

Strategic Planning for a New East Asian Network for Organic Chemistry, Joint Initiative with ACP of JSPS



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<http://www.iupac.org/projects/2005/2005-039-2-300.html>

Objective:

It has been estimated that 30% of the research done in the field chemistry in the world is being produced in Asia. While this statistic is encouraging, a careful inspection shows that productive research is presently concentrated in a few countries in the region, and is by no means a common phenomenon across all countries in Asia.

Previous cooperative networks (such as the Network for the Chemistry of Biologically Important Natural Products, and the UNESCO Network for Natural Products) have either ceased to operate entirely or are languishing through lack of funding. There is now an opportunity - and indeed a responsibility - for IUPAC to take the initiative in this matter, and plan the establishment of a new Network. Such an initiative complements a major program being undertaken by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to catalyze cooperative research in Asia.

Aims of this IUPAC project is to establish a new collaborative East Asian Network for organic chemists in the broadest sense. This activity is closely linked to JSPS Asian Core Program, Cutting-Edge Organic Chemistry in Asia, which has started in October 2005 in order to build and foster a sustainable program of high-quality organic chemistry research, education and chemistry-based applications.

IUPAC Workshop:

An IUPAC-sponsored Workshop under Strategic Planning for a new East Asian Network for Organic Chemistry was held in the morning of Oct. 16 on 2 topics: "Modern Mass Spectrometry" conducted by Dr. Matthias Pelzing from Bruker Daltonics, Australia, and "Computational Organic Chemistry" by Prof. Yundong Wu from the Hong Kong U. of Sci. Tech.

Asian Core Program:

This IUPAC project is linked to the JSPS's Asian CORE program, which is designed to create world-class research hubs in selected fields within the Asian region, while fostering the next generation of leading researchers by establishing sustainable collaborative relations among research/education institutions in Japan, China (Beijing), Korea, China (Taipei). It has also recruited Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, and Malaysia as IUPAC non-NAO member countries.

The first International Conference of this program was held in Naha, Okinawa during Oct. 16-20. The opening address delivered by Isobe was followed by the Nagoya Medal Special Award ceremony in which The Gold Medal was presented by Prof. R. Noyori to Prof. Dr. HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand. Keynote speakers at this conference included H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn, and Nobel prize-winning chemists Prof. R. Noyori, and Prof. Y.-T. Lee.

1st International Annual Meeting:

Following the IUPAC Workshop, this conference was attended by 85 participants from Japan, the host country of this conference (62 ACP members, 14 industry and 9 local participants) and 79 chemists from the rest of Asia (73 ACP members, 4 workshop participants). The Japanese chemists were from Riken (1), Hokkaido University (5), Tohoku U. (8), U. of Tokyo (11), Tokyo Institute of Technology (8), Chiba U. (4), Nagoya U. (8), Kyoto U. (9), Osaka U. (8), Ryukyu U. (9) and Industry (14). Participants from outside of Japan were from China/Beijing (13), Hong Kong (6), Korea (16), China/Taipei (19), Thailand (17), Singapore (2), Philippines (2), Malaysia (1), Australia (1), Switzerland (1). The highlights of this Conference were 3 Keynote Lectures, 5 Plenary Lectures, 39 Invited Lectures, and 91 poster presentations. A total of 45 Lectureship Awards were presented, which allow the awardees to give a one-week international lecture tour under the sponsorship of ACP (see website).



International Conferences (3)

The 1st International Conference on Cutting-Edge Organic Chemistry in Asia (ICCEOCA-1) was held in Naha, Okinawa, Japan on October 16-20, 2006.

Pre-conference : Nagoya on March 9-11, 2006.

Post-conference : Hsinchu on Oct. 21-23, 2006.



Lectureships

So far, 61 (16 + 45) Lectureship Awards have been selected for 2006 and 2007, and about 40% of the lectureship tours have already been completed among Asian countries/regions. This program invites each awardee to visit for one week to give lectures. The home country/region funds the international flight of the awardee, while the domestic costs are supported by the awarding countries/regions.

Web Site of Project URL

- <http://www.agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~organic/asiahtml/acp2006>
- <http://www.agr.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~organic/asiahtml/acp2007>

1. References:

- Minoru Isobe and Pauline Chiu, *Chem. Asian. J.* **2006**, *1*, 18-20.
- Minoru Isobe and Pauline Chiu, *Chem. Asian. J.* **2007**, *2*, 452-454.

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The Post-Conference, organized by Profs. Chun-Chen Liao and Bing-Jiun Uang, was held in Hsinchu, China/Taipei, October 21-24, 2006. This Post Conference featured 7 invited speakers from Japan, 2 from Hong Kong, 6 from Korea, 6 from Thailand, and 11 from China/Taipei. The post-conference saw the attendance of some 200 participants including local graduate students in total, at 28 invited lectures and 55 posters. The keynote lectures were delivered by Prof. C.-H. Wong, the new president of Academia Sinica and by Prof. Isobe.

Upcoming International Annual Meetings:

Prof. Sunggak Kim of KAIST is now organizing the ICCEOCA-2 by collaboration with Prof. Kwan Soo Kim. It will be held in September 2007 in Pusan, the second largest city in Korea. In the following years, ACP organic chemists will meet in other cities in Asia. All of the conferences are financed by the chemistry societies of the hosting countries/regions, as well as registration fees from participants. See you all again in Pusan in September this year.