

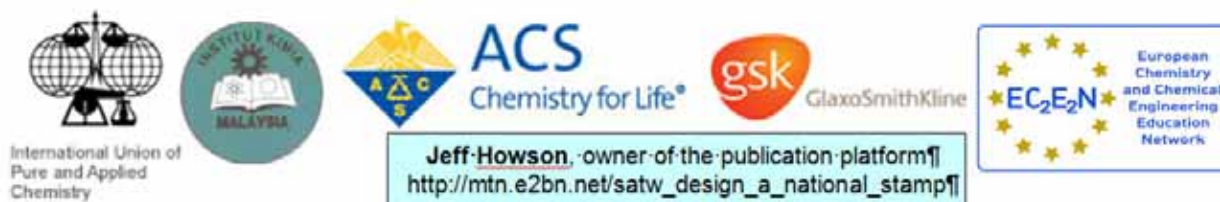
Global Stamp Competition: final report

Lida Schoen, Christiane Reiners

In the International Year of Chemistry the Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE) organised the Global Stamp Competition for students and undergraduates to show **Chemistry as Cultural Enterprise (CCE)**: IUPAC project 2010-031-2-050 (Christiane Reiners and Lida Schoen). The competition was launched as project idea 110

(www.chemistry2011.org/participate/activities/show?id=110). The stamps are required to highlight the impact of chemistry on a country's culture and everyday life.

We launched the competition with our partners in Paris last January during the IYC 2011 opening ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters.



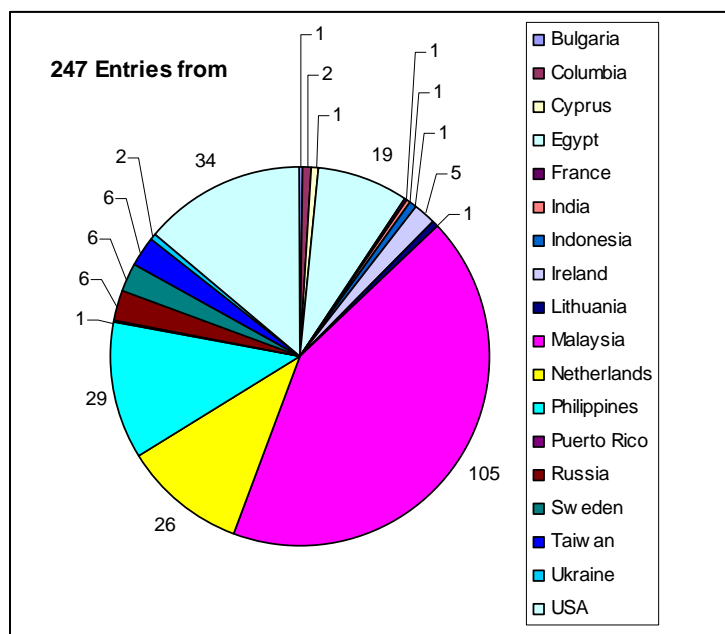
Organisation and results

The competition was open to students all over the world in 3 age categories (12-14, 15-18 and undergraduates / teacher students) from all subjects, not only chemistry! The deadline for submissions was June 15, 2011.

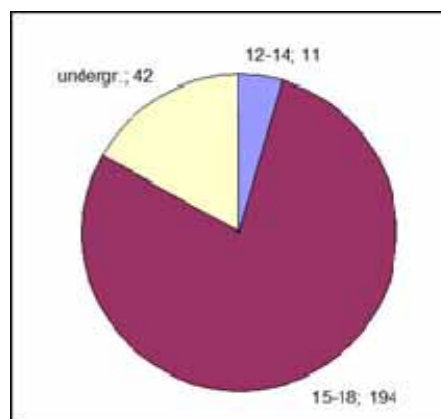
Students uploaded their designs to a publication platform, that allowed peer review.

The stamp designs started coming in slowly. We received the first submissions on March 11th, with 63 entries on the last 2 days! Even after the deadline 7 entries arrived, students discussing which time zone was meant! As all entries had to be moderated, impatient students sometime uploaded 2 or even 3 times, apparently not being sure they followed the right procedure. After checking we counted 247 designs from 18 different countries! Students from 15-18 uploaded most of the designs.

The competition was most popular in Asia Pacific (total number 142 with 105 entries from Malaysia). We received both stamps produced on the computer and pictures of stamps, drawn by hand. Most students submitted themselves, often with help of their teachers. From Western European countries quite a few students' groups collaborated on one design. We didn't have to remove many negative, hurting or negative (anonymous!) reviews.



All entries: 247



The use of the peer review possibility (mainly -very- positive) started later and we suppose many students used social media to alert each other. In privileged countries even the use of smart phones and tablet computers played a role!

Nominees

The international jury consisted of Prof. Morton Hoffman (CCE NR USA, ACS), Dr. Rachel Mamlok-Naaman (CCE NR Israel), Dr. Lynn Hogue (ACS), Datuk Dr. Soon Ting Kueh (CCE NR Malaysia, IKM, FACS), Dr. Anthony Smith (EC₂E₂N), Dr. Harry Kelly (GlaxoSmithKline) and Prof. Daniel Rabinovich (USA, stamp expert).

Criteria

1. The design should clearly show the relationship between chemistry and the national/regional culture, so **no** general history of chemistry, **no** famous chemists / Nobel laureates, unless born in the country, e.g. no Bohr from outside Denmark and no Periodical System unless from Russia.
2. The quality of the description (max. 50 words), number of hits and number and quality of the peer reviews (quite a few of them in the national languages, also in non-Latin characters).
3. No stereotypes like a nerd professor and no bad sides of chemistry (in general), pollution, toxic substances, they already get enough attention in the media (very few entries).
4. Many designs looked more like (beautiful) posters or water colours than like stamps. Our stamp expert suggested we had better choose designs, that are suitable as a (real) stamp.

The jury published a list with 56 nominees (650 hits), students apparently still looked on the publication platform. During 2 long and 'difficult' meetings we selected winners and runners-up.

Winners

12-14: Vasilena Vasileva (14) from SOU Hristo Botev, Gorna Malina, Bulgaria

15-18: Muzhafar Hassan Ismail (17) from Mara Junior Science College Taiping, Malaysia

Undergraduates: Peter Yousef M. Rubio (18) from Santo Tomas University, Manila, Philippines

Runners-up 15-18

Stavrou Maria, Spyrou Chrisia and Stylianou Chrysovalento (Cyprus)

Luqman Safwan Che Mohd Fauzi (Malaysia)

Kyle Stratford and Max Willinger (USA)

Peer review on the winners sites

Vasilena Vasileva (Bulgaria), winner 12-14 age category: 10045 hits, 109 comments

Congratulations, Vasi! The best stamp published so far is yours!

Posted 16:29 on 10 Jun 2011 by Kirilka Stankova

Muzhafar Hassan Ismail (Malaysia), winner 15-18 age category: 2886 hits, 78 comments

.... For years this source of nature has contributed to the emergence of a more and more powerful nation on the planet. With the help of chemistry.

Posted 17:59 on 7 Jun 2011 by Erny Trota

Peter Yuosef M. Rubio (Philippines), winner undergraduates: 680 hits, 86 comments

Very nice. This is what the philippines is known for. The message is clear, although as for the image quality, the overlaying of the pictures could be improved.

Posted 04:05 on 17 Jun 2011

Prizes

Due to a generous gift of GlaxoSmithKline we were able to send the winners \$500 and the runners-up \$250 (for the group). All mentioned students received a personal certificate. All other participants got a certificate of participation.

Official Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Chemistry

During the Official IYC 2011 Closing Ceremony on December 1 in Brussels a hard copy of Chemistry International with an article about the Global Stamp Competition (www.iupac.org/publications/ci/2011/3306/8_stamp_competition.html) was available for all delegates.

A selection of the best designs was on show in our Global Stamp Competition booth, which attracted during the breaks many delegates to have a look at the wonderful students' results. Pictures taken in the booth:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112105353391375810743/BrusselsIYC2011>

Other 'happenings' and customised stamps

Peter Yousef Rubio's winning design (undergraduate category) was presented during the Coconut Week Celebration of the Philippine Coconut Authority-Department of Agriculture on August 25-28, 2011 in the SM Megatrade Hall in Manila in the **Philippines**.

Vasilena Vasileva (Bulgaria) received her prize from Lida Schoen on November 8, 2011 in a ceremony in her school. Report with pictures on www.factworld.info/bulgaria/IYC_Stamp_11/index.htm.

IKM Malaysia offered an additional prize to the winner and runner-up. The Society honoured the students with invitations for the Annual Meeting on December 9, 2011



The Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, YB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili, attended Malam Kimia at the Sime Darby Convention Centre offering the prizes and certificates to competition prize winner and runner-up **Muzhafar Hassan Ismail** (left) and **Luqman Safwan Che Fauzi** (right), both in the 15-18 age category. Far right Datuk Dr. Soon Ting-Kueh, president of IKM.

Mariam El-Agamy (School Principal Lycée La Liberté d'Alexandrie, **Egypt**) sent a picture of all nominees from the school in Alexandria with their certificates.



Cyprus issued a customised stamp with the runners-up design.

The Netherlands sent us a picture of the Dutch winning (nominated) students and a sheet of their customised stamps by the Dutch National Postal Services.



Cypriot customised stamps of runner-ups Stavrou Maria, Spyrou Chrisia and Stylianou Chrysovalento



Dutch winning designers: Dragana Caldmoski en Poeja Lachman



Dutch customised stamps of the winning Dutch design