International news

Nanophotonics workshop held in China
A workshop on nanophotonics and metamaterials was held in Beijing, China, on 6–8 December. The event was organised jointly with the Chinese Physical Society and funded via a grant from the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Topics included nanodevices, biosensors and graphene.

The aim was to identify opportunities for future collaboration between participants. A number of them have agreed to continue discussions to develop collaborative projects.

A similar workshop is planned with the Singapore Institute of Physics in March 2013.

Entrepreneurship workshop held in Ethiopia and Indonesia
A workshop on entrepreneurship for physicists in developing countries was held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 5–9 November.

The workshop, the 12th of a series, was attended by 40 participants from several Ethiopian universities and hosted by the physics department at the University of Addis Ababa. It was sponsored jointly by IOP, the American Physical Society, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World.

The Indonesian workshop was held in Jakarta on 3–7 December, organised jointly with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

Teacher-training work continues
IOP's work in helping to train teachers in Africa in practical physics continued through the final quarter of 2012.

Electricity kits were delivered to South Sudan, where a three-week visit has been planned for July-August 2013 to train 20 physics teachers. The state education minister has also invited volunteer-coordinator Gerry Blake to...
deliver intensive training in the north west of South Sudan next year.

In Ethiopia a three-day electronics course was delivered in Addis Ababa, attended by 12 teachers from across the country. In Malawi there were visits to eight schools and a seminar at Mzuzu University, and in Uganda members have supported the idea of creating mini training centres and holding more workshops throughout the region.

**IOP helps judge Tanzania Young Scientist Competition**

IOP's volunteer coordinator Laurie Mansfield was among the judges for the first Tanzania Young Scientist Competition in October.

The competition is modelled on the Irish Young Scientist event started by Tony Scott 49 years ago, and the event was attended by 300 students and 100 teachers.

The prize for the best physics project was awarded to Witness Shirima, Alexander Ngatuni and Irine Chuwa and their teacher Felix Pius Puka from Rau School in Kilimanjaro for their project "Application of electromagnets in an electric bell".

**IOP activities**

**IOP Awards dinner held**

The Institute's annual awards dinner was held in October and attended by international guests including distinguished Ghanaian physicist Francis Allotey.

The live webcast of the awards was watched by 1000 people, and the video of Brian Cox's speech on the Institute's YouTube channel attracted more than 20 000 viewers.

**Girls in Physics report is well received**

The Institute’s report on girls in physics, *It’s Different for Girls*, has generated a large amount of press interest, social-media comment and web traffic.

The report’s findings were covered by all of the quality national newspapers, by local press and radio and on BBC television. It was discussed on a number of partnered blogs and generated a debate on the Mumsnet website that sparked the posting of around 400 comments.

Tweets about the report were seen by millions of the social network’s users, the report has been downloaded more than 1000 times and the IOP website received double its usual traffic.
Committee report acknowledges funding gap
A report published by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee as a result of their inquiry into scientific capacity-building for international development has picked up on concerns expressed in IOP’s evidence that there is a funding gap around the £100,000 level in support from the Department for International Development.

The report, published on 26 October, recommends that DfID’s chief scientific adviser consult the learned societies and scientific academies to clarify funding opportunities. The Institute is hopeful that this may lead to government support for learned societies’ activities including IOP’s Physics for Development programme.

DfE confirms extra scholarships funding
The Department for Education has confirmed that the Institute will be granted additional funding to cover the costs of administrating the teacher-training scholarships programme next year.

Forthcoming events

**Interdisciplinary Surface Science Conference (ISSC-19)**
25–28 March 2013
East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, UK
ISSC-19 is the latest meeting in the series of interdisciplinary surface science conferences covering all experimental and theoretical aspects of surfaces, interfaces and nanoscale physics and chemistry.

**The 40th IOP Annual Spring Conference on Plasma Physics**
25–28 March 2013
University of York, York, UK
The 40th IOP Annual Spring Conference on Plasma Physics offers an ideal forum for the latest discussing results on plasmas and related science. Plasma scientists from all disciplines are invited to submit contributions to the conference. Papers are welcomed on theoretical, numerical and experimental research. The event aims to provide an up-to-date and diverse programme for all scientists working in the field of plasma science, and in particular to help develop the careers of post doctoral researchers and research students.

**IOP Nuclear Physics Group Conference**
7–10 April 2013
University of York, York, UK
Over the course of three days, there will be plenary sessions covering nuclear physics and its applications. The conference will also provide opportunities for research students and postdocs to present their work in a
Further details and more conferences and local events are available on the calendar pages of iop.org.