



## The Road to Shanghai

From 1940 to 1962, Bob Hope and Bing Crosby starred in a famous series of movies about their experiences on "The Road" to places around the world, from Singapore to Utopia to Hong Kong. Their travels always led to

new discoveries. In our science, it's much the same way, and that's why it is important for ECS to be on the road to wherever there is activity in electrochemistry. Last month, I took the road to Shanghai to attend the China Semiconductor Technology International Conference (CSTIC 2011), which is a conference co-organized by SEMICON China and ECS. Four months ago, I was on another long road trip to Chennai to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Advances in Electrochemical Science and Technology (ISAEST-9), which is cosponsored by the ECS India Section. In June, the road will lead to Mexico City where the ECS Mexico Section will co-sponsor the XXVI Congreso de la Sociedad de Mexicana Electroquímica (SMEQ). Finally, next year in October the road leads to the South Pacific where about 4,000 scientists and engineers will be attending our jointly sponsored 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Meeting on Electrochemical & Solid State Science and Technology (PRiME 2012). That is a lot of kilometers on the road, but participation is important because they are all excellent meetings in our scientific discipline, and ECS has an active sponsorship role in planning them. The growth in research activities in electrochemical and solid state science and technology in the last decade has been dramatic and is being shared at conferences and meetings in all four corners of the world.

With the aid of modern transportation and communications technologies, the scientists and engineers in our technical interest areas have truly become a global community, and the significant relevance of electrochemical and solid state science has created frequent opportunities to bring members of the community together. The meetings in Chennai and Shanghai were well attended, the technical sessions were excellent, and they included good participation from the host counties as well as from Asia, Europe, Australia, and North America. Research in electrochemistry is happening in more than 75 countries, and true to our mission, we are working with scientific and engineering groups in many different countries to advance the science with the goal of attracting the best research papers for dissemination at our meetings and in our publications, regardless of where the work originates.

This is not a new phenomenon as the work in electrochemical science and technology has always been spread across the globe. When ECS was founded in 1902, there were nine countries represented on the charter membership roster, and we dropped "American" from our name over 70 years ago to recognize the contributions from scientists outside the USA. In the past 15 years ECS has taken even more proactive steps to become more accessible to the international community. We held our

first biannual meeting in Europe in 1997, and a year later our Board approved the first annual International Semiconductor Technology Conference (ISTC) in China. Despite the growth in semiconductor technology, good technical conferences in this field were not readily available in China. The first ISTC conference was held in 2001, and although it only attracted about 100 papers, we produced an excellent proceedings volume; and Jack Kilby, 2000 Nobel Prize Laureate and inventor of the integrated circuit, gave the first plenary lecture at the conference (see *Interface*, fall 2001, p. 13). The conference is now called the China Semiconductor Technology International Conference and is run in tandem with the SEMICON China exhibit. We continue to play an important role as co-organizer, and this year the conference drew 390 papers and more than 700 attendees. We also sponsor the ECS/SEMICON Student Poster Awards, which are given to the three best posters presented at the conference. The winners receive a complimentary membership and a travel grant up to \$2,000 to present their work at an ECS meeting (ECS presents a similar award at the SMEQ Meeting in Mexico). The quality and scope of the CSTIC program has made it the most important semiconductor technology conference in China.

The meeting held in Chennai, India last December was equally impressive. The ECS India Section has a sponsorship role in the symposium and the primary organizers are the Society for Advancement of Electrochemical Science & Technology and the Central Electrochemical Research Institute. They also had an excellent program, which included a lecture from T. Ramasami, Secretary of the India Department of Science and Technology. The road next year will take ECS to the South Pacific for the Pacific Rim Meeting on Electrochemistry (PRiME 2012), which will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu from October 5-9. It is a joint meeting with the Electrochemical Society of Japan and includes sponsorship from organizations in Australia, Korea, and China. The Pacific Rim is bursting with activity in our field of interest but we will also anticipate receiving major contributions from North America, South America, and Europe, and we expect to produce the largest meeting program on electrochemical and solid state science ever held.

Growth of electrochemical and solid state science has been increasing dramatically in India, China, the Pacific Rim, and many other regions around the world. The research in our scientific discipline has never been more relevant because it affects the sustainability of our planet by helping to solve the world's energy problems and advancing communications and transportation technologies. ECS is on the road world-wide to disseminate the knowledge and connect the global community of scientists and engineers in this field.

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