

## Canadian



**SYLVIE MORIN** (right) congratulates **DAVID W. SHOESMITH** (left) as recipient of the Canadian Section's 2010 Electrochemical Award.

The highest honor of the Canadian Section, the Electrochemical Award, granted once every four years in recognition of significant contributions to the advancement of electrochemistry in Canada, was presented to David W. Shoemith of the University of Western Ontario Department of Chemistry at the Canadian Section Fall Symposium on Sept. 18, 2010.

Dr. Shoemith is a world-leading electrochemical scientist in the area of nuclear fuel waste disposal. For more than 35 years he has been using electrochemical methods to understand the fundamental aspects of materials degradation with a view to developing the necessary scientific basis for engineering solutions to nuclear fuel waste disposal. His expertise is highly valued in Canada and sought out internationally. Shoemith's work on nuclear waste disposal issues is directly applicable throughout the developed world on one of the most serious dilemmas of our technological age.

The Fall Symposium, entitled "Diverse Electrochemistry" was organized at University of Western Ontario by Prof. Zhifeng Ding, and featured invited lectures from 14 leading electrochemical researchers. Dr. Shoemith delivered his interesting and humor-laced award address, "Nuclear Fuel: Not Everyone's Favorite Electrochemical System" and received the Electrochemical Award gold medal from Section Chair Sylvie Morin.

Following the oral presentations, a wine, cheese, and poster session was enjoyed, giving attendees the opportunity to take in more than 50 student posters, the largest number ever presented at a Canadian Section symposium.

## European



**HELMUT TRIBUTSCH**

Helmut Tributsch, formerly a professor of physical chemistry at Freie Universität Berlin and Department Head of the Hahn-Meitner Institute presently Helmholtz Center-Berlin, Germany, will receive the 2011 Heinz Gerischer Award of the ECS European Section. Previous awardees have included Akira Fujishima (Japan), Michael Grätzel (Switzerland), Allen J. Bard (USA), and Rüdiger Memming (Germany), all of them renowned

for their accomplishments in the field of semiconductor electrochemistry and photoelectrochemistry.

Prof. Tributsch is a genuine pioneer in the research of photoelectrochemical systems. He is highly renowned in terms of number and variety of breakthrough contributions, several of which have initiated important new directions in photoelectrochemistry, photo(electro) catalysis, electrochemistry instrumentations, and in nanomaterials. His highly creative work has inspired numerous researchers to investigate semiconductor photoelectrochemistry and has contributed fundamentally and profoundly to the understanding of electron-transfer mechanisms at the semiconductor/electrolyte interface. Prof. Helmut Tributsch was the first to show (during his PhD thesis, Heinz Gerischer, Supervisor) that semiconductor sensitization of wide band semiconductors with organic dyes is possible, a process which has proven to be a step forward into a new research direction for solar energy devices. He has continuously promoted fundamental studies of photoelectrochemistry with great enthusiasm. He was a founding member of EUROSOLAR and long-term member of its Board of Directors.



**RÜDIGER MEMMING**

Rüdiger Memming, formerly a professor of physics at the University of Oldenburg and the University of Hamburg, as well as Executive Director of the Institute for Solar Energy Research in Hanover, Germany, received the 2009 Gerischer Award Recipient of the ECS European Section at the 216<sup>th</sup> ECS meeting in Vienna, Austria in October 2009. Paul Natishan, 2009-2010 ECS President, presented the award scroll during the Gerischer Award reception on October 6. Pawel Kulesza, Chair of the European section, gave an overview of Prof. Memming's major contributions. Prof. Memming spoke and reminisced about his work, particularly in the fields of photoelectrochemistry, materials science, spectroscopy, dye sensitization, and charge transfer at semiconductor/liquid interfaces. His talk was full of anecdotes, mentioning a collaboration with Heinz Gerischer on the only available semiconductor pure enough at that time to perform electrochemical studies, namely, germanium. The atmosphere at the reception with more than 150 attendees, was very warm and friendly.

## India

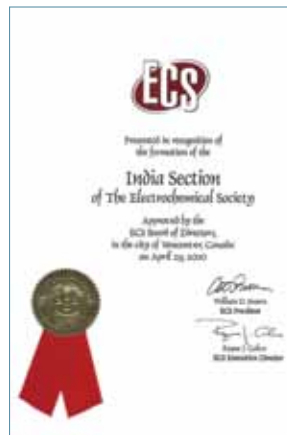


**ROQUE CALVO** (left), Executive Director of ECS, officially recognizes the formation of the ECS India Section, and presents the certificate of recognition to **A. K. SHUKLA** (right), first Chair of the India Section.

India, the land of the Vedas, has a proud history of scientific research in astronomy, botany, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, metallurgy, and many other significant fields. However, there is no documentary evidence on how electrochemistry evolved in India. Until about half a century ago, this type of scientific research in India, unlike in the West, was limited. Over this short period of time, major contributors in electrochemistry from India have emerged including K. S. G. Doss, A. K. N. Reddy, K. M. Joshi, S. Sathyanarayana, and S. K. Rangarajan.

The Indian electrochemical community is mainly affiliated with three professional organizations: the Society for Advancement of Electrochemical Science and Technology

(SAEST), the Electrochemical Society of India (ECSI), and the Indian Society for Electroanalytical Chemistry (ISEAC). Membership in these societies is largely confined to professionals working in India, and this community felt a need to extend its reach outside of the country. Great contributions in this effort were made in 2007 by the late S. K. Rangarajan (then President of SAEST), A. K. Shukla (then Director of the Central Electrochemical Research Institute at Karaikudi), T. Prem Kumar (then Secretary of SAEST), Roque Calvo (Executive Director of ECS), and Krishnan Rajeshwar, Editor of *Interface*. Subsequent deliberations with ECS officials, notably Paul Kohl, Daniel Scherson, and William Brown, culminated in a formal recognition of the formation of the India Section of ECS in Vancouver on April 29, 2010.



The following were present on this occasion: William Brown, Roque Calvo, Johna Leddy, Mary Yess, Sri Narayan, Subhash Singhal, A. K. Shukla and G. Sozhan. A formal announcement of the India Section of ECS was made by Roque Calvo at the Ninth International Symposium on Advances in Electrochemical Science and Technology (ISAEST-9) in Chennai on December 2, 2010.

The newly formed India Section plans on promoting the growth of electrochemical science and technology. A first step in this direction includes launching an annual award in the name of S. K. Rangarajan to designate the best young electrochemist in India. The officers for the first two years of the India Section are: A. K. Shukla, T. Prem Kumar, S. Mohan, K. T. Jacob, and Subhas Chalasani. ■

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