In addition to the normal RISE stipend and benefits, applicants who are U.S. citizens with prior research experience may be eligible to receive round-trip air travel to Germany and a travel grant to the August 2007 ACS Meeting to present their results. Get an application (due 1 February 2007!) at:
www.daad.de/rise/en/index.html

If you are a senior or recent graduate, the ACS encourages you to apply to the "RISE professional" program, which allows you to do summer internships in German companies. The application deadline has been extended to 25 January 2007. RISE Professional information and application can be found at:
www.daad.de/RISE-pro

(The working language for both programs is English, and applications from women and underrepresented minorities are strongly encouraged. Please contact Chapin Rodriguez (c_rodriguez@acs.org) if you have questions.)

2007 is the Year for Synthetic & Medicinal Chemistry in Europe: The ACS and the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry are proud to cosponsor two meetings

'Frontiers in CNS and Oncology Medicinal Chemistry' (Siena, Italy 7-9 October 2007). Sponsored in partnership with the European Federation for Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC), this meeting will bring together pioneering scientists from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss the latest advances in drug development to fight cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. Go to:

www.acsefmc-italy2007.it/home.htm

'Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry' (St Petersburg, Russia 27-31 August 2007). Again sponsored in partnership with EFMC, this meeting will bring together chemists from all over Russia, Asia, and countries west to explore the latest advances in a broad range of chemical sub disciplines. The most recent meeting in this series, held in 2004, attracted 600 industrial and academic participants from 41 countries—including 400 Russians. Go to:

www.asmc07.org/

REACH Is Wrapped Up

Delegations from the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers have hammered out a compromise agreement that ensures passage by the end of the 2006 year of REACH, the European Union's program for regulation, evaluation, and authorization of chemicals. Learn more at:

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/84/i50/8450reach.html>

New Links

ACS Office of Career Management and Development

Chemists are the people who transform the everyday materials around us into amazing things. Some chemists work on cures for cancer while others monitor the ozone protecting us from the sun. Still others discover new materials to make our homes warmer in the winter, or new textiles to be used in the latest fashions. The knowledge gained through the study of chemistry opens many career pathways. View the new ACS Career Management and Development website for a list of careers in chemistry and profiles of individuals working in these fields:

<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/careers/index.html>

Funding Opportunities

2007 NSF Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute (PASI) on Sustainability & Green Chemistry

The PASI will explore scientific solutions to global challenges, and will address such topics as renewable resources, life cycle analysis, energy sources, and sustainable buildings. Participants (graduate and post-graduate students) will engage in a number of activities designed to provide a solid foundation in sustainability and green chemistry. Get more information at:

http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=greenchemistryinstitute%5csummer_school%5cgsummer.html

The Royal Society Pfizer Award

This prestigious international award, sponsored by Pfizer Ltd, is designed to reward scientists, working in Africa, at the outset of their research career and to promote science capacity building in the developing world.

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/page.asp?tip=1&id=4215>

Sven Brohult Award

The aim of the Sven Brohult Award is to recognize excellence in research and create a better scientific atmosphere in developing countries. Each Award is in the cash amount of USD 10,000 and is given to an IFS grantee every three years.

http://www.ifs.se/Grantees/sven_brohult_award.asp

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The ACS International E-Newsletter is sent out every other month by email. Should you have questions, comments or suggestions for content, please contact the ACS Office of International Activities at intlacts@acs.org. You can find out more about ACS international programs at <http://chemistry.org/international>.

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