



IMPERIAL COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

Patron: Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence

Advisor: Mr. J. Y. Pillay, Chairman, Singapore Exchange Pte Ltd

Report by President (September 2006 to August 2007)

2007 was another eventful and fruitful year for the Imperial College Alumni Association of Singapore (ICAAS). Besides celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the founding of ICAAS, we also celebrate the Centenary Year of Imperial College. The main activities organised or participated by ICAAS this year are summarised below.

Social and Recreational Activities

1. ICAAS Annual Dinner and AGM (08 Sep 2006)
The ICAAS Annual Dinner and 29th AGM were held at the Tanglin Club. The Guest-of-Honour was Prof. K K Phua (Chairman, World Scientific Publishing & Founding President, ICAAS).
2. An Evening at Eskibar (19 Oct 2006)
A joint pub night was held with the University of Manchester Alumni Association (UMAAS) along Boat Quay for networking and for welcoming recent graduates who recently returned to Singapore upon completion of their UK studies.
3. The Brewmaster Tour (30 May 2007)
A guided tour of the microbrewery followed by delicious German food and freshly brewed beer was held at Paulaner Brauhaus Microbrewery. The event was organised by Mr. Paul Brandeis.
4. ICAAS Goes to the Movie (21 Jul 2007)
With the MIT Club and the Columbia University Club in Singapore, ICAAS co-organized a movie night at the Eng Wah Cinema at the Suntec City. The event attracted some 31 IC alumni, family members and friends, while there were a similar number of attendees from the two US alumni clubs. The movie was followed by a networking opportunity, where Ben & Jerry's ice-cream as well as coffee and chocolate delight were served.
5. ICAAS Dragon Boat Team
The ICAAS dragon boat team trains regularly and participates in competitive races. Four members of the ICAAS Dragon Boat Team joined forces with "Komodo" and entered two boats for the Singapore Dragon Boat Festival 2007 on 30 June (heats) and 01 July (finals). We participated in the "Inter-business houses and clubs" races.

Keep in Touch with Imperial College London

6. Drinks with Anne Benjamin (08 Nov 2006)
Several alumni met Anne Benjamin at the Sheraton Hotel to discuss the formation of an MBA Wing within ICAAS to champion business and management related activities.
7. Dinner with Sir Eric Ash (16 Nov 2006)
Prof. K K Phua hosted a dinner in honour of Sir Eric (former Rector, IC), who was in Singapore to attend a business meeting, at Man Fu Yuan Restaurant.
8. Dinner with Sir Roy Anderson (09 Dec 2006)
Several ICAAS members had dinner with Sir Roy (Dept. of infectious Disease Epidemiology, IC) at Chef Chan Restaurant, when he was in Singapore for a conference.
9. UK Alumni Presidents' Networking Event (18 Jan 2007)
Several Exco members attended the event held at Amici Bar & Restaurant. The function, organized by the British Alumni (BA) and attended by Eunice Crook (Director, British Council), sought to facilitate increased interactions among the UK alumni associations, BA, and British Council.
10. Breakfast with IC Staff (04 Mar 2007)
Several Exco members had breakfast with Dr. Piers Baker (Director, International Office, IC), Dr. Lorraine Craig (Academic Tutor, Dept. of Earth Science & Engineering, IC), and Dr. Sharon Bolton (International Officer, International Office, IC) at Suntec City and discussed about preparing for the Centenary Year events.
11. Refreshing the SKK Link (12 Mar 2007)
Prof. Wong Limsoon met Prof. Shinichi Nakamura (vice president) and Prof. Masato Tanaka (president) of the South Kensington Kai (IC alumni association in Japan) at the Imperial Hotel at Hibaya (Japan) to exchange information of their respective activities.
12. Dinner with Dr. Piers Baker (15 Mar 2007)
George Ong and Dr. Lee Hing Yan hosted Dr. Baker for dinner at the Tavern, Tanglin Club to firm up centenary Year events.
13. Dinner with IC Faculty (08 Jun 2007)
Prof. Wong Limsoon hosted a dinner for Prof. Yike Guo and Dr. Colin Richardson (Dept. of Computing, IC) at the Hua Ting Restaurant (Orchard Hotel), when the visitors were in Singapore to give presentations at GridAsia 2007.
14. Queen's Birthday Party (14 Jun 2007)
Dr. Lee Hing Yan represented ICAAS at the Queen's Birthday Party held at Eden Hall.

Public Service

Tapping on the technical depth of its alumni base and contacts, ICAAS organizes joint talks for the layman as a public service to the larger community.

15. “Grid is Good: Unleashing Grid Computing to Power Business, Education & Life”
With the National Library Board (NLB) and National Grid Office, ICAAS organized a 10-part monthly talk series at the NLB Building. The last 2 talks held were:
 - 06 Oct “Metagenomics Across the Grid: Challenges & Opportunities” by Dr. Patrick Tan (Group Leader, Genome Institute of Singapore).
 - 10 Nov “Sensors, Sensors Everywhere: A Peek into the Next IT Revolution” by Dr. Lim Hock Beng (Program Director, Intelligent System Center, Nanyang Technological University).

16. Joint Technology Innovation Symposium (21 Apr 2007)
The second ICAAS-UIAAS (University of Illinois Alumni Association of Singapore) Innovation Symposium was held at NLB and attracted more than 50 people. The event aimed to share Made-in-Singapore innovations and entrepreneurship. There were 8 lectures, with the opening address was delivered by Dr. Tan Geok Leng (CTO, Infocomm Development Authority). The IC alumni speakers were Assoc. Professor Seah Hock Soon (Chair, School of Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University) and Chen Hung (Vice Chairman, 3HPArchitects). The event was organized by Dr. Lee Hing Yan.

17. Mini Talk Series on Wellness
ICAAS joined hands with the UMAAS to organize a mini-series of public talks at the community and regional libraries. The talks held todate were:
 - 19 May “Bright Eyes – Improving Eyesight and Guarding against Reading Difficulties” by Yap Tiong Peng (Senior Consultant Optometrist, IGARD & IC alumnus)
 - 9 Jun “Lutein Supplementation in Prevention of Age-related Eye Diseases” by Dr. Koh Hui Hiang (Senior Consultant Optometrist, IGARD)
 - 19 Jul “Optimal Health & Preventing Diseases” by Dr. Antony Tam (general practitioner)
 - 17 Aug “Disease-Free Ageing” by Dr. Elizabeth Ho (Director, Asia Anti-Aging & Longevity Center & IC alumnus)
 - 21 Sep “Moving with Ease in Water – Physiotherapy & You!” by Ms. Carolina Lee (Physiotherapist & Aqua-Physiotherapist, Assistant Rehabilitation Manager, West Point Hospital)

18. MBA Talks
Organized by Dennis Ling and Kan Wei Jin of the MBA Wing, the following talks were held.
 - 11 Apr “Breakout Strategy: Meeting the Challenges of Double Digit Growth” by Dr. Thomas Lawton (Tanaka Business School, IC).
 - 17 Apr “Thoughts on Management Practices” by Lim Hua Min (Founder & Chairman, Philips Securities & IC alumnus).

- 07 Jun "Blue Ocean Strategy" by Kee-Hian Tan (Senior Global Expert, Blue Ocean Strategy Network & IC alumnus).
- 20 Jun "The Chinese Negotiation" by Mark Lam (CEO, Live365), jointly organized with British Alumni.
- 21 Aug "Seduced by Success" by Robert Herbold (Former COO, Microsoft).

Awards & Bursary Scheme

19. ICAAS Distinguished Service Award (IDSA)
The IDSA is the highest form of recognition given to an ICAAS member who has rendered outstanding contributions to the society. The winner in 2006 was Prof. Wong Limsoon. Nominations were open from 1 Jan to 31 Mar 2007. The IDSA Committee conducted the selection process and the award will be presented at the IC Centenary Gala Dinner on 30 Nov 2007.
20. ICAAS Most Outstanding Student Award (MOSA)
The MOSA is awarded to a current Imperial College Singapore Society (ICSS) member who has made significant contributions to the student community. Last year's winner was Teresa Anne Yeo Khai Leng, with Wong Pui Chuan and Marvin Lee Jie-Rong as finalists. The candidates are nominated by ICSS and selected by the ICAAS Awards Committee. The interviews were conducted on 18 Aug 2007 and the award will be presented at the ICAAS AGM in Sep 2007.
21. ICAAS-WSPC Most Outstanding JC Science Student Award
The award recipient gets the invaluable opportunity to attend the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden. This awarded is sponsored by World Scientific Publishing Company, with the selection process conducted by the Ministry of Education and ICAAS. Last year's winner was Sarah Ong. The award will be presented at the IC Centenary Gala Dinner on 30 Nov 2007.
22. ICAAS Bursary Scheme
The scheme was launched at the ICAAS Annual Dinner and AGM on 16 Sep 2005. The objective is to assist deserving and needy undergraduates at Imperial College. The applications were interviewed on 18 Aug 2007 and the award will be made at the ICAAS AGM in Sep 2007.

Centenary Year Activities

23. Centenary Year Target
To mark the 30th Anniversary of ICAAS founding and the Centenary Year, the Exco planned to organize 30 public lectures with the National Library Board (NLB) to bring the total number they have jointly organized to 100. This target will be achieved upon the completion of the symposia on 29 Nov 2007 (see below).

24. Benefits for Life Members
World Scientific Publishing Company offered a special price to ICAAS for the book entitled "History of Imperial College London: 1907 - 2007" by Hannah Gay. ICAAS acquired the book as a Centenary Year gift for all its life members and those who join ICAAS as life members this year. All other members of ICAAS get to enjoy 30% price discount.
25. Centenary Reception (08 Aug 2007)
The event, held at the Geek Terminal, was attended by Prof. Dame Julia Higgins (Principal of Engineering Faculty, IC) who gave an update on IC as well as an interesting presentation on "Growing Interactions: From Individuals to Systems in My Research at Imperial College London."
26. Asia Convocation 2007
Preparations are in progress to organise the Asia Convocation, to be held at the NUS University Cultural Centre, on 30 Nov 2007
27. Centenary Year Gala Dinner 2007
ICAAS is organizing a gala dinner at Noble House in the evening of 30 Nov 2007. It will be officiated by President S R Nathan. Other include guests include J Y Pillay (Chairman, SGX and IC advisor), Paul Madden (British High Commissioner), and Eunice Crook (Director, British Council). The event chair is Lee Yew Wei.
28. Centenary Year Management Symposium 2007
A half-day management symposium will be held at the NLB Building in the morning of 29 Nov 2007. It will feature 5 speakers from the alumni community and IC. The event chairs are Dennis Ling and Kan Wei Jin from the MBA Wing.
29. Centenary Year Technology Symposium 2007
A half-day management symposium will be held at the NLB Building in the afternoon of 29 Nov 2007. It will feature 5 speakers from the alumni community and IC. The event chair is Prof. Wong Limsoon.

Other Activities & Updates

30. Imperial College Student Recruitment (3-4 Mar 2007)
IC alumni rendered assistance to Imperial College's student recruitment efforts during the Education Fair at Conrad Centennial Hotel.
31. Sponsorships by ICAAS Members
ICAAS continued to support ICSS activities. ICAAS and several members (Prof. Wong Limsoon, Dr. Lee Hing Yan, and Tang Wey Lin) provided sponsorship to the ICSS publication. Prof. Wong Limsoon and Dr. Lee Hing Yan also co-sponsored the Centenary Reception held on 08 Aug 2007.

32. ICAAS Newsletters

A monthly (except for December) ICAAS newsletter is issued to keep ICAAS members regularly updated on the latest events and activities. These informative newsletters are compiled by Dr. Lee Hing Yan.

33. ICAAS Membership

There has been a 10% increase in the number of Life Members, up from 120 to 132 in the last 12 months.

Looking Forward ...

By the week of Imperial College Centenary Celebrations in Singapore (28 – 29 November 2007), the ICAAS would have organized 100 public lectures in science and technology in its partnership with the National Library Board. This achievement would not have been possible with the wonderful support and close working relationship with the NLB over the years.

Having passed the 30th Year threshold and building on its many strengths, ICAAS is well placed to undertake new initiatives that are beneficial to its membership and to the larger community in Singapore.

On behalf of the ICAAS Exco, I would like to thank our members for their fervent support and generosity in time, effort, and money. I would also like to acknowledge our many project partners, including National Library Board, National Grid Office, World Scientific Publishing Company, British Council, British Alumni, NUSS Society, University of Illinois Alumni Association (Singapore), University of Manchester Alumni Association of Singapore, MIT Club (Singapore), and Columbia University Club (Singapore).

Last, but by not means least, we deeply appreciate the strong support received from our alma mater, Imperial College London.

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