

News

Joint iCACGP-IGAC 2018: ‘Atmospheric Chemistry - from molecules to global impacts’ in Kagawa, Japan

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Joint iCACGP-IGAC Early Career Short Course 2018: ECSC participants on Shodoshima Island, Kagawa, Japan

The international Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution (iCACGP) was founded in 1957 and celebrated 60 years of support for research in atmospheric chemistry which contribute to solving societal issues. The iCACGP is a sponsor of the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) project provides a platform that encourages the development of atmospheric chemistry research in relation to developing a sustainable world.

The Early Career Short Course (ECSC) was held on Shodoshima Island in Kagawa, Japan in the days prior to the conference (22-24 September) and brought together forty (40) promising early career atmospheric scientists from twenty-eight (28) countries. The main aim of the short course was to encourage knowledge sharing, network building, and collaboration among those who will become future leaders in the atmospheric chemistry research community. This was done through four sessions themed around i) connecting modelling, observations and laboratory studies; ii) the future of atmospheric chemistry; and iii) science-policy engagement presented by several prominent scientists:

- Dr James Crawford, NASA, USA
- Prof Mei Zheng, Peking University, China
- Dr Christian George, Institut de recherches sur le catalyse et l'environnement de Lyon, CNRS, France
- Prof Mark Lawrence, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany
- Dr Manish Naja, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, India
- Dr Deborah Stein Sweers, Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut, Netherlands
- Dr Todd Sanford, Polygon Sun Research & Consulting, USA
- Dr Rebecca Garland, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

The last session included a World Café which was an open discussion on global issues connected to the topics discussed over the two-day period. The course was very successful in connecting scientists from across the globe and making clear the important roles that we as early career scientists have in the future of atmospheric chemistry research in order to create a sustainable world.

The joint 14th iCACGP Quadrennial Symposium and 15th IGAC Science Conference took place in Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan (25-29 September) following the ECSC. There were single sessions in atmospheric chemistry and ‘-people’, ‘-fundamentals’, ‘-ecosystems’, ‘-climate/weather’, and ‘challenging the future’. These sessions were led by distinguished speakers. There were more than 500 posters presented during the conference. The ECSC was not the only opportunity for early career scientists to learn, as the conference itself hosted a talk by Prof Yaun T. Lee a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (1986) and various soft skills talks by other experienced scientists.

Acknowledgements

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“Being part of the world air quality reinforcement with a common goal gave me assurance that we are not fighting a losing battle and we are not alone” – Ncobile Nkosi (Unit for Environmental Science and Management, North-West University, South Africa)

“...helped me to find my interest in research.” – Tanzina Akther (Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh)

“One of the most meteoric journeys of my life, it is the platform where rising suns from different lands met, interacted, learnt and try find their role as an atmospheric scientist in the society” – Renu Sakura (Environmental Sciences & Biomedical Metrology Division, CSIR National Physical Laboratory, India)