

RSCnews

RSC finds a perfect partner in Singapore

The RSC and the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC) believe that their joint international cooperation agreement will be of great benefit to both societies.

The agreement was signed in Singapore on February 14 (see March's *RSC News International*).

Andy Hor, SNIC president, believes that the partnership will widen the SNIC's network, enabling it to expand its membership.

But Hor also points out that the agreement will help the RSC raise its profile in the region. Singapore is a member of the Association of the SouthEast Asian Nations, which has a population of over 500 million, or 8.6% of the world's total.

"There is a huge potential for education development, research opportunities, industrial advances and economic growth," he says. "This is the 'Region of the Future'. Is there a better springboard than Singapore to help RSC connect to this vast network?"

Carl Wolf, the RSC's International Development manager, agrees that Singapore is a good launching point for further networking in the region. He particularly admires its vibrant hi-tech industries: "With few natural resources, Singapore relies on its people and its technological know-how. Financial services, electronics, ICT and chemical sciences are key industries."

Brian Ferrar, the science attaché at the British High Commission, Singapore, was at the signing ceremony. He noted how the agreement chimed with the British government's own aims: "Forging new and sustainable international scientific links is vitally important for the future of British science. The RSC-SNIC agreement is exactly the sort of agreement envisaged when the Prime Ministers of the UK and Singapore signed a science agreement in 2005 to promote collaborations and networks."