

7th ANNUAL MEETING OF PRINCIPALS

Kuala Lumpur – 10-12 April 2008



Maximus Jonty Ongkili. The meeting was chaired by the President of the GRA, Dr Ramesh Mashelkar.

In conjunction with the GRA meeting SIRIM Berhad organised a symposium which was supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia. Dr Alfred Gosner, a member of the Executive Board of the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft delivered the keynote address on *Experiences from Germany and Fraunhofer*.

Presentations were also made by several representatives of GRA member organisations: Prof Erkki Leppävuori, President and CEO of VTT in Finland – *Technical Process, Market Niche: Which Drives Innovation?*; Dr James Moody, General Manager, International Development at CSIRO in Australia – *A New Trend in Global Innovation*; Dr Richard C Adams, Senior Vice President Battelle, USA – *Innovation No Profit, No Innovation for the Corporate World*. The programme for the meeting also included several social events including a dinner cruise in Putrajaya, dinner high up on the top of the communication tower and a memorable visit to Melaka so although much work was done there was also time for relaxation and relationship building.



PROJECT UPDATE

GRA Health The Health team under the leadership of Dr Graeme Woodrow of CSIRO and Dr Joan Adams of Battelle have prepared a proposed plan of action for this domain. Dr Woodrow will now devote the majority of his time to this initiative.

Internet Access for Africa Building on the success at Macha a second internet site has been established in rural Africa and discussions are proceeding regarding the possibility of Internet Access for Africa.

Department of Science and Technology – South Africa Discussions are proceeding on the role that the GRA can play in the domain of Climate Change Adaptation for South Africa.

Tanga District Project A short summary of the project including findings to date and also a suggested way forward has been submitted to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

People on the Move

Congratulations are due to two well-known GRA personalities :

Dr Ramesh Mashelkar recently spent a month in Australia as a visiting Professor at Monash University in Melbourne. During this visit he was made awarded the status of Foreign Fellow by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Dr Mashelkar joins 13 other distinguished scientists and technologists as Foreign Fellows.

Dr Geoff Garrett has been honoured with the Officer of the Order to Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Dr Garrett received this award for service to scientific research and administration through leadership of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, and the development and implementation of innovative research initiatives.

Research Snippets from our Members

All the members of the GRA are involved in groundbreaking world class research and development work. Presented here are just a few highlights from press releases to help us all to know a little more about each other.

Battelle

Developing a strong pharmaceutical industry is a key issue in Korea. So much so, that Battelle-Korea, Battelle USA, Chuncheon City, Gangwon Province and YuYu Inc., intend to collaborate and address the issue. A Korean corporation named International Scientific Standard (ISS), inc., will be formed to develop a bioequivalency business in Chuncheon City, Gangwon Province that will meet international Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) standards. In addition, the collaborators will work on developing energy efficiency technologies and buildings.

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Germany

Researchers have devised a novel sensor that will enable human somatic cells to be identified on the basis of their characteristic locomotion pattern. The sensor is expected to facilitate the diagnosis of diseases or the assessment of healing processes. The experts have developed a low-cost optical sensor to measure the force with which migrating cells push themselves away from an underlying surface. Force analysis devices like these could one day help to identify specific cell types – more reliably than using a microscope or other conventional methods.

CSIRO, Australia

CSIRO ICT Centre and Energy Technology researchers are trialling intelligent, self-learning, interconnected controllers to manage energy demand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by homes and businesses. Distributed energy refers to clean local generation and demand management at customer sites. These technologies provide an 'early action' approach to greenhouse-gas reductions because they are available now. They can be introduced into present-day grids without special network technology or market developments.

VTT, Finland

In the future, the rigid electronic boards will not place restrictions in the design of new products, as the manufacturing technology is being developed towards more flexible, design-friendly and inexpensive forms of electronics. New manufacturing methods will change the production processes and will enable the manufacturing of entirely new kinds of products. VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland sees a bright future in printable and plastic-based electronics and is investing in research in this area.