

Report on the 4th ISE Spring Meeting 2006, held at the National University of Singapore, from 17th to 20th April 2006 in Singapore

The 4th ISE Spring Meeting 2006 began with a quiet Sunday evening of wine, beer and drinks at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. In total, about 50 delegates attended the welcome reception.

On Monday, the 4th ISE Spring Meeting 2006 officially opened. It was very much a privilege to welcome all delegates and especially many who came to Singapore for the first time. ISE President, Professor Juan Feliu gave a welcome speech, followed by NUS Provost and Deputy President, Professor Chorh-Chuan Tan (the Guest-of-Honour) who gave the opening address. The official opening was immediately followed by the first Plenary talk by Professor Dieter Kolb from the University of Ulm, Germany, entitled "The metallization of organic layers: making contacts for molecular electronics". The Meeting continued with three and half days of talks and two Plenary talks at the start of the following days. The second day Plenary talk, entitled "Synthesis and processing of nanoparticles for bioengineering applications" was given by Professor Jackie Ying from the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Singapore and on third day, Professor Phil Bartlett's Plenary talk, entitled "Templated electrodeposition of films with regular nanostructures" was given by Professor Guy Denault from the University of Southampton, U.K. Professor Phil Bartlett was unfortunately unable to come due to health problems. He was much missed at the Meeting and all of us wished for his rapid recovery.

The Meeting comprised 30 technical sessions, covering 9 sub-themes including hybrid and composite materials, molecular tailoring and engineering, MEMS/NEMS, nanobiotechnology, nanoelectronics/nanodevices, supramolecular chemistry, scanning probe microscopy, batteries/fuel cells materials and light energy conversion materials. In all, there were 3 plenary lectures, 11 keynotes, 42 invited and 65 contributed talks, 20 poster discussions, besides 78 poster exhibits, out of a total of 134 oral abstracts, 100 poster abstracts and 215 participants. On the last day of Meeting, three poster awards were given to the best poster exhibit presented daily at the Meeting. The awardees of the poster awards were Peter Broekmann from Universität Bonn, Germany, Maria M. Silva from Universidade do Minho, Portugal and Takeshi Okamoto from Nagoya University, Japan.

Each full day of talks proceeded smoothly and were interrupted only by lunches, refreshments and cool showers every afternoon, much to the delight (or dismay?) for many who have not experienced tropical rainfalls. The third day ended with a magical banquet evening at the Peach Blossom, Marina Mandarin Hotel, attended by 70 delegates, where we tasted foods which bore little resemblance to the menu descriptions. The fourth and final day ended with a tour of the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering (IMRE) for about 40 persons after the technical sessions at IMRE, followed by sponsored social events during the late afternoon and evening.

The talks and posters covered wide range of topics in the fields of electrochemical materials science, including areas in science, engineering and biomedical research. Besides this wide range of interest presented at the Meeting, a total of 30 countries were represented by the delegates, out of which 16 countries were represented by more than two delegates. The meetings were documented in digital photographs which will soon be made available at the Meeting website.

Prepared by:

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