

## Young Ambassadors for Chemistry in Manila, Philippines

*The course for the global project Young Ambassadors for Chemistry (collaboration between SAW and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) was successfully held in Manila, the Philippines on April 12-14, 2010.*



*All teachers and organisers after the opening session*

*Prof. Fortunato B. Sevilla III of Santo Tomas University in Manila took the initiative to host YAC in the Philippines, through the Philippine Association of Chemistry Teachers, Inc., headed by Prof Myrna Rodrigues (University of the Philippines Los Baños), as the local organisers. PACT organised and facilitated the YAC course at the Asian-Pacific College and FUSE-LCT (Foundation for the Upgrading of the Standard of Education - Learning Center for Teachers) and the event in SM (ShoeMart)-Manila shopping mall.*

*40 teachers and 60 students from 15 public and secondary secondary schools from Metro Manila and nearby provinces and from as far as Davao City, participated in the YAC programme.*

*SAW played an important role in the course with the topics 'Chemistry in our Lives' and 'Chemistry as a Cultural Enterprise'.*

### YAC course: Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday, April 12-14, 2010

After the professionally organised registration in the **Asia Pacific College** building, teachers start the first session by introducing themselves, telling us about their expectations. Dr. Norietta Tansio (Nori, our lady speaker) officially opens with a short introduction to the course and introducing us. We tell about **YAC**, Mei-Hung about **ICCE 21** (the coming IUPAC education conference in Taipei, August 2010) and **IYC 2011** (UNESCO / United Nations International Year of Chemistry).

After the break (with wonderful food, being common practice during all coming breaks) we introduce YAC (the nice example of our last **YAC** event, the Cyprus clip about the YAC event on YouTube, is sadly blocked, because of school policy) and **SAW**.



*What could we have done without the YAC organisers from PACT?*



*Prof. Fortunato Sevilla (with YAC button) invited the YAC team to the Philippines*



*Mei-Hung Chiu opens the 1st YAC Philippines on behalf of the YAC team*



*Dr. Norietta Tansio (Nori), our lady speaker officially opens YAC Philippines*



*Dr. Myrna Rodriguez (Mij) opens on behalf of the PACT organizing committee*



Web quiz on the computers of Asia Pacific College



Mei-Hung helps with group work

After lunch, we move to the computer room for the web quiz, but we'll soon find out that today the internet connection is too slow and later doesn't work at all anymore. Prof Fortunato Sevilla arrives and gives a small welcome speech.

We return to conference room, postponing the computer session till tomorrow in the FUSE building, in the hope for better connections.

We move on with a post-it session on ideas for the new **IYC 2011 competition** 'Chemistry as a Cultural Enterprise'. Great results!

On Tuesday morning we start in the **FUSE** building with leftovers from the computer session on Monday afternoon.

Next comes the taste bud practical (group)work (from the SAW topic 'Talking about Genetics'), that generates a great deal of hilarity and the presentation of the (creative) statistical group results.



'Count your number of taste buds and collect data from all groups'



'Represent the collected data in a creative graphical design'

After the coffee break we start the practical demonstration for the workshop on cosmetics. The teachers show a lot of interest in the chemical and generally speaking in scientific backgrounds. We promise to organise an 'academic' lecture with PowerPoint presentation (available now for all participants on 'our' website) on the Wednesday morning.

After lunch the teachers start with the practical work. The workshop is very well organised, we have a lot of fun and enjoy great presentations.



'Produce an attractive cosmetic product (perfume, hair gel, shampoo and lotion) and present the group results of a cosmetic line in a 30 second TV commercial'



The organising group already diluted the 70% detergent, the raw material for the shampoo, that appeared to be very difficult to handle, to a 28% solution in water, that satisfied very well. The jury in the teacher's presentation is composed of Prof Sevilla, Ms Helen Siy and Ms. Sharon Villanova of FUSE, both of whom are involved in

organising teacher trainings conducted by FUSE, appoints a winning group and the trainers choose Billy San Juan as best teacher actor.

During our last morning in the FUSE building, we finish left overs and divide coordination roles for the YAC event. As the organisers already prepared so much, we can quickly finish. We have 45 minutes left for the 'Chemistry of Cosmetics' PowerPoint presentation, now available on **our 'own' website**. After the presentation and discussions, we evaluate the course in a post-it session (benefits of YAC and ideas for a follow-up: instructions available in the course book). Before we start our last lunch all of us (participants, organisers and facilitators) enjoy handing out the certificates of attendance (with signatures of SAW's director and IUPAC's president), and finally exchanging presents and many thank you's.

## YAC event: Wednesday April 14, 2010 in ShoeMart (SM)

**ShoeMart Shopping Mall (SM)** is a real wonderful location for a YAC event: many shoppers around, a climatized open space and all facilities available.



ShoeMart Shopping Mall in Metro Manila



Branding: young visitor with YAC balloon



More branding: our coordinators of chemicals in their YAC T-shirts



Aerial view on the YAC event showing all students, teachers and organisers



ShoeMart (SM) provided us with real disc jockeys and real spotlights!

We face only one 'problem', for safety reasons the circular working space is fenced (about 1 m high), with only a small entrance for the public. All students, teachers and organisers wear a wonderful **YAC T-shirt with the YAC logo and a YAC button**. We are clearly audible: Nori Tansio, our lady speaker and 3 disc jockeys make a lot of 'noise' and also clearly visible: branding with **YAC balloons and spotlights on the stage** from behind the fence and from the higher floors around the open space. Everything goes smoothly with students, teachers, chemicals and stationary! The

chemicals coordinators do their jobs, while the **roving reporters** coordinators send the

students out to question the public about Chemistry. They wander around in the shopping mall, asking the public 3 questions.

Next step is to take the public to their work station in the fenced part, show them their work and ask 3 more questions. After swapping roles, the students run out of questionnaires completely after handing out 100 copies. Mei-Hung takes all questionnaires back to Taiwan to analyse answers from the public, but also from the students and the participating teachers.

Nori never stops informing the public, so we attract the attention of many shoppers and staff of surrounding shops and restaurants. SM obviously likes the activity, they already asked for more activities, like involving mothers for mother's day. SM is very generous, offering the venue and all facilities for free, the organisation only pays for extra security and removing tables and chairs after the event.

We are very honoured to have National Scientist and the 2010 UNESCO-L'Oréal Laureate for Women in Science Prof Lourdes J. Cruz, Dr Imelda Servillon (Science Supervisor of the Division of City Schools-Manila under the Department of Education)



Roving reporters interview a cleaner, while a fellow student in the group produces shampoo



Creative new YAC brand



Student group offers Dr Cruz their new cosmetics line



Dr Cruz shows her cosmetics to fellow jury member Dr Imelda Servillon



Jury with (from left to right): Dr Imelda Servillon, Dr Lourdes Cruz and Dr Cristina Binag



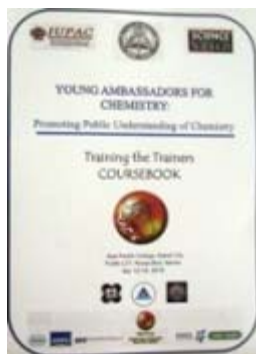
All organisers, jury, trainer and evaluator handing and receiving presents

and Dr Cristina Binag (professor of Chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas-Manila) in our distinguished jury, to judge the quality of the product lines and the public presentations of the student groups. It is a hard job for them to find 3 winning groups, who are given presents by the organisers and foreign trainers (from Taiwan and the Netherlands). And again all students are winners, being great Young Ambassadors for Chemistry! We end the day with many thank-you speeches and feel very happy with our new friends / colleagues and presents!

## Prizes, gifts and certificates



Best actor Billy San Juan receives his Bio-Rad kit from organiser Mel Garcia



Course book for YAC Manila



Certificate of attendance

To thank all teachers, we award overwhelmed (male) teacher Billy San Juan as best teacher actor in the TV commercial with the **Bio-Rad prize 'Gene in a bottle' classroom kit**.

During the course the teachers already received a wonderful **course book** with the YAC programme, background information and a nice **metal YAC button**.

At the start of the YAC event all participating students, teachers, organisers and officials receive a **T-shirt with YAC logo (and sponsors on the back side)** and the metal YAC button.

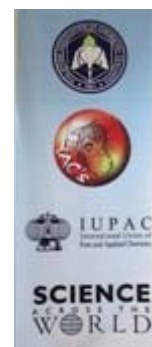
At the end of the event all involved receive a **certificate of attendance** with the signatures of IUPAC's president **Nicole Moreau** and SAW's director **Marianne Cutler**. This is the end of another glorious day with students and teachers promoting chemistry: our **10<sup>th</sup> international Young Ambassadors for Chemistry event!**

## After YAC Philippines

For **more pictures** and **YAC materials**, please visit our **YAC Philippines website**.

## Acknowledgements

- **Philippine Association of Chemistry Teachers (PACT)** for facilitating and financing the course and event;
- **Local organising committee** for perfect organisation;
- **Asian Pacific College** for providing the venue, computer facilities and assistance on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010;
- **Foundation for the Upgrading of the Standard of Education (FUSE)** for providing the venue, computer facilities and assistance on April 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010;
- **Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI)** for providing funds for the course and workshop materials;
- **SM-Manila** for allowing the event to be held in the mall;
- **IUPAC** for facilitating travel expenses for Mei-Hung Chiu and Lida Schoen;
- **IFF** (International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.) for donating the ingredients for the perfume;
- **SASOL Germany** for donating the detergent for shampoo;
- **Seppic** for donating the emulsifier for the lotion;
- **Bio-Rad** for donating the 'Genes in a bottle' classroom kit;
- **Roche Switzerland** for donating educational cd-roms: Roche Genetics (very useful with SAW topic 'Talking about Genetics').



**Text and pictures:** Mei-Hung Chiu (SAW coordinator for Taiwan) and Lida Schoen (SAW coordinator for the Netherlands)

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