

Chemistry Education in Taiwan

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CCE meeting on August 3, 2008

1. The new curriculum standards for senior high school were launched in 2008 and then will be adopted in teaching and learning of chemistry in 2010. The new standards claimed the fundamental chemistry I, II, and III (each with 2 credits, at least 32 hours) as required courses for students to take in three semesters (including experiments). Fundamental chemistry I and II are designed for all the students and III for science major students. Selected Chemistry courses are considered as Advanced Placement (AP) level course to be taught in two semesters, each semester for 3 credits (48 and 34 hours separately). Laboratories for Chemistry are selected course for two semesters, one credit for each semester (10 hours). The total hours for chemistry courses are 198 (including 166 hours for lecturing and 32 hours for laboratories).
2. The first national poster competition awardees (elementary, junior, and high schools students) were recognized at the annual conference of chemistry during 14-16 December, 2007 at National Tsing Hua University, in Hsin-Chu, Taiwan. The theme for the poster competition was “My image of Chemistry”. The posters could be seen at <http://science.gise.ntnu.edu.tw/Seminar/poster07b.htm>. This year, the topic for the poster competition is “My Image of Chemists.”
3. Taiwan was involved in the Young Ambassadors for Chemistry (YACs) program since 2003. Ever since there were several follow-up activities and two YAC workshops (including YAC events, the latest one was completed this week). Close to one hundred science teachers received this train-the-trainers model program and over hundreds of students and the public participated in the YAC events. Last year, during the Annual conference of Chemical Society located in Taipei, a paper set on YAC was presented. That covered Lida Schoen’s “The Global ‘Young Ambassadors for Chemistry’ project”, Erica Steenberg’s “Young Ambassadors for Chemistry’ in South Africa”, Mei-Hung Chiu’s “Science Across the world (SAW) and Young Ambassadors for Chemistry (YAC) in Taiwan”, Shu-Nu Chang’s “SAW for non-science majors in Taiwan”, Chin-Cheng Chou’s “The Use of Internet and Teaching Media Resources in the General Education of Natural Science—an Example of the Climate Change”, and Hung-Ta Wu; Shu-Hua Chen’s YAC in Yilan. The presentations were very successful and received positive feedback from the audience.

4. The 2nd Network for Inter-Asian Chemistry Educators (NICE) Symposium was held during July 30-31 2007 in Taipei, Taiwan. A charter was signed. In 2009, Japan will host the third NICE in Tokyo. The chairman of NICE 2009 is Professor Masahiro Kamata. Co-Chairman of NICE 2009 are Prof. Choon H. Do (Korea) , Prof. Masato M. Ito (Japan), and Mei-Hung Chiu (Taiwan). Taiwan will continuously provide support to NICE for promoting chemistry education in Taiwan.
5. In order to provide good program of 21st ICCE in 2010, as the chair of ICCE 2010, Dr. Chiu has invited scholars to form the local organizing committee in 2007 and international advisory committee in 2008. The task force members had visited several potential hotels and universities as venue for the conference and accommodation for participants. A formal invitation presentation at ICCE will be delivered during 10:00-10:10 AM and followed up to meet with International Advisory Committee members at noon on August 5.