

RSC Wales e-News

Welcome to the RSC's latest e-News keeping you up to date with information from in and around Wales

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ASSEMBLY WATCH

Wales celebrates excellence in higher education

First Minister Rhodri Morgan and Education Minister Jane Hutt have celebrated the world class research taking place in Welsh Higher Education institutions (HEI).

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/topic/education/2008/2817843/?lang=en>

Minister unveils new fundraising framework for Higher Education

The Higher Education sector in Wales is set to receive a boost following an announcement that a scheme will be put in place to support Welsh Universities to extend their fundraising efforts and stimulate further investment in higher education from private investors.

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/topic/education/2008/2821379/?lang=en>

USEFUL LINKS

Progress of Legislative Competence Orders (LCOs) and Measures:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-progress-lcos-measures.htm>

Find my Assembly Member:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome/member-search.htm>

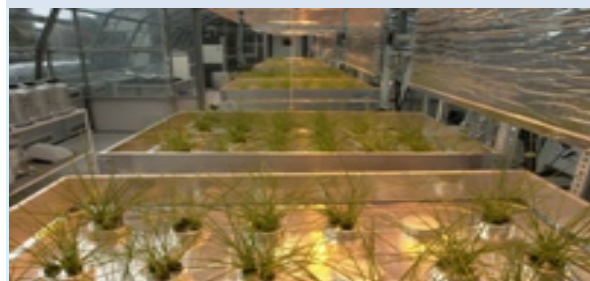
Roles and Responsibilities in the Assembly:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome/mem-role-response.htm>

For further details on any of the items listed above, please contact Leigh Jeffes; Email: jeffesl@rsc.org

AROUND THE UNIVERSITIES

ABERYSTWYTH



Research at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences.

Research Assessment Exercise 2008 - Vice-Chancellor welcomes excellent RAE Result

Professor Noel Lloyd, Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, has welcomed the results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008, describing them as an excellent outcome for the University.

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/aberonline/en/archive/2008/12/au22308/>

CARDIFF

Climate-change set-back for acidified rivers



Llyn Brianne Reservoir

Climate change is hampering the long-term recovery of rivers from the effects of acid rain, as wet weather counteracts improvements, according to a new study by the University.

The research, by Professor Steve Ormerod and Dr Isabelle Durand of the School of Biosciences, took place over a 25 year period around Llyn Brianne in mid-Wales. Their findings were published online in the *British Ecological Society's Journal of Applied Ecology*.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/articles/climatechange-setback-for-acidified-rivers.html>

THE RSC AND THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Cross-Party Group formed

The Welsh Assembly Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology was launched at the Senedd on Tuesday 13th January.

The following were confirmed in office:
Chair: Huw Lewis AM, Vice Chairs: Alun Cairns AM, Gareth Jones AM and Kirsty Williams AM, and Secretary, Leigh Jeffes (RSC).

External core membership is drawn from a number of organisations, including the RSC, the Institute of Physics, The Beacon for Wales, Technology Alliance Wales, the Campaign for Science and Engineering, the Association for Science Education Cymru and ITWales. The Group hopes to add to this number in the coming months. Three focused meetings per year will be held, with debates opened by guest speakers who are active in the fields of scientific, technological and engineering developments of interest to Assembly Members.

RSC Wales E-News will keep you informed of meeting dates and future speaker programme.

Announcement on Office of Chief Scientific Adviser recommendations delayed

RSC Wales E-News understands that any announcement of the First Minister's response to Professor Chris Pollock's recommendations for the office of Chief Scientific Adviser may not be expected before the spring of this year. The Assembly Government had hoped to release details before Christmas, but the economic crisis has changed these plans. Let us hope that there is some positive news, before long, on the future development of the CSA role.

IN THE NEWS

Recent items of interest in the media

'Universities must work even closer together'

South Wales Echo Jan 14 2009

UNIVERSITIES need to work even closer together to save money and make themselves more attractive to students during the current economic crisis, the Auditor General for Wales has ruled today. [Read](#)

EVENTS

CARDIFF SCIENCE CAFE

7.30pm Tuesday 2nd February,
Cafe Bar, The Gate, Keppoch Street,
Roath, Cardiff CF24 3JW FREE ENTRY

Should everyone be added to the police's DNA database?

Dr Rachel Iredale and Claudine Anderson, Wales Gene Park.

The creation of a police DNA database has helped them to identify offenders and secure convictions such as the Ipswich murderer, Ian Wright. The UK has the world's largest police DNA database with a new DNA sample added to the Database, on average, every 45 seconds. There are calls for the Database to extend to include DNA from every UK citizen. Should we have such a database? Would it lead to a better society? Or would it unreasonably infringe on civil liberties? We put the DNA Database in the dock at a mock trial at Cardiff Crown Court. Now it is time for YOU to be the Jury.

BANGOR SCIENCE CAFÉ

7.30pm Wednesday 4th February, Papillion Café, High Street, Bangor FREE ENTRY

Food miles and rural livelihoods

Dr. Paul Cross from SENR, Bangor University, will be talking about the ethics and efficiencies of buying local or global.

INSTITUTE OF WELSH AFFAIRS

Funding, Risk and Innovation: Wales's Engagement with Science Policy.

Conference, Novotel Hotel, Cardiff,
Thursday 26 February 2009.

<http://www.iwa.org.uk/>

This event is a follow-up to the Institute's 2006 conference, and has been organised with the support of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, the Beacon for Wales, Science Shops Wales and the University of Wales. Professor Dave Garner, President of the RSC will be one of the speakers.

Please email Leigh Jeffes: jeffesl@rsc.org with details of your event.