

People

A meeting of minds

In March 2009, the first Midlands joint ChemSoc meeting was organized and hosted by Loughborough University. Their aim was to improve and bring together local ChemSocs, learn from one another's strengths, and organise joint events. Representatives from Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and Loughborough attended, and gave a short presentation on their ChemSoc activities.

The societies then discussed the services their ChemSocs offered, from social and sport events to guest lectures, and they compared the organisational structures.

A series of collaborative events are planned for 2009/10. The University of Nottingham will host the next Midlands joint ChemSoc Meeting in 2010.



ChemSoc reps from across the Midlands discussed best practice

Scientists meet to address food security in Pakistan



The conference focused on addressing Pakistan's serious food supply issues

In May, 50 delegates from across Pakistan came together for a food symposium in Lahore.

The meeting, organised by the Pakistan local section of the RSC and the environmental journal *Environ Monitor*, addressed food safety and security through the application of chemistry and chemical technologies. The focus was primarily on the serious issues affecting food supplies in Pakistan.

The delegates included chemists, environmental and food scientists, nutritionists and farming consultants, representing a range of organisations and universities.

The topics covered ranged from agricultural productivity, the use of pesticides, food safety standards and training in Pakistan, along with raising consumer awareness.

A network of chemists in the Gulf

A new international section of the RSC has been formed in the United Arab Emirates. Bill Johnson initially worked as an RSC representative in the UAE. After regular meetings with RSC members for over two years, he has built up a committee and has formed the UAE section.

The formation of the new section was timed to coincide with the first joint meeting for Gulf members, held in the UAE.

Johnson reports: "There has been a good deal of interaction between the UAE and other Gulf Countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman. The Gulf meeting was held in Dubai on 20 February and members from Kuwait and Oman attended."

As a result of the meeting, a new local representative for the RSC has now been appointed in Oman.

In May, the UAE Section ran its first education activity, organised by the newly appointed Education Liaison member, Mahmood Mohsin. A Chemistry Day, held at the UAE University, allowed students from the university and local schools to showcase chemistry topics and experiments. This was followed by a CV writing workshop and a talk from the local oil company on the chemistry of oil.

Johnson is looking forward to future activities: "The new committee is keen to hold more events and network with members both in the UAE and also local RSC representatives in other countries."



Bill Johnson and Mahmood Mohsin talk chemistry with undergraduates