



Asian Crystallographic Association Conference

17-20 December 2019 | UTown, National University of Singapore
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In mid-December, several of us attended the 16th Conference of the Asian Crystallographic Association held at UTown at the National University of Singapore. The conference focused on three main topics: macromolecular crystallography, chemical crystallography, and materials and applications, with parallel sessions for each. Over 450 scientists attended the conference.

There were 24 microsymposia and three poster sessions. The highlights included three flash presentation session for students and early career researchers, and Rising Star sessions at which six young scientists presented stellar work. The conference banquet was held on Thursday evening and included a Singapore Lion Dance and a perspective on 250+ years of crystallography by Gautam Desiraju.

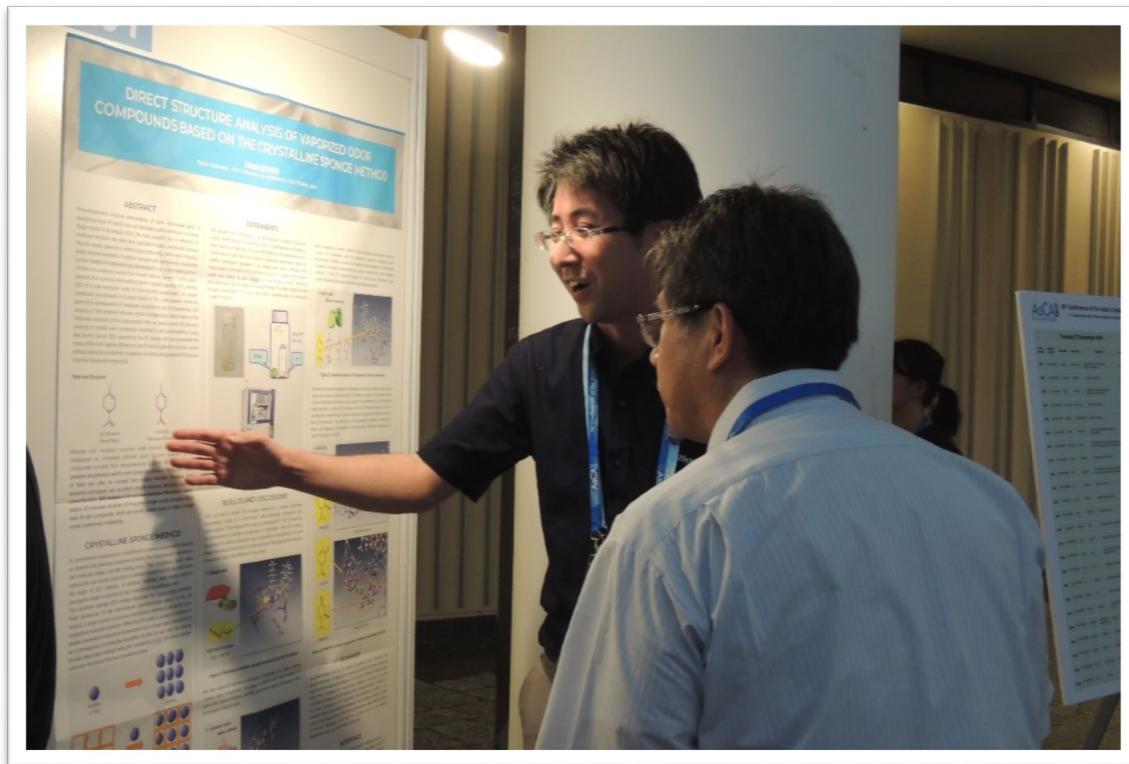
The reins of the AsCA were passed from Jenny Martin to Xiaodong Su. Jenny has done a fantastic job trying to ensure gender parity and will leave a lasting mark on the society. Xiaodong has been president of the Chinese Crystallographic Association and will bring a fresh perspective to AsCA.

Rigaku installed a new, fresh-looking booth at AsCA that enhanced discussions among visitors. The display highlighted single crystal X-ray diffraction for both chemical and macromolecular crystallography, with a focus on the crystalline sponge method and general purpose X-ray diffraction and scattering. Below is picture of yours truly, Masataka Maeyama, head of sales for Southeast Asia, and the aforementioned Gautam Desiraju. Behind us is one of the display walls showing a *What is This?* experiment running.



Below is a picture of Takashi Kikuchi describing the crystalline sponge method to a visitor to his poster during the Wednesday session. In addition to this poster, I gave a poster presentation on the XtaLAB Synergy product line on Tuesday.

Rigaku also hosted a workshop on Thursday morning. In this workshop I gave an overview on performing structural studies on crystals less than 3 microns in size, Kikuchi-san described the potential of the [crystalline sponge method](#) and Hideo Toraya gave a lucid presentation on quantitative analysis using the [direct determination method](#).



The 17th Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2021, and a decision has been made to hold the 2022 Conference in Jeju, Korea.

Singapore is known for its many landmarks—perhaps the newest is the Jewel at Changi Airport, which is a mall centered around the world's largest indoor waterfall and tropical rainforest. Decked out for Christmas, it was quite beautiful

