



In Good Company

When I first came across the idea of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* several years ago, the wheels for this project were already in motion, and the mere concept immediately clicked with me. Not so much in the way that terminal alkynes can “click” with azides, but rather in the way that the idea alone convinced me on the spot that this was an excellent fit at the right time. This kind of enthusiastic response is something I hear repeatedly at scientific meetings when interacting with researchers, both Asian and non-Asian alike, who tell me that the idea clicked equally well with them and that the timing could not have been better for such a venture. Peter Göllitz recently outlined^[1] the many important supporters and landmark steps that quickly brought the initial vision of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* – as a top-quality “third axis”^[2] in chemistry publishing – into a reality.

In his farewell Editorial,^[1] Peter Göllitz announced that he would step down as Editor-in-chief of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*. I am grateful to the representatives of the twelve Asian/Pacific chemical societies that co-own *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and to Professor Ryoji Noyori who have put their trust and faith in me to oversee the further editorial development of the journal as its new Editor. I have a deep appreciation of the significance of a top international platform for chemical research that embodies the scientific and cultural diversity of Asia while serving and appealing to the worldwide chemistry community. Thus, I am driven by the challenge and opportunity that comes with leading a journal that brings together society partners from all over the Asia/Pacific region while also bringing together authors, referees, and readers from all over the globe, all for the advancement of chemistry as a whole.

In this new role I am in very good company. I work within a dynamic team of highly talented and experienced Editors-in-chief whom many readers of this journal will already know personally: Barbara Böck (*Chemical Engineering & Technology*), Neville Compton (*Chemistry—A European Journal*), Karen Hindson (*European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*), Haymo Ross (*European Journal of Organic Chemistry*), and of course Peter Göllitz (*Angewandte Chemie* and the *ChemXChem* journals). It was directly with Neville and Peter that I learned the craft of being an efficient editor while initially working as an Assistant Editor and then Associate Editor at *Angewandte Chemie*. And ever since I took over the duties of Deputy Editor at *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* from José Oliveira (now Editor-in-chief of *Small*) in March 2008, Peter has been my mentor in the finer aspects

of developing a young journal, and I know I can continue to count on him and the rest of the team for advice anytime the need arises.

Our in-house editorial staff is a small but exceptionally dedicated group (see Figure 1). I am an inorganic/organometallic chemist by training and studied in the U.S. at Rhodes College (Memphis) and the California Institute of



Figure 1. The in-house *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* team (from left): Brian Johnson, Kirsten Hartmann, Silke Lautenschläger, Sean Mathai.

Technology (Pasadena) before conducting my PhD research in Germany at the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie and the Universität Regensburg with Professor Manfred Scheer. Our Associate Editor, Dr. Sean Mathai, is a physical chemist by training and studied and completed his PhD at the University of Melbourne in ultrafast spectroscopy with Professor Ken Ghiggino; Sean also joined the *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* team in March 2008 after his initial editorial training with *ChemPhysChem*. Our Editorial Assistant, Kirsten Hartmann, has been with *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* since May 2008 and is our master of multitasking: Kirsten is also the first point of contact for *ChemCatChem* and *The Chemical Record*. The editorial team of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* works closely with our production manager, Silke Lautenschläger, who together with Margitta Schmitt brings edited manuscripts to the scientific community in a professional top-quality format.

This past year *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* has undergone several exciting developments. After we had officially announced the launch of the new Communications section in

October 2008,^[3] the popularity of the section was immediately apparent among our authors, and we began publishing Communications in February 2009. This section has now grown from about two Communications per issue to currently seven in this issue, and will continue to develop from here. And after our first full Impact Factor of 4.197 was announced in June 2009, we were positively flooded not only with congratulations and encouragement from our readers,

Submissions have more than doubled

but also with new manuscripts: Manuscript submissions instantaneously more than doubled in frequency!

This rapid development has necessitated that we become even more selective in accepting manuscripts, as is essential to ensure the quality of the journal, and we now have established a rejection rate of about 65%. As a result, we have already had to reject about as many manuscripts in 2009 as the total number we received in 2008! And throughout these developments, *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* continues to deliver a wide diversity of top chemistry articles from around the world – the geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts in 2009 (see Figure 2) demonstrates that the initial vision of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* as a journal showcasing primarily contributions from Asia/Pacific but with strong representation from European and North American chemists has been borne out.

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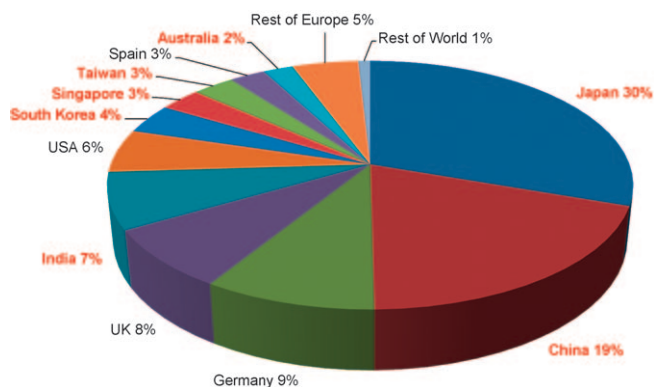


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of origin of manuscripts accepted in 2009 for publication. Partner countries are highlighted in red.

Also in 2009, the 13th Asian Chemical Congress (ACC) which took place in September in Shanghai provided an ideal venue to present *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* on the center stage. To this end, Wiley and Wiley-VCH hosted a reception in celebration of the success of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* that was headlined by guest speakers Professor Chunli Bai, President of the Chinese Chemical Society,



Figure 3. Chunli Bai (left, with Eva E. Wille, Vice-President of John Wiley & Sons, looking on) and Klaus Müllen (right) delivering keynote speeches at the *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* reception held at the 13th Asian Chemical Congress in Shanghai, September 2009.

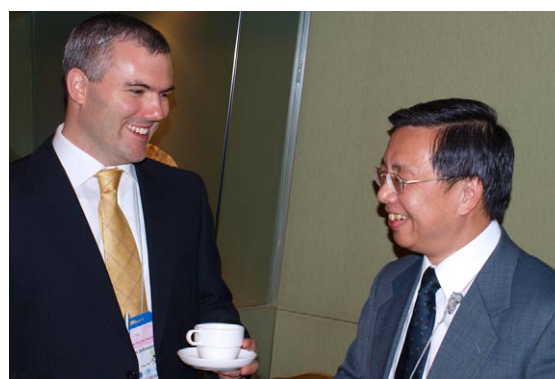


Figure 4. Brian Johnson (left) and Prof. Biing-Jiun Uang (right; Chemical Society Located in Taipei) having a lively discussion over coffee/tea at the 5th ACES meeting in Shanghai, September 2009.

and Professor Klaus Müllen, President of the German Chemical Society (Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, GDCh; see Figure 3), both of whom are members of the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*. A further highlight of the ACC was the 5th Asian Chemical Editorial Society (ACES) meeting, which brought together representatives of the major chemical societies of China, India, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Germany for a day of stimulating discussions on the further development of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*. At this meeting, we could welcome a new partner to the journal: The Chemical Society of Vietnam (CSV) officially became the twelfth society member to join the ACES alliance and actively support *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* (see Figure 5).

As we now head into 2010, we also welcome several new individual representatives of the journal. The Editorial Board and International Advisory Board have been instrumental in establishing the very high standards of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, and we would like to welcome the following new members to our International Advisory Board: Valentin Ananikov, Shankar Balasubramanian,



Figure 5. Signing ceremony in which the Chemical Society of Vietnam became the twelfth society member of ACES, at the 5th ACES meeting in Shanghai, September 2009. Front row from left: Prof. Youngkyu Do (Vice-President of ACES), Prof. Huynh Van Trung (Chemical Society of Vietnam), Prof. Fu Xi (President of ACES); back row from left: Peter Göltz, Eva E. Wille, Carina Kniep (Publisher, Wiley-VCH), Brian Johnson.

Insung Choi, Toh Seok Kam, Yi Lu, Dawei Ma, Wonwoo Nam, Mikiko Sodeoka, Weihong Tan, Jadranka Travas-Sejdic, Ho Si Thoang, Tirayut Vilaivan, Younan Xia, and Li-Jun Wan. The new International Advisory Board members are also in good company in joining an illustrious group of dedicated scientists; we wish them the best in their role as ambassadors of the journal and look forward to a fruitful collaboration. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to our retiring members of the International Advisory Board for all their service and hard work in quickly establishing *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* in the upper echelon of chemistry journals: Ad Bax, Norman Dovichi, Alan Fersht, Jianguo Hou, Vadim Ivanov, Guoqiang Lin, Yukio Sugiura, Junghun Suh, Chen-Ho Tung, and Do Yeung Yoon.

Three of the new members of the International Advisory Board have hit the ground running and are featured in this very issue: See the Communication by Dawei Ma et al. on the synthesis of polysubstituted furans by coupling/cycliza-

Table 1. Most-published principal authors in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* since the first issue in 2006.

Author	Country	No. of articles ^[a]
Chi-Ming Che ^[c]	China	11
Eiichi Nakamura ^[c]	Japan	10
Matthias Beller	Germany	9
Minoru Isobe ^[b]	Japan/Taiwan	8
Masakatsu Shibasaki ^[c]	Japan	8
Shu Kobayashi ^[b]	Japan	8
Koichiro Oshima	Japan	6
Hideki Yorimitsu	Japan	6
Erkang Wang ^[c]	China	6
Guy Bertrand ^[c]	USA	5
Keiji Maruoka ^[c]	Japan	5
Atsuhiko Osuka	Japan	5
Yusuke Yamauchi	Japan	5
Ayyappanpillai Ajayaghosh ^[c]	India	4
Makoto Fujita ^[b]	Japan	4
Tamejiro Hiyama ^[c]	Japan	4
Andy Hor ^[c]	Singapore	4
Koji Kano	Japan	4
Kimoon Kim ^[c]	South Korea	4
Tien-Yau Luh ^[b]	Taiwan	4
Martin Pumera	Singapore	4
Masaki Shimizu	Japan	4
Kazuyuki Tatsumi ^[b]	Japan	4

[a] Including manuscripts in this issue. [b] Member of the Editorial Board. [c] Member of the International Advisory Board.

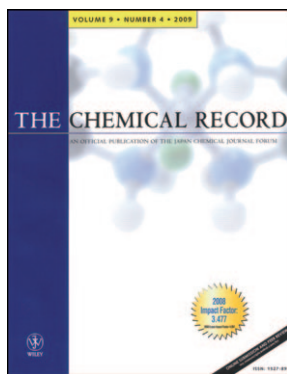
tion catalysis with CuI/L-proline (p. 74); the Communication by Weihong Tan et al. on dendritic aptamer assemblies for improved inhibition of protein activity (p. 56); and the Full Paper by Younan Xia et al. on the use of bovine serum albumin as reductant/stabilizer for gold microplate synthesis (p. 123). Indeed, members of the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* have continually led the way in publishing their excellent papers with the journal. Table 1 shows the authors that have published the most manuscripts in *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* since the journal's beginning, and the most-downloaded articles for 2009 (Table 2) illustrate the breadth of stimulating topics covered by the journal. Thus, it is safe to say that future authors at *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* – whether new or returning – will find their next paper in excellent company.

Table 2. Most-downloaded articles in 2009.^[a]

	Authors	Title	Reference
1	T. Y. S. But and P. H. Toy	The Mitsunobu Reaction: Origin, Mechanism, Improvements, and Applications	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2007 , <i>2</i> , 1340
2	D. Leow and C.-H. Tan	Chiral Guanidine Catalyzed Enantioselective Reactions	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 488
3	B. G. Davis et al.	Chemical Modification of Proteins at Cysteine: Opportunities in Chemistry and Biology	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 630
4	K. Ding et al.	Spiro Skeletons: A Class of Privileged Structure for Chiral Ligand Design	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 32
5	M. Kokubo and S. Kobayashi	Nazarov-type Reactions in Water	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 526
6	D.-P. Yang and D.-X. Cui	Advances and Prospects of Gold Nanorods	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2008 , <i>3</i> , 2010
7	I. Paterson et al.	Total Synthesis of (-)-Spirangien A, an Antimitotic Polyketide Isolated from the Myxobacterium <i>Sorangium Cellulosum</i>	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 594
8	B. Yu and J. Sun	Current Synthesis of Triterpene Saponins	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 642
9	P. Schmuki et al.	TiO ₂ Nanotubes in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells: Critical Factors for the Conversion Efficiency	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 520
10	K. C.-F. Leung et al.	pH-Controllable Supramolecular Systems	<i>Chem. Asian J.</i> 2009 , <i>4</i> , 364

[a] Download period: January–November 2009.

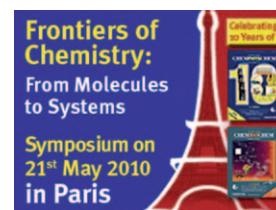
Looking ahead into 2010, there are a few events that are particularly worth noting in your calendar. First, I would like to congratulate Professor Hisashi Yamamoto, a member of the International Advisory Board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, who has been named this year's *The Chemical Record* Lecturer. *The Chemical Record* (TCR) is co-owned by eight chemical societies in Japan and is published by Wiley-VCH in cooperation with *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and *Angewandte Chemie*, and is entering its tenth year as an international “personal highlight” journal covering breakthrough developments in all areas of chemistry. Professor Yamamoto's TCR Lecture will be held at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Chemical Society of Japan during March 26–29 on the main campus of Kinki University



in Osaka (www.csj.jp/csj-en/activities/annual.html). Then on May 21, *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem*, both co-owned by ChemPubSoc Europe which is a supporter of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal*, will be celebrating the journals' ten-year anniversary by holding a one-day symposium in Paris that will feature renowned speakers from biological and physical chemistry – and everything in between – including no less than four Nobel Laureates (www.chem

biophyschem.org). And to cap the year off with a bang, the Pacificchem 2010 conference will be held during December 15–20 (www.pacificchem.org); stay tuned as we will be posting further announcements during the year on our webpage (www.chemasianj.org) regarding celebrations both of the

five-year anniversary of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and the 50-year anniversary of the International Edition of our sister journal *Angewandte Chemie*.



It will be my pleasure to work now even more closely with the Board members, partner societies, referees, and authors of the journal, whose support and contributions I am sure will continue to propel *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* to greater heights.

Brian Johnson
Editor

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- [1] P. Göltz, *Chem. Asian J.* **2009**, *4*, 1760.
 [2] In reference to a speech delivered by Professor Shinji Murai, then President of the Chemical Society of Japan and currently a member of our International Advisory Board, at the formal launch of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* at the Pacificchem 2005 conference in Honolulu, elucidating the benefits for chemistry and chemical societies from having a third continental axis in chemistry publishing: *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* for Asia/Pacific, *Chemistry—A European Journal* for Europe, and *Journal of the American Chemical Society* for North America.
 [3] See the announcement describing the “natural balance” of Communications and Full Papers: R. Noyori, *Chem. Asian J.* **2008**, *3*, 1740.