

International Association Hands-on Science Network (HSCI Network)
International Centre for Science Communication (ICSC)
National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC/ DST)
Gujarat Council of Science City (GCSC)
Institute of Management & Advanced Studies (IMAS)
Science Technology and Development Initiative (STAD)

announce

The 6th International Conference on Hands-on Science (HSCI 2009)

Science for All : Quest for Excellence

October 27-31, 2009, Science City, Ahmedabad – 380360 (Gujarat) India

<www.hsci2009.org>

The importance of learning by doing has been an old adage. This can be considered to be about internalising the concept and the phenomenon by performing hands-on experience at it, thereby synchronizing *head* and *hands* together to achieve excellence in every walk of life. This is how science has progressed to the present level, though slowly it went into shell for masses and remained mostly confined to scientific world. But science and technology, not a matter of masses, is a dangerous preposition. This new awakening is to undo this very error and re-establish the public understanding of science and technology and literacy. This is to spread far and wide that science can be befriended easily by understanding it while actually doing activity and try out experimentation at basic level. Hands-on Science has been emphasised by the experts and proponents of popularisation of science skills culture and science education. Several organisations, groups and experts have been working in their own knowledge spheres in different parts of the world and achieving results which are encouraging. Hands-on science has been a movement for enhancing the level of human outcome and innovation in the society using formal and informal science education and communication channels. Many society organisations and associations of scientists, technologists and educators have been propagating the idea and have generated lot of experience and devised methodologies to achieve these goals. It is high time that the subject finds coordinated platform in the widest range of continents and countries, in particular this time in India, which is evidently one of the fastest emerging economies of the world as well as the powerhouse of traditional and modern technologies, knowledge and innovative practices. The ultimate benefit shall be for the people, *for all*, and the cause of science and technology focusing on scientific and technological temper as well to be able to serve the mankind better. Aiming excellence by providing *SCIENCE FOR ALL*.

Objectives :

The HSCI 2009 is aimed at enhancing the culture of innovation and experimentation in the modern societies with a fine blend of science knowledge and excellence for all. This conference shall be a mechanism for the researchers and practitioners (educators and everyone involved in improvement of science and technology understanding and literacy, and as such committed to the development of science) of this thought to be together and forge ahead towards achieving the goal of higher degree of innovativeness and science appreciation amongst masses. This shall provide the much needed fillip to the

efforts which had been focusing on bringing about the excitement of science into the minds of young people motivating them towards higher education and research in basic and applied sciences. This will also be an opportunity for such efforts to be widely shared, discussed and reviewed with national and international experts and votaries of the approach. In the footsteps of our successful previous conferences <www.hsci.info> attended by over 1000 participants from 45 countries on 5 continents, with nearly 700 interesting and meaningful presentations, the HSCI 2009 Conference will again provide an ideal opportunity for presentation and open friendly discussion of all kinds of ideas, experiences and works related to science education, communication, popularization and literacy. Guaranteed will be the ideal conditions for an excellent profitable and enjoyable time for all participants. Open to contributions in all relevant subjects, our main topic this year is "Science for All : Quest for Excellence". The inherent aim of the Conference is to promote an open, broad and friendly exchange of experiences on best practices, syllabus, policy matters, social factors and learning of science, including all other issues related to the theme and its generalisation and development, advising an enlarged use of hands-on investigative experiments and other innovative approaches in the classroom and in the widest range of informal contexts...towards a better Science Education...bringing *Science to All* in a quest for *excellence*.

Focal Theme and Sub Themes : The focal theme of the conference is ‘Science for All : Quest for Excellence’. Five special Scientific Sessions with the following sub themes will be organized :

- i) **Science, Innovation and Hands-on Science :** The session discusses on the innovativeness in the approach and methodologies to derive best advantages to develop spirit of innovation.
- ii) **Science Communication through Hands-on Activities :** Various science communication practices through hands-on science activities, their evaluation and impact assessment studies.
- iii) **Experiences in Science Fun Learning :** Sharing experiences related to hands-on science and fun learning. Why the dilemma that classroom science is superior or above learning by doing? Is it just the matter of perception or inability to do it differently!
- iv) **Hands-on Science and Evolution of Modern Knowledge :** The genre of learning has its share in the evolution of modern knowledge too and this session is for all such issues.
- v) **Promotion of Scientific and Technological Temper :** Hands-on science possibly can contribute to this effect more than anything else. A combination of appropriate knowledge and right kind of attitude can help achieve excellence.

Special Features : In order to enrich the conference and take optimum advantage of the luminaries gathered from across the world, following additional features are being planned as part of the conference :

- a) International Exhibition of Popular S&T Information Products and Hands-on Science Experiments
- b) Pre-conference Event : Hands-on Science Workshop on Popular Science Writing

- c) Post-conference Event : Hands-on Training on Science Communication through Visuals
- d) A Special Discussion on Science Communication in Developing World
- e) A Special Workshop on Hands-on Science for Women
- f) Interactive Hands-on Activities, Kits, Sky Watching, etc.
- g) Programme to Commemorate “International Year of Astronomy 2009”
- h) Showcasing India’s Cultural Heritage; Folk Performances
- i) Enjoy Indian Spicy Food Recipes; Heritage Walk
- j) Local Visits/ Excursions. Additional visits and spouse activities can be organized on demand; i.e. Golden Triangle (Taj Mahal, Jaipur, Delhi), Geer Forest, Mount Abu, Khajuraho, Shimla.

Conference Format : The scientific sessions will have presentation of contributory research papers, review papers, survey analyses, case studies, experiments’ reports, including workshops/ training courses/ lectures by delegates. In case of more papers/ presentations, parallel sessions will be organized. Discussions in split groups would offer close exchange of thoughts and ideas. Deliberations will be in English. There would also be a dedicated session in Hindi. A sub-theme cannot be the title of a paper/ presentation; select a narrower topic under a sub theme and design your research study around it. Papers should be prepared in standard research paper format, i.e. title of paper, name(s) and address of author(s), abstract, key words, introduction, objectives, methodology, observations, discussion, analysis, inferences, conclusions, recommendations, references, along with illustrations, graphics, and photographs with captions. There would be two poster sessions and two workshops and an open-ended roundtable. One workshop would be for young researchers/ students; whereas the other would highlight global perspectives in Hands-on Science and Innovation. It is an opportunity to explore the best measures, efforts, practices and innovations in the subject to be able to make definite impact on the society and the ways it acquires knowledge and skills.

Who can Participate : The conference is designed for the participants from all possible interest groups including schools, government agencies, universities, science and technology institutions, research and development organizations, learned and professional societies, etc. It may attract researchers, educators and practitioners of hands-on science movement, skill and innovation, i.e. scientists, technologists, academicians, science teachers, writers, science communicators, journalists, editors, research scholars, science students and faculty members of journalism, public relations and information officers of scientific organizations, science museums and science centres, representatives of media organizations, newspapers, magazines, science producers of radio/ TV channels, science activists from NGOs; and government officials, policy makers.

How to Reach Ahmedabad : Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat province, is most vibrant and progressive city and serves as a commercial, academic, scientific and cultural hub in the western India.

Ahmedabad is well connected by Air, Rail and Road from Mumbai, New Delhi and all major cities in India. International delegates may take route via Mumbai. For information www.theashokgroup.com; www.gujarattourism.com; www.irctc.co.in; www.airindia.com

Weather : Weather would be pleasant in October in India. Woolens are required if you plan to visit hill areas.

Travel Fellowship : There is some provision of travel fellowships for Indian delegates. International delegates will make their own travel arrangements, except specially invited speakers. The organizers may consider providing local hospitality, i.e. stay, meals, etc., for some selected foreign delegates.

Registration/ Submission of Abstract/ Paper/ Poster/ Lecture/ Workshop Proposal :

Last Date for Submission of Abstract (500 Words)	:	September 05, 2009
Acceptance of Abstracts	:	September 10, 2009
Last Date for Early Bird Registration	:	September 15, 2009
Last Date for Submission of Full Paper	:	September 30, 2009
Last Date for Registration	:	October 15, 2009

(Late registration and submission of abstract/ paper may be accepted depending upon space availability)

Registration Fee (includes conference kit, pre, main and post events, meals, receptions, local visits) :

International Delegate	:	€300 (School Teacher/ Student : €150)
Early Bird Registration	:	€200 (School Teacher/ Student : €100)
South-Asia Regional Delegate	:	€200 (School Teacher/ Student : €100)
Indian Delegate	:	Rs.2000 (School Teacher/ Student : Rs.1000)

Proceedings : All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings and should be asked for physical presentation at the conference. Selected papers may be submitted for publication in the *International Journal of Hands-on Science* (<http://ijhsci.aect.pt/>) or *Indian Journal of Science Communication* (www.iscos.org).

Exhibition of Popular S&T Information Products and Hands-on Science Experiments : The exhibition will be showcasing various hands-on experiments from across the world. Please bring/ send your publications, articles, books, magazines, CDs, kits, software materials and hands-on science experiments for display.

More information available at Conference Website <www.hsci.org> Contact for further information, if any :

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 27 TUESDAY

08:00-06:00 PM	REGISTRATION/ INTERACTION/ TEA/ COFFEE
10:00-11:30 AM	PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT : HANDS-ON SCIENCE WORKSHOP POPULAR SCIENCE WRITING : PART I
11:30-12:00 NOON	TEA/ COFFEE
12:00-01:30 PM	PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT : HANDS-ON SCIENCE WORKSHOP POPULAR SCIENCE WRITING : PART II
01:30-02:30 PM	LUNCH
02:30-06:00 PM	CITY TOUR/ HERITAGE WALK
07:00-10:00 PM	EVENING TALK/ CULTURAL SHOW/ NETWORKING/ WELCOME RECEPTION

OCTOBER 28 WEDNESDAY

09:00-10:00 AM	POSTER SESSION I (POSTERS SHOULD BE POSTED ALL THE TIME) INTERACTION/ TEA/ COFFEE
10:00-11:30 AM	INAUGURAL FUNCTION
11:30-12:00 NOON	TEA/ COFFEE
12:00-01:30 PM	SCIENTIFIC SESSION I : SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND HANDS ON SCIENCE
01:30-02:30 PM	LUNCH
02:30-04:00 PM	SCIENTIFIC SESSION II : SCIENCE COMMUNICATION THROUGH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES
04:00-04:30 PM	TEA/ COFFEE
04:30-06:00 PM	SCIENTIFIC SESSION III : EXPERIENCES IN SCIENCE FUN LEARNING
06:00-06:30 PM	TEA/ COFFEE
07:00-10:00 PM	EVENING TALK/ CULTURAL SHOW/ NETWORKING/ DINNER

OCTOBER 29 THURSDAY

09:00-10:00 AM	POSTER SESSION II (POSTERS SHOULD BE POSTED ALL THE TIME) INTERACTION/ TEA/ COFFEE
10:00-11:30 AM	SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV : HANDS-ON SCIENCE AND EVOLUTION OF MODERN KNOWLEDGE
11:30-12:00 NOON	TEA/ COFFEE
12:00-01.30 PM	SCIENTIFIC SESSION V : PROMOTION OF S&T TEMPER
01:30-02.30 PM	LUNCH
02:30-04:00 PM	DISCUSSION IN SPLIT GROUPS (5 PARALLEL GROUPS)
04:00-04:30 PM	TEA/ COFFEE
04:30-06:00 PM	PARALLEL WORKSHOPS
06:00-06:30 PM	TEA/ COFFEE
07:00-10:00 PM	EVENING TALK/ CULTURAL SHOW/ NETWORKING/ CONFERENCE DINNER

OCTOBER 30 FRIDAY

09:00-10:00 AM	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS/ RESOLUTIONS
10:00-11:30 AM	VALEDICTORY FUNCTION
11:30-12:00 NOON	TEA/ COFFEE
12:00-01:30 PM	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE HANDS-ON SCIENCE NETWORK
01:30-02:30 PM	LUNCH
02:30-04:00 PM	POST-CONFERENCE EVENT : HANDS-ON SCIENCE TRAINING ON SCIENCE COMMUNICATION THROUGH VISUALS : PART I
04:00-04:30 PM	TEA/ COFFEE
04:30-06:00 PM	POST-CONFERENCE EVENT : HANDS-ON SCIENCE TRAINING ON SCIENCE COMMUNICATION THROUGH VISUALS : PART II
07:00-10:00 PM	EVENING TALK/ CULTURAL SHOW/ NETWORKING/ DINNER

OCTOBER 31 SATURDAY

FIELD VISIT/ END OF PROGRAMME

**Minute-to-minute programme for inaugural and valedictory functions as well as scientific sessions/ workshops would be available on the conference website and with the conference kit.*

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Registration Form

- 1. Name of the Delegate** :
- 2. Postal Address** :
- 3. Contact**
- Phone :
- Fax :
- Mobile :
- E-mail/ Website :
- 4. Profession/ Affiliation** :
- 5. Contribution** (if presenting)
- Title of Abstract/ Paper/ Poster :
- Session/ Sub Theme :
- Subject of Proposed Workshop :
- Topic of Proposed Lecture :
- Special Requirements for Presentation, if any :
- 6. Travel Plan**
- Arrival Date & Time :
- Arrival Train/ Flight No. :
- Departure Date & Time :
- Departure Train/ Flight No. :
- 7. Space for Display in Exhibition** : Not/ Required
- 8. Registration Fee** (please refer announcement) :
- Amount :
- Delegate Category :
- Mode of Payment : Online/ Bank Draft/ Cheque/ Postal
Order/ Money Order
- (Bank Draft/ Cheque may be issued in favour of “Institute of Management & Advanced Studies (IMAS)” and be remitted to the HSCI 2009 Secretariat at the address given below by First Class Courier/ Speed Post)*
- 9. Fellowship*** :
- Travel Support : Not/ Required
- Accommodation : Not/ Required
- Local Transport : Not/ Required
- Justification :

Date

Signature

**There is some provision of travel fellowships for Indian delegates. International delegates will make their own travel arrangements. The organizers may consider local hospitality, i.e. stay, meals, etc., for*

some selected foreign delegates. Please send filled in Registration Form along with Registration Fee, Bio-data, Abstract/ Paper/ Poster/ Lecture/ Workshop Proposal to :

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