

Charging up a UK-Korea partnership at our battery symposium

Between 18 and 20 January, we hosted ten professors and 23 students from Korea at the UK-Korea Symposium on Lithium and Sodium Batteries at Burlington House, London. We teamed up with Professor Jaephil Cho, from Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) and Professor Peter Bruce from the University of Oxford to organise the event.

Our chief executive, Robert Parker, commented on the importance of energy storage in tackling our need for sustainable energy systems during his opening remarks: "The need for more sustainable energy systems, is one of the biggest challenges that we face. And better energy storage is an essential part of the solution."

The symposium included presentations from 17 experts in the field, including seven speakers from the UK. In addition, delegates had the opportunity to attend a posters session that included 43 posters from students in the UK, Korea, France, Italy and Poland.

"All the invited speakers communicated with passion and an open mind. Especially, the poster-session was a really interactive event, with all poster presenters eager to deliver to their experimental results to the delegates," said co-organiser Professor Jaephil Cho.

The positive feeling was echoed by many of the delegates, who felt that the event

enabled them to establish new contacts in industry and academia, and to explore potential scientific collaborations.

Dr Qiong Cai from the University of Surrey said: "I enjoyed the meeting very much and indeed have made several useful contacts, particularly with UK industry and Korean delegates. There are plans to develop collaborations with them."

This was echoed by Dr Yoon Seok Jung, UNIST, Korea, who commented: "This conference was fantastic. We have talked about many interesting technical issues and possible collaborations. We've also formed a good friendship."

Dr Ainara Aguadero, Imperial College London, specifically highlighted the benefit in connecting with researchers from Korea, saying: "I have made some Korean contacts and I am planning to visit them next May, when I am going to Korea for another conference."

The two-day symposium was followed by a site visit to energy-research laboratories at the University of Oxford, which was arranged by Professor Peter Bruce and his colleagues. Dr Seok Ju Kang, UNIST, felt that "the meetings at Oxford were very fruitful. There are so many things to learn... it would be great to have some chance to collaborate with UK professors."



Korean delegation visit University of Oxford



Symposium poster session



Poster prize winners at Burlington House



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