
History of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA)

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The history of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA), the largest photochemistry association in the world, is briefly reviewed. This was established in 2002 and actually was born at the kick-off meeting in 2001. The history of previous associations is also considered.

1 Foundation of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA)

The Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA: <http://www.asianphotochem.com/>) has been established in 2002 on the basis of regional photochemistry associations and of the photochemists assembly in Australia, China, Hong-Kong, India, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan to promote and encourage the international development of photochemistry and related subjects with special reference to Asian and Oceania countries. In particular, the aims to be pursued by the Association are:

1. Promotion of co-operation between the Association members in universities, research institutions and industries through international contacts and exchange of scientists.
2. Co-ordination of photochemical meetings in Asia and Oceania, including the Asian Photochemistry Conference.
3. Promotion of photochemical literature.

Membership of the Association is opened to 1) the national and regional societies (Society membership): all members who belong to each society are assigned as individuals of Society membership.



Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara
The Founding President of
the APA (2002–2004)



Dr. Jai Pal Mittal
The 2nd President of
the APA (2005–2004)



Dr. Haruo Inoue
The 3rd President of
the APA (2008–2010)

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If a national or regional society does not exist, a group consisting of more than ten persons is referred as a Society membership, or 2) person who are willing to accomplish the objectives as described above (Personal membership), viz an individual who does not belong to a Society membership. According to the definition of membership in plural categories, a description of the affiliation of each scientist has been subjected not to the country but to the city.

**The Asian and Oceanian
Photochemistry Association (APA)**

Number of members: 1126 as of March, 2012.

Society members:

Australia and New Zealand (12), China (80), Hong Kong (16), India (57), Japan (700), Korea (200), Singapore (10), Taiwan (51) as of March 2012.



Executive members of the APA (2011–2012)

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The constitution of the APA is added in the appendix.

2 Birth of the APA

The Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA) was actually born in 2001 a year before the establishment in a kick-off meeting at Kanazawa, Japan, which was held during the Asian Symposium as a part of the international program in the annual meeting of the Japanese Photochemistry Association (JPA) in early September. The kick-off meeting was co-organized by Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara as the President of the JPA and Dr. Keitaro Yoshihara as the organizer of the JPA meeting. Key members from Australia (K. Ghiggino), China (C.H. Tung), Hong-Kong (V.W.W. Yam), India (S. Das), Japan (H. Inoue, O. Ito, K. Mizuno, H. Masuhara, K. Obi, K. Shibuya, K. Tokumaru, K. Tsujimoto, K. Yoshihara) and Korea (S. Shim, M. Yoon) got together at the meeting. On the basis of the strong leadership of each member and their concrete agreement on a conceptual discussion, a constitution was drafted among the members. Dr. Masuhara was appointed to be an interim President of the APA among the members. A year later after the kick-off meeting at Kanazawa, the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA) officially started in 2002, when the 3rd Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC) was held on January 6–11 in Mumbai, India, organized by Dr. Jai Pal Mittal. In the general assembly of the APC, the foundation of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association was formally decided according to the steady, vivid, and enthusiastic stream of motivation among most scientists of the Asia and Oceania areas in the field of photochemistry. Now the APA has, thus, a ten years-long history and more than 1100 members as of 30th March 2012,

making this the largest photochemistry association in the world. It has now eight Society members such as Australia and New Zealand, China, Hong-Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan.

3 Pre-history of the APA

The birth of the APA has been of course a necessary conclusion of the scientific stream of the activity in Asian and Oceanian area in the past several decades. The pre-history had started more than 40 years ago, when the European Photochemistry Association (EPA: <http://www.photochemistry.eu/>) and the Inter-American Photochemical Association (I-APS: <http://www.chemistry.mcmaster.ca/~iaps/>) had been established.

3.1 Regional Photochemistry Associations

In resonance with the movement of forming the photochemistry association in Europe and America, scientists in the field of photochemistry in Japan were strongly prompted to have also a photochemical society in Asia/Japan as the counterpart of those in Europe and America. In 1976 Dr. Toshio Mukai, a professor at Tohoku University, proposed his idea with much enthusiasm in the general assembly of the Japanese Symposium on Photochemistry, which has been held annually, to establish the Japanese Photochemistry Association at first, prior to a starting an Association in Asia and Oceania area. His proposal was well accepted and fully agreed upon among the Japanese scientists in the field of photochemistry. The Japanese Photochemistry Association (JPA) as the first photochemistry association in Asia, thus, formally started in the next year 1977. Dr. Ikuzo Tanaka, a professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology, was elected as the Founding President and the Vice President was Dr. T. Mukai. From the beginning of the JPA, many of the core members, especially the subsequent Presidents of the JPA such as Drs. Tanaka, Sakurai, Honda, Mukai, Matsuura, Baba, Tokumaru, Maruyama, and Fujishima have been expecting to start an Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association to promote a scientific activity in the area with strong cooperation with many active scientific leaders in the field of photochemistry in Asia and Oceania such as Dr. S.C. Shim and Dr. M. Yoon in Korea, Dr. C.H. Tung in China, Dr. J.P. Mittal and Dr. S. Das in India, Dr. V.W.W. Yam in Hong-Kong, and Dr. K. Ghiggino in Australia, *et al.*



Dr. Ikuzo Tanaka
The Founding President
of the JPA (1977–79)



Dr. Toshio Mukai
The 3rd President of
the JPA (1983–85)

It should be noted here that a year before the kick-off meeting in 2001, Dr. Hideo Tomioka, a professor of chemistry at Mie University had visited Asian countries to explore the possibility of starting the photochemistry association in Asia as an informal JPA ambassador to each region. Subsequently other regional photochemical associations have been established in India (1985), Korea (1993), Taiwan, Hong-Kong, and Australia and New Zealand, Singapore, in succession.

3.2 Conferences and meetings

Along with the movements before the birth of the APA, many series of conferences on photochemistry had been held since late 1980's. One of the typical examples is the Japan-Sino Bi-national Symposium on Photochemistry. It had started at Tokyo in 1988 as a triennial bilateral symposium by a leadership of Dr. K. Honda and Dr. T. Matsuura as the Presidents of the JPA and Dr. Z. Zhao at the Institute of Photographic Science in China. The symposium had been held in alternation between Japan and China. Another examples is the Symposium on Intelligent Electrophotonic Materials and Molecular Electronics (SIEMME), which has been held annually in China since 1994 under the strong leadership of Dr. A. Fujishima at University of Tokyo and Z. Liu at Beijing University. These symposiums have actually been stimulating the scientific activities in photochemistry and photon-related science in Asian area. Many senior and young scientists have been involved. Forming an association/society on photochemistry in Asia and Oceania had thus been becoming a naturally inevitable movement.

3.3 The Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC)

In 1996 a historical scientific meeting was firstly organized by Dr. Hiroyuki Hiraoka at Hong-Kong. The meeting was vice-chaired by Dr. Vivian W.W. Yam and started as the 1st Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC). The APC has been succeeded by strong support of leaders in photochemistry such as Drs. A. Fujishima, H. Shizuka, H. Masuhara, and O. Ito. The successive APC has been held for 5 times so far, at Daejeon, Korea (1999), Mumbai, India (2002), Taipei, Taiwan (2005), Beijing, China (2008), and Wellington, New Zealand (2010). The 7th APC shall be held at Osaka this year (2012). The APC has been an international conference for the experts working in the fields of photochemistry and related areas all over the world.

The history of the APC is summarized in the Table 1.

4 Activities of the APA and the regional societies in Asia and Oceania

Since its formal foundation in 2002, the APA has been devoting its activities to stimulating and promoting co-operation between the Association members, co-ordination of photochemical meetings in Asia and Oceania, and scientific publications. Each regional society in Asia and Oceania has also developed much activities as follows.

4.1 The Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC)

As described above (3.3), the APA was formally established at the 3rd APC in Mumbai, India, and the APC became an official international symposium

Table 1 History of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA) including pre-history and other movements surrounding the APA.

Year	The Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA)	The Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC)	Other movements surrounding the APA
Before 1977			The European Photochemistry Association (EPA)
1977			The Inter-American Photochemical Society (I-APS)
1984			The Japanese Photochemistry Association (JPA)
1988			Indian Society for Radiation and Photochemical Sciences (ISRAPS)
1993			The 1 st Japan-Sino Binational Symposium on Photochemistry
1994			Korean Society of Photo-science (KSP).
1994			The 1 st Symposium on Intelligent Electrophotonic Materials and Molecular Electronics (SIEMME)
1996		The 1 st APC at Hong Kong (Organized by H. Hiraoka and vice-chaired by V.W.W. Yam)	
1999		The 2 nd APC at Daejeon, Korea (Organized by S.C. Shim)	
2000			The launch of the <i>J. Photochem. Photobiol. C</i> , <i>Photochem. Rev.</i> as the official journal of the JPA.
2001	Kick-Off meeting of the APA at Kanazawa, Japan (Organized by H. Masuhara and K. Yoshihara) The interim President: H. Masuhara		
2002	Establishment of the APA in the 3 rd APC at Mumbai, India The 1st term: 2002–2004 President: H. Masuhara Vice President: J. P. Mittal, S.C. Shim (-April 2002), M. Yoon (April 2002–2004) Secretary Treasurer: H. Inoue	The 3 rd APC at Mumbai, India (Organized by J.P. Mittal)	The launch of <i>Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.</i> as the official journal of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA), the European Society for Photobiology (ESP), the Asia and Oceania Society for Photobiology (AOSP) and the Korean Society of Photoscience (KSP).
2003			The XXI International Conference on Photochemistry at Nara, Japan, in 2003 (ICP-2003)

Table 1 (Continued)

Year	The Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA)	The Asian Photochemistry Conference (APC)	Other movements surrounding the APA
2004			The XX IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry at Kyoto, Japan (Photo IUPAC 2004) The 1 st Korea-Japan Symposium on Frontier Photo-science (KJFP)
2005	The 2nd term: 2005–2007 President: J.P. Mittal Vice President: C.H. Tung, M. Yoon Secretary Treasurer: K. Mizuno	The 4 th APC at Taipei, Taiwan (Organized by S.H. Lin and C.C. Liao)	The XXII International Conference on Photochemistry at Cairns, Australia (ICP-2005) Pacifichem 2005 at Hawaii
2006			The 30 th anniversary of the JPA
2008	The 3rd term: 2008–2010 President: H. Inoue Vice President: K. Ghiggino, M. Yoon Secretary Treasurer: H. Miyasaka	The 5 th APC at Beijing, China (Organized by C.H. Tung)	
2009			The Asian Seminar at Kawasaki, Japan The 1 st International Forum on Photoenergy Future (IFPF)
2010		The 6 th APC at Wellington, New Zealand (Organized by K. Ghiggino and G. Smith)	Pacifichem 2010 at Hawaii
2011	The 4th term: 2011–2012 President: M. Yoon Vice President: H. Fukumura, K. Ghiggino Secretary Treasurer: H. Miyasaka		The XXV International Conference on Photochemistry at Beijing, China (ICP-2011)
2012		The 7 th APC at Osaka, Japan (Organized by T. Majima and N. Kitamura)	

of the APA. Initially the APC had been held triennially since the 1st APC in Hong Kong (1996) to the 5th one in Beijing (2008), it has grown into a biennial one at the 6th APC in Wellington (2010) and the 7th APC will be held at Osaka (November, 2012).

4.2 Awards system

The APA has been recognizing distinguished scientists in Asia and Oceania by honoring with four kinds of award, prize, and lectureship award, respectively.

1) *The APA award.*

The APA recognized distinguished scientists for his/her scientific contribution and achievement. The laureates of the APA award are as follows.

Year	Laureate
2005	Akira Fujishima (Tokyo) Yuan-Tseh Lee (Taipei) Jai Pal Mittal (Mumbai)
2008	Kankan Bhattacharyya (Kolkata) Isao Saito (Kyoto) Chen-Ho Tung (Beijing)
2010	Yuan-Pern Lee (Hsinchu) Hiroshi Masuhara (Nara)

2) *The award for the distinguished contribution to the APA.*

The APA recognizes scientists for his/her distinguished contribution to the APA. The laureates of the award are as follows.

Year	Laureate
2008	Haruo Shizuka (Kiryu) Minjoong Yoon (Daejeon) Keitaro Yoshihara (Nagoya)
2010	Jai Pal Mittal (Mumbai) Katsumi Tokumaru (Tsukuba)

3) *The APA Prize for young scientists*

The APA recognizes scientists younger than 40 years old for his/her scientific activities. The prize winners are as follows.

Year	Laureate
2005	Hirendra Nath Ghosh (Mumbai) Kohji Hatanaka (Sendai) Sung Ho Jin (Pusan) Kenneth Kam-Wing Lo (Hong Kong) Shinsuke Takagi (Tokyo)
2008	Jye-Shane Yang (Taipei) Yasuyuki Araki (Sendai) Yasuaki Einaga (Tokyo) Jim Jr-Min Lin (Taipei) Hajime Maeda (Sakai) Kei Ohkubo (Osaka) Xuesong Wang (Beijing)
2010	Vasudevan Pillai Biju (Takamatsu) Seong-Ju Hwang (Seoul) Seiya Kobatake (Osaka) Jyotirmayee Mohanty (Mumbai) Man-Chung Wong (Hong Kong) Tomoyuki Yatsuhashi (Osaka)
2011	Katsuyoshi Ikeda (Sapporo) Syoji Ito (Osaka) Cheng Yang (Osaka)

4) Masuhara Lectureship Award

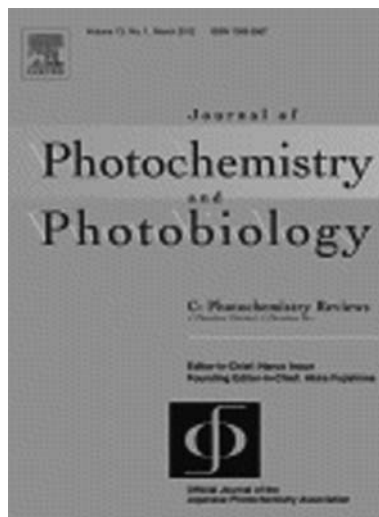
In honor of Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara, the Founding President of the APA, the APA will start “Masuhara Lectureship Award” at the 7th APC (Osaka, November 2012). A distinguished scientists shall be awarded to deliver a lecture in the APC.

4.3 Scientific publications

In the stream of firm promotion of scientific activities on photochemistry and photon-related science in Asia and Oceania, two regional societies, the Japanese Photochemistry Association (JPA) and the Korean Society of Photoscience (KSP), have been contributing publishing official journals of their association/society.

1) *The Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, C, Photochemistry Reviews.*

The JPA had launched a review journal on photochemistry, Photochemistry Reviews, as the official journal the JPA in 2000 from Elsevier, just before the birth of the APA. The founding Editor-in-Chief was Dr. Akira Fujisihima and the corresponding associate editor was Dr. Haruo Inoue. The impact factor in 2011 is 10.810. (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-photochemistry-and-photobiology-c-photochemistry-reviews/>)



2) *Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences.*

The Korean Society of Photoscience (KSP) had joined the publication of *Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences* from the Royal Society of Chemistry. It was launched in 2002 as the official journal of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA), the European Society for Photobiology (ESP), the Asia and Oceania Society for Photobiology (AOSP) and the Korean Society of Photoscience (KSP). The impact factor in 2011 is 2.378. (<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals/journalissues/pp>)



4.4 Laureates of the Porter Medal

The Porter Medal, named for the late George Porter FRS, Nobel Laureate, is awarded biennially to the scientist who in the opinion of the European Photochemistry Association (EPA), the Inter-American Photochemistry Society (I-APS), and the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA), has contributed most to the science of photochemistry with particular emphasis on more physical aspects, reflecting George Porter's own interests. Three distinguished scientists, Dr. Ken-ichi Honda, Dr. Noboru Mataga, and Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara received the Porter Medal so far from Asia and Oceania area.



Dr. Ken-ichi Honda
Laureate of Porter Medal
in 1992.



Dr. Noboru Mataga
Laureate of Porter Medal
in 1996.



Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara
Laureate of Porter Medal
in 2006.

4.5 International symposium and conferences

After the birth of the APA, many international conferences and meetings on photochemistry have come to be held pretty frequently in Asia and Oceania area. The XXI International Conference on Photochemistry was co-organized by Dr. Kin-ichi Obi and Dr. Hiroshi Masuhara at Nara, Japan, in 2003 (ICP-2003), the XXII one (ICP-2005) was organized by Dr. Kenneth Ghiggino at Cairns, Australia, and the XXV one (ICP-2011) was held at Beijing, China, by Dr. Chen-Ho Tung as the organizer. Successively the XX IUPAC Symposium on Photochemistry (Photo IUPAC 2004) was organized by Dr. Masahiro Irie at Kyoto, Japan, in 2004, which was held for the first time in Asia. The Korea-Japan Symposium on Frontier Photoscience has been organized by Dr. Minjoong. Yoon at Chungnam National University and Dr. Tetsuro Majima at Osaka University since 2004 as an annual bilateral symposium between Korea and Japan. Drs. Sang Ook Kang and Chyongjin Pac at Korea University also organized the International Forum on Photoenergy Future (IFPF) since 2009. In the same year, Dr. Akira Fujishima, Dr. Haruo Inoue, and Dr. Minjoong Yoon co-organized the Asian Seminar with Dr. Katsuhiko Takagi as the secretary general in Kawasaki, Japan, under auspices of Japan Society of Promotion of Science (JSPS). In addition to those international conferences, in the Pacificchem 2005 and 2010 many symposiums have been organized by scientific leaders in Asia and Oceania area as well as other active symposiums/conferences.

Appendix

Revised on August 8, 2011

Constitution of the Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association

1. Name

The Asian and Oceanian Photochemistry Association (APA) shall be hereafter referred to as “the Association”.

2. Objectives

- a. The Association has been established to promote and encourage the international development of photochemistry and related subjects with special reference to Asian and Oceanian countries.
- b. In particular, the aims to be pursued by the Association are:
 - i. Promotion of co-operation between the Association members in universities, research institution and industries through international contacts and exchange of scientists.
 - ii. Co-ordination of photochemical meetings in Asia and Oceania, including the Asian Photochemistry Conference.
 - iii. Promotion of photochemical literature.

3. Membership

Membership of the Association shall be opened to 1) the national and regional societies, or 2) persons who are willing to accomplish the objectives described in Article 2.

- a. Society membership: All members who belong to each society are assigned as individuals of Society membership. If the national or regional society does not exist, a group consisting of more than ten persons is referred as a society member.
- b. Personal membership: An individual who does not belong to a Society membership.

4. Council and Executives

- a. The Association shall be administered by a Council consisting of Councillors from each member society. The number of Councillors from a society shall be in accordance with the society categories classified by the numbers of members. Category I (11-50), II (51-100), III (101-300), and IV (301 and more) have 1, 2, 3, and 4 numbers of Councillors, respectively.

The society shall appoint the Councillors representing each society. If a society does not exist, the Councillor shall be co-opted from among the Association members in that country.

- b. Executive Committee consists of a President, 2 Vice-Presidents, and Secretary-Treasurer.
- c. The Executive members will be elected by Councillors at a Meeting of the Council. Executive members shall hold office for one two-year term. No member of the Executive shall serve more than two terms. The President shall serve for one two-year term and shall not be eligible for re-election as President.

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- d. The Council and Executive shall meet at least once in every two years.
 - e. If the Councillor for a particular society is unable to attend a meeting of the Council, an alternate may be appointed by the society or co-opted from among the Association members of that society.

5. Finances

The finances of the Association shall consist of the following.

- a. Society membership fees,
- b. Personal membership fees,
- c. Donations received by the Association with the permission of the Executive Committee.

The Council will determine the fees for (a) and (b) periodically. In the event of dissolution of the Association, its funds shall be dispersed among the member in accordance with their accumulated number of unit contributions.

6. Changes to the Constitution

Changes to the Constitution shall be communicated in writing to the President at least six months prior to a Council meeting.

A change to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all those eligible to vote at Council meetings. Voting may be by mail or proxy.

Information on the membership fee.

The membership fee is 3 US\$/member/year.

For the society member, APA will send an invoice of the membership fee to the society. The local society will pay for the membership fee corresponding to the number of the society members to APA.

For the local group member, APA will send an invoice of the membership fee to the representative member of the local group. The representative member will pay for the membership fee corresponding to the number of the local group members to APA.

For the personal member, APA will send an invoice of the membership fee to each member. The member will pay for the membership fee to APA.