

RSC Wales e-News

Summer Term 2009

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

Chief Scientific Adviser

As readers will be aware, the First Minister announced, in July, his intention to appoint Wales' first ever Chief Scientific Adviser – a post for which the RSC and other scientific and academic bodies have strenuously campaigned over the past three years. *RSC Wales e-News* understands that the recruitment process is expected to begin in the early autumn, with a possible appointment being made at the end of this year.

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/topic/officefirstminister/2009/090616chiefscientificadvisor/?lang=en>

Consultations & Inquiries

Enterprise and Learning Committee completes HE Inquiry

The Committee has concluded its *Inquiry into the Economic Contribution of Higher Education in Wales*, to which the RSC contributed, and is expected to publish its final report early in the Autumn Term. A transcript of the Committee's final evidence-taking session on 2nd July can be found at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=136295&ds=7/2009>

Rural Development Sub-Committee publishes food report

The Committee launched its *Report into the Production and Promotion of Food in Wales*, at the Royal Welsh Show:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7655>

WAG Consultation on revised GCSE subject criteria for science subjects

The Welsh Assembly Government is consulting nationally with centres, awarding bodies and a range of key stakeholders on revised criteria to govern GCSEs in science subjects, for first teaching from September 2011.

The closing date for responses is: **Friday 11th September**.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/revisedgcsecriteria/?lang=en>

WAG Consultation on proposals for managing the co-existence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops in Wales

The closing date for responses is **Tuesday 22nd September**

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/090630coexistenceofcrops/?version=1&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>

AROUND THE UNIVERSITIES

ABERYSTWYTH

[Plant DNA barcode agreed](#)

An international team of scientists, including researchers at Aberystwyth, has concluded a four-year effort to agree on a standard 'plant DNA barcode'.

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/aberonline/en/archive/2009/07/au11709/>

CARDIFF

[New role for pioneering scientist](#)

Professor elected as President of European Thermoelectric Society

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/articles/new-role-for-pioneering-scientist.html>

SWANSEA

Can quantum mechanics help us understand human behaviour?

A Swansea academic has co-developed one of the first fully-developed attempts to model human cognitive processes using a mathematical framework based on quantum probability, in order to investigate violations of 'rational' decision theory.

http://www.swan.ac.uk/news_centre/WhatSHappening/Headline,39007,en.php

GLAMORGAN

The Planets

Forty years after man first landed on the Moon, Hands On Science, in association with Professor Mark Brake and the Burry Port Band, marked the milestone with 'The Planets', a fascinating visually-enhanced performance of music inspired by science, science fiction and the stars.

<http://news.glam.ac.uk/news/en/2009/jul/30/planets/>

EVENTS

Bangor University

Friday 4th September

Research and the Biology / Chemistry Interface: Health interactions

This symposium aims to highlight the novel research that is taking place at the interface between biology and chemistry.

<http://www.chemistry.bangor.ac.uk/documents/Research-chem-biol.pdf>

Cardiff University

Monday 7th - Friday 18th September

Uncovering Chemical Secrets 2009

This full-day workshop, jointly developed by the School of Chemistry, Cardiff University and Techniquet is designed to introduce students to the methods chemists use to isolate and identify chemical compounds.

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/chemy/newsandevents/news/uncovering-chemistry-secrets-2009.html>

Thursday 17th September, 9.30 – 14.30

CDE open for Innovation

The Centre for Defence Enterprise (CDE), in partnership with Cardiff University and the Welsh Assembly Government, is presenting a special one-day seminar on science and technology research in defence, how to get involved and funding opportunities.

http://www.science.mod.uk/Events/event_detail.aspx?eventid=34

Institute of Welsh Affairs

Friday/Saturday 25-26 September

Life Change for a One Planet Wales

National Botanic Garden of Wales.

<http://www.iwa.org.uk/publications/pdfs/one-planet.pdf>

For further information, please contact Leigh Jeffes at jeffesl@rsc.org