

NUS-Chemistry/Seoul National University-Chemistry MOU and Joint Symposium

At the end of 2008, the Department signed an MOU with its counterpart at Seoul National University (SNU), South Korea, to promote faculty and student exchange, with the eventual aim of establishing research collaborations and other joint interactions. To put the new relationship on a firm footing right at the start, Professor Andy Hor, Head of the Department, led an 18-strong delegation of faculty members, students and research fellows to participate in the 1st NUS-SNU Joint Symposium: Frontiers in Fundamental and Applied Chemistry, at SNU from February 27-28, 2009. A unique feature of this MOU is the inclusion of participating faculty members' research group members in a symposium series, which, it is hoped, will be held annually at alternate venues. Apart from Professor Hor, the NUS-Chemistry delegation included the following faculty members: Professor Lee Hian Kee (who worked with SNU's Professor Chung Doo Soo to establish the MOU), Associate Professor Chang Young-Tae, Associate Professor Tanja Weil, Dr Liu Xiaogang, and Dr Xu Qinghua. Two students or research fellows from each group (Ding Nini, Li Shenyu, Lee Jingyi, Xu Li, Ha Hyung Ho, Animesh Samanta, Kuan Seah Ling, Wu Yuzhou, Wang Feng, Xue Xuejia, Polavarapu Lakshminarayana and Ren Xinsheng) completed the lineup.

The Symposium was splendidly organized, with very interesting oral presentations by faculty members and poster presentations by students and research fellows. There were altogether 12 lectures and 31 posters.

Despite the cold weather, superbly warm hospitality, including great Korean food, was lavished on the NUS-Chemistry visitors by our hosts. We also had the opportunity to tour the city of Seoul (for many of us, this was our first trip to South Korea).

NUS-Chemistry will host the next Symposium in February, 2010. The focus is likely to be on Analytical, Physical and Materials Chemistry.



Professor Chung Doo Soo (SNU), the organizer of the Symposium, making the opening remarks at the start of the event.



Professor Lee Jong Seob, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, SNU giving his welcome address.



NUS- and SNU-Chemistry faculty members discussing the day's proceedings (or perhaps the highly anticipated dinner) with one another.



A group photograph of the NUS-Chemistry delegation and SNU student guides during the city tour.



NUS graduate students enjoying the crisp weather during a break in the Symposium.

Click [here](#) for more photographs