

# Institute of Advanced Studies

## Brief Newsletter December 2011

Greetings from the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at NTU, Singapore! I am pleased to share with you the following updates of IAS:

### a) **2nd International Workshop on Photosynthesis**

Following the success of the first photosynthesis workshop which was held in August 2010, the second workshop will be held at the Nanyang Executive Centre, NTU from 11 to 14 June 2012. The theme for the second workshop is "*Natural and Artificial Photosynthesis, Bioenergetics and Sustainability*". It will be organised jointly by IAS and the Solar Fuels Lab (School of Materials Science & Engineering and Energy Research Institute, NTU). **Four Chemistry Nobel Laureates, namely Prof Alan Heeger, Prof Sir Harry Kroto, Prof Rudy Marcus and Prof Sir John Walker** will be the keynote speakers. This workshop brings together world leading scientists actively involved in understanding the natural biological processes associated with solar energy capture, storage and utilisation with those directing their efforts at creating technological systems for energy generation using sunlight as the power source.

### b) **4th International Science Youth Forum @ Singapore with Nobel Laureates 2012**

With strong support from the Ministry of Education and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), the IAS and Hwa Chong Institution will be organising the 4th International Science Youth Forum @ Singapore with Nobel Laureates from 15 to 19 January 2012. Ninety top science students and thirty educators from premier schools all over the world will be participating in this 5-day residential programme. IAS is honoured to have five Nobel Laureates speakers for the 2012 Forum. **Prof Sydney Brenner (Nobel Laureate in Physiology/Medicine, 2002), Prof Aaron Ciechanover (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 2004), Prof Claude Cohen-Tannoudji (Nobel Laureate in Physics, 1997), Prof Sir Anthony Leggett (Nobel Laureate in Physics, 2003) and Prof Danny Shechtman (Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 2011)** will be sharing their fresh perspectives and insights with our budding science talents.

### c) **Workshop on Standardisation of Chinese Physics Terminology**

The workshop, initiated by IAS, was organised jointly with the China National Committee for Terms in Sciences and Technologies, Chinese Physical Society and the National Academy for Educational Research, Taiwan. It was held on 11 and 12 December 2011 at the Nanyang Executive Centre, NTU. Around 20 physicists from China, Taiwan and Singapore congregated at the workshop. This is the first time that the experts from both sides of the Taiwan Straits had met face-to-face to address the topic. Through the workshop, IAS hopes that Singapore could play a bridging role in the standardisation of Chinese terminology. Even though Singapore textbooks use English, the majority of the population in Singapore are Chinese, and Singapore encourages bilingualism. The workshop provides a useful platform to promote academic and cultural communications across the Straits and will certainly benefit the Chinese community at large. Our IAS Patron, Mr George Yeo, commented that standardisation of terms is very important and he is glad that IAS has set up such an exchange platform to connect experts from both Mainland China and Taiwan. The 2nd workshop will be held in Taipei in November 2012.

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### d) Workshop to commemorate Mr Pan Shou

With the support from our IAS Patron, Mr George Yeo, the IAS and the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences will be organising a workshop devoted to the late calligrapher and poet, Mr Pan Shou. He was the founding secretary-general and de facto first vice-chancellor of the Nanyang University, then Nantah University. Mr George Yeo commented that it is good of NTU to organise such workshop. Without collective memories, there is no strong community. The 2-day workshop cum exhibition will be held in NTU campus on 31 March 2012.

### e) NUS lectures by Professor Kerson Huang

Professor Kerson Huang (MIT Professor of Physics Emeritus and IAS Visiting Professor) gave four lectures at the Institute for Mathematical Sciences (IMS), NUS on 27 and 28 December 2011. His lectures, titled "*A Superfluid Universe*" are held in relation to the IMS's Winter School on Multiscale Modeling, Simulation, Analysis and Applications. It is co-sponsored by the Institute of High Performance Computing, A\*STAR.

For your information, please.

Best regards,

**K K Phua** (Professor)  
Director  
Institute of Advanced Studies  
Nanyang Technological University