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## ASPAC Members To Show Students How To Have Fun With Science

For the first time ever, 6 science centres from around the Asia Pacific region will conduct fun science outreach activities in front of an audience of nearly 2000 students and teachers from 163 schools from all over Brunei in conjunction with the 14th Annual Conference of Asia Pacific Network of Science & Technology Centre (ASPAC 2014). The Conference, to be held from 5 to 8 May 2014, is organised and hosted by the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC), a flagship of Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn Bhd.

The ASPAC Science Outreach is a special event related to the ASPAC 2014 theme of "Building a Community Through Science". This unique initiative by ASPAC members aims to bring science closer to the community. The science outreach is expected to add excitement to the ASPAC Conference and more importantly, to involve primary and secondary students in this type of inquiry-based, fun and exploratory learning which is fundamental to increasing the students' interest in science and technology.

The science centres selected to conduct their outreach activities for the Brunei school community are from Australia, Malaysia and Thailand and they are all members ASPAC. The 6 institutions are Oil & Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC), Australian National University, National Science Museum Thailand, Petrosains Malaysia, Scitech Australia and Pusat Sains Negara.

Below is an extract of the science show presenters and the institutions that they are from:

### 1. Dr Graham Walker - Australian National University

Since 2001, Graham Walker has performed science shows to over 300,000 students and the general public in Australia and around the world. He's worked and consulted for big names in Australian science communication including Questacon and CSIRO, while also performing abroad for UNESCO and Science Festivals and centres in Abu Dhabi, Africa and Singapore. He is featured at numerous big events in Australia, including the Darwin and Sydney Royal Shows and arts festival Corinbank. In late 2012, Graham became a Doctor of science shows as he completed his PhD at the Australian National University. He has unique experience working with younger children and families, teenage, and adult audiences. From killer bowling ball pendulums to embarrassing 'shrinkage' in freezing liquid nitrogen, his shows are jammed with intriguing science aimed to inspire audiences to laugh, learn, see the wonder of the scientific method and highlight the careers available. Graham is responsible for two novel pieces of demonstration equipment, the Board of Boogie and Chair of Bottom-Tear. He also has a life-size ultra-flatulent cow, Belching Buttercup, who helps him communicate climate change. He has a regular spot on TV doing fun demos with a giant possum sidekick.

For this ASPAC Science Outreach, he will feature exciting concepts relating to pressure, energy, motion, polymers and chemical reactions. The show, entitled "Science Show Spectacular", will be presented in a dynamic two-person

format where each presenter tries to outdo, embarrass, and create friendly competition with his 'rival' scientist, while also linking each demonstration scientifically to present a coherent story.

## **2. Mr. Yossawee Attasintong - The National Science Museum (NSM), Thailand**

The NSM is a state enterprise under the Ministry of Science and Technology and was established by Royal Decree on 31 January, 1995. As a national centre for life-long learning in science and technology, NSM provides various services and develops educational activities to promote learning, awareness and imagination of science among the public and especially among young people. Exhibition NSM develops the educational activities to serve the public of various age groups. NSM also organizes workshops and seminars for professional development in science communication to teachers and science communicators. Major activities include science camps, science shows, science dramas, water rocket competitions and science laboratories.

NSM's science outreach is all about Air Pressure and will show how air around us behaves and how the pressure of the air around us is quite high by doing an experiment using the liquid nitrogen. This show will be presented by Mr. Yossawee Attasintong, Science Educator, Office of Public Awareness of Science, NSM.

## **3. Nimi Soraya Hillmee - Petrosains, Malaysia**

Petrosains is a Science Discovery Centre that uses a fun and interactive approach to tell the story of the science and technology of the petroleum industry. Its concept and contents revolve specifically around the science of petroleum, yet embrace all the general sciences. The hands-on approach adopted by Petrosains puts an emphasis on the fun and excitement of learning rather than on the rigorous memorisation of scientific facts.

Petrosains presenter Nimi Soraya Hillmee will conduct a science outreach entitled "Cabaran Petrosains". To nurture and sustain interest in science and technology, Petrosains developed various internal and community outreach programmes for school children and teachers such as Cabaran Petrosains (or the Petrosains Challenge), which is an invention-based competition in which participants are challenged to build a structure, invention or system based on their understanding of science concepts in order to realise the given objective.

## **4. Amy Boulding and Nick Wood, Scitech, Australia**

Scitech is Western Australia's hands-on science and technology centre located in the City West complex in West Perth. The centre aims to inspire visitors to explore their world, to discover that science and technology can be both understandable and enjoyable. It is a place that develops a fascination for learning. Scitech achieves this by providing hands-on adventures of discovery with ever-changing feature exhibitions and supporting school and general public activities.

Scitech has established itself as a leader both nationally and internationally in the design and manufacture of science centre exhibits and exhibitions and in 2013 won the ASPAC Creative Science Exhibition award for its "Playing with Light" exhibition. This exhibition is currently located at the OGDC, Seria until December 2014.

Amy Boulding and Nick Wood will be presenting the science outreach called Earth and Space Science - Scitech's Aboriginal Education Program. This model is used to deliver workshops built around developing strong relationships, matching the learning styles of Aboriginal students and making links between science activities and familiar contexts and experiences. This program is designed with Aboriginal students in mind, but it is also a truly cross cultural program that could be adapted to meet the needs of different audiences while maintaining a high level of engagement through hands on science activities in a collaborative, active and inclusive environment.

## **5. Shahzari Hussin & Norhanita Abd Hamid - Pusat Sains Negara (PSN), Malaysia**

The PSN or National Science Centre was opened on 29 November 1996. The centre, an institution of informal learning, was entrusted with a mandate to promote awareness, interest and understanding of Science and Technology to increase the knowledge of the Malaysian citizens.

In ASPAC science outreach, PSN will showcase their Innovation Movement Program, to be presented by Shahzari Hussin and Norhanita Abd Hamid. This is a program that provides a platform for target groups to generate creative ideas and new innovations through orderly and organised hands-on activities arranged according to background and interests of the participants. The program will open young minds to realize their inner creativity and inspire them to be more innovative in the future. The approach of this program is structured through experiences and hands-on activities planned to stimulate creative and innovative minds of the participants. The importance of science process skills will also be emphasised.

## **6. Chang Yew En, Oil & Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC)**

OGDC is a flagship of Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn Bhd (BSP). It symbolizes BSP's commitment towards sustainable development. The primary aim of the OGDC is to provide an educational centre for visitors to understand and appreciate the oil and gas industry, which has been one of the cornerstones of Brunei Darussalam's economy. BSP and the OGDC then took the opportunity to extend the learning of oil and gas to promote science, engineering and technology education. The idea is to promote the innovation and importance of science and technology, not only to the oil and gas industry but also our daily lives.

Through presenter, Chang Yew En, the OGDC will showcase their "Siuknya Sains" or "Science is Fun" during the ASPAC science outreach to schools. Siuknya Sains is OGDC's monthly outreach programme where the Centre takes a range of exciting activities out to remotely located schools where the children are less likely to have the opportunity to visit OGDC and experience innovative science.

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