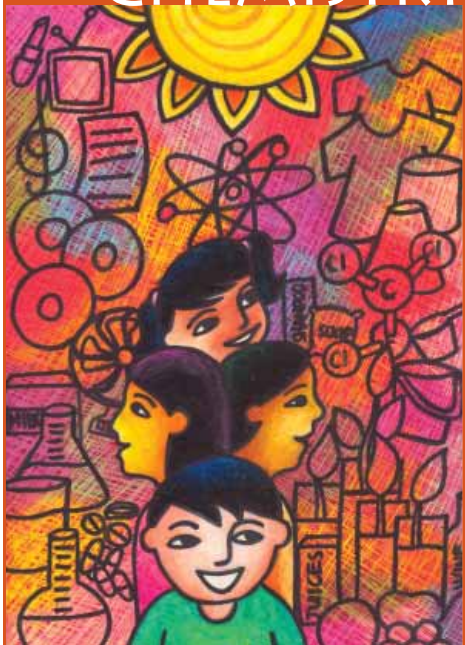
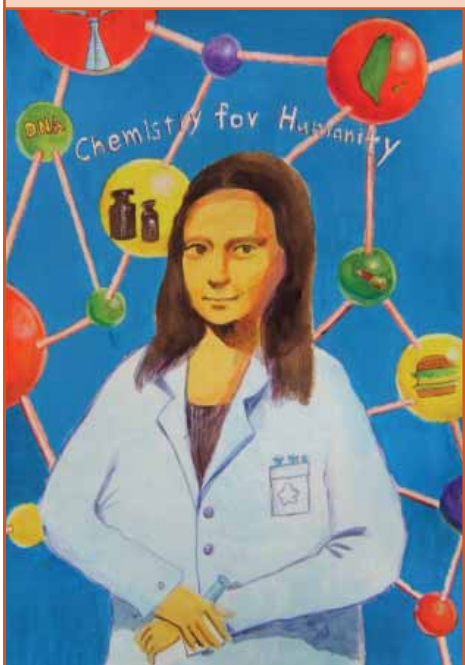


CHEMISTRY ACCORDING TO KIDS



Rosalyn T. Yu (age 14), Philippines



Hsin-Wei Wang (age 14), Taiwan

by *Lida Schoen*

In order to celebrate 2006 as the Year of Chemistry in Korea, the Korean Chemical Society (KCS) initiated and sponsored a global poster competition. Choon Do of the KCS collaborated with IUPAC's Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE) and Lida Schoen of the Science Across the World program to launch the poster competition, which culminated with a display during the International Conference on Chemical Education (ICCE) held in Seoul in August 2006. Lida Schoen administered and managed the competition with the support of the SAW network.

Chemistry for Humanity

The theme for this poster competition was that of the conference: "Chemistry for Humanity." Therefore, students who entered the contest were asked to visualize their ideas on this general concept. The contest offered two age categories: 10–13 and 14–16. Altogether, 944 entries were received from 32 different countries: 427 on paper and 517 electronic files in various formats. From these entries, 13 posters from the age 10–13 category and 41 posters from the age 14–16 category were preselected. There were no separate categories for paper and electronic entries. Criteria for the jury were as follows:

- relevance to the theme
- clear message, communication value
- artistic value: color, composition
- universally understandable, with little or no text



Maria Prasilova (age 16), Slovak Republic

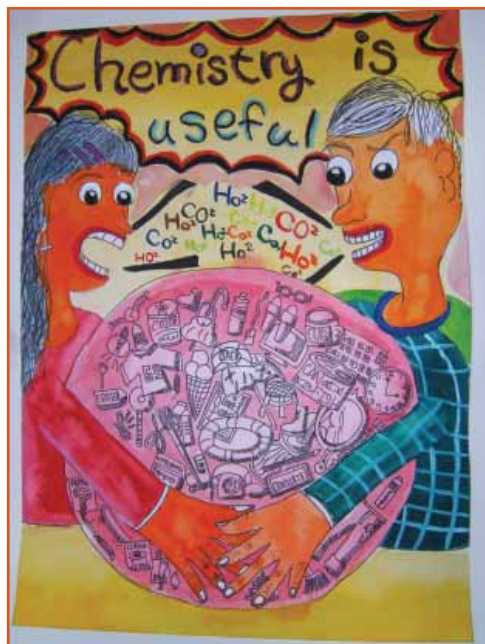
An exhibition of these posters was on display at the 19th International Conference on Chemical Education (ICCE) from 12–17 August 2006 in Seoul, Korea. Around 300 chemists from all over the world were able to admire the selections (for more about the ICCE, see conference report on p. 32).

Tough Choices for Judges

The entries displayed so much creativity, imagination, and ability that the panel of judges could hardly manage to select the best. The jury, consisting of Lida Schoen (Netherlands), Eva Åkesson (Sweden), Margaret-Ann Armour (Canada), Peter Atkins (U.K.), Karl Brachtl (Austria), Marianne Cutler (U.K.), Morton Hoffman (USA.), Onno De Jong (Netherlands), Mordechai Livneh (Israel), Jim McQuillan (New Zealand), Mauro Mocerino (Australia), and Kay Stephenson (U.K.), chose the poster by **Jerika Shi** (age 10) of Saint Jude Catholic School, Manila, Philippines, as the winner in the younger age group for its striking colors, clear message, and good design (see reprint, top right). Three posters from the older age group were identified as exceptional: **Rosalyn Yu**, Philippine Tiong Se Academy, Manila, Philippines; **Maria Prasilova**, Slovak-English Bilingual School, Cadca, Slovak Republic; **Hsin-Wei Wang**, Taipei Municipal Chin-Hwa Junior High School, Taipei, Taiwan (see page 4). The winners received certificates of recognition and electronic devices such as hand-held game systems or MP3 players.

All winners and the 12 runners-up (see this page and pages 6-7) received certificates of recognition, signed by Marianne Cutler, director of the Science Across the World program, and Bryan Henry, IUPAC president.

Lily Wang (age 13), Taiwan



Jerika C. Shi (age 10), Philippines



Annie Chen (age 10), Taiwan

Chemistry According to Kids



Feng Haochen (age 13) and Qin Zhiqiang (age 16), China



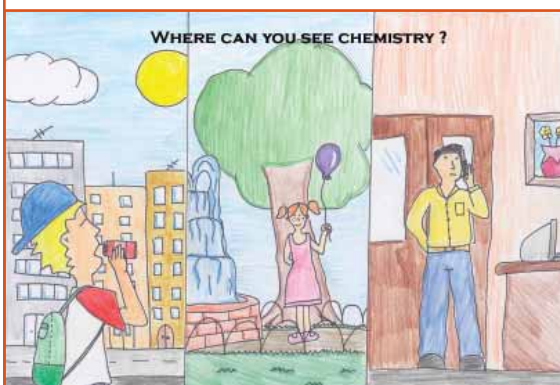
Jiang Huifan (age 14), China



Magy Ezzat Gaber (age 14), Egypt



Andrea Albu (age 14), Romania



Daniela Vilela Morimoto (age 16), Brazil

Poster Entries per Country

Country	Entries	Country	Entries	Country	Entries	Country	Entries
Argentina	40	Lithuania	7	India	3	Slovak Republic	7
Brazil	231	Macedonia	1	Indonesia	4	Taiwan	30
Bulgaria	11	Malaysia	18	Iran	107	Turkey	17
Canada	1	Mexico	8	Ireland	3	United Kingdom	192
Chile	48	Netherlands	1	Israel	1	USA	16
China	26	Philippines	8	Italy	6		
Dubai	2	Poland	19	Latvia	1	Total	944
Egypt	13	Portugal	9	Russia	12		
Hungary	18	Romania	44	Singapore	40		

The Challenging Process of Handling Electronic Submissions

SAW received electronic entries in many different languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Bulgarian, and Arabic, which required downloading of special character sets before the files could be opened. Accompanying letters and e-mails were also sent in many different languages, the senders apparently sure that the staff of SAW could read "all" languages. One student filled his poster full of English text, commenting that everybody in the world should be able to read English and if not, could we provide them with dictionaries? The staff of SAW received entries from ages 7 to 20 and files up to 17.5 MB in formats they had never seen before. A few teachers told their students to write down the sources of the electronic images they used.

Chemistry According to Kids



Teams from Bulgaria (96 SOU "Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy" in Sofia) and China (Zhanjiang Chinese-English School in Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province) collaborated on the best "international" poster.

Other teachers sent pictures of their students proudly displaying their posters. The receipt of entries from art teachers and art studios was very encouraging.

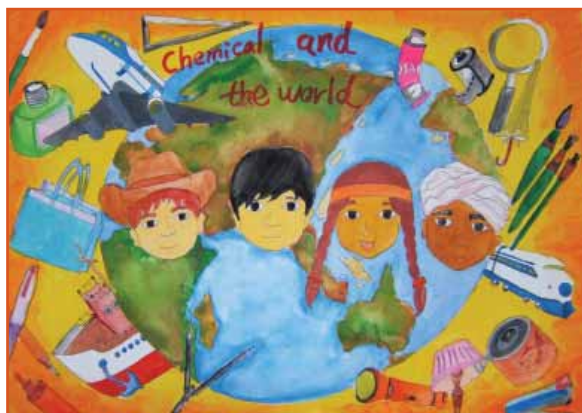
For more information about SAW, see July-Aug 2006 *CI*, p. 8. Details on this poster contest and more activities are also available on the SAW website.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank everyone who invested time one way or another in making this contest a success, including KCS, SAW, all the participants, the teachers, and the judges. A special thank you to Dr. Shu-Nu Chang from Aletheia University, Taiwan, who helped at the end by sending prizes and certificates to all the winners. 🍷

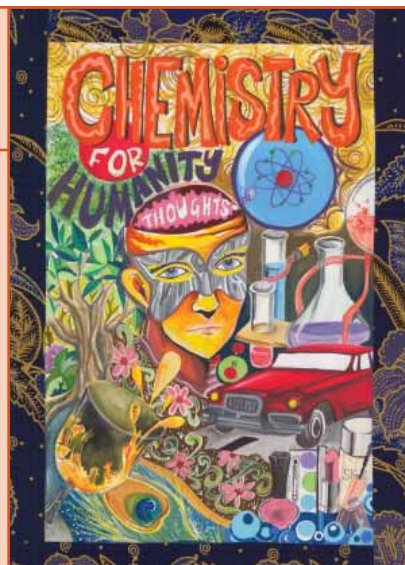
Lida Schoen <amschoen@xs4all.nl>, based in the Netherlands, is a titular member of the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education and the Subcommittee on the Public Understanding of Chemistry, and is a member of the Science Across the World team.

👉 www.scienceacross.org



Patrick Chen (age 14), Taiwan

Mary Ann Soheil Mansour (age 14), Egypt



Tok Wing Ten (age 16), Malaysia



Amanda Kaenzle (age 15), USA

