



25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018



Dear ACS Malaysia Chapter members,

First of all, allow me to introduce to you the new 2016-2018 ACS Malaysia Chapter's Committee, which can be viewed in our website:

<http://acsmalaysiachapter.org/about-us/organization>

<http://acsmalaysiachapter.org/about-us/regional-committee>

This year, we have re-shuffled the sub-committee members, and introduced three new Working Groups, namely Science Outreach, Education and Award to assist with the Chapter's administration. Therefore, we hope our members will be empowered and involved actively in the Chapter's decision-making process. We have also invited and reached out to our distinguished members from the private university and industry to become a part of our National Advisory Board. Among them are the first ACS Fellow from Malaysia, Dr. Shahidah Mohd Shariff, who is also the Head of Technology and CEO of PETRONAS Research, as well as Associate Prof. Dr. Mohd Zulkefeli Mat Jusoh, the Dean of School of Pharmacy of International Medical University (IMU). With their strengths, I hope our Chapter will continue to flourish in the coming years.

Reflecting on our previous term, there were so many great achievements made possible by our members. One of the great achievements is the award of the Global Innovation Imperative (Gii) grant, led by Dr. Mohd Firdaus Abdul Wahab, who is our current Co-chair from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The outcome of Gii is the publication of a white paper entitled "Moving from Awareness to Action" that is now available online at the link below:

<http://acsmalaysiachapter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ACS-Gii-2017-White-Paper-20-March-2018.pdf>

The white paper describes Contaminants of Emerging Concerns (CECs) and the importance of raising public awareness about the threats posed by these compounds. The project is currently still on-going, with many post-Gii activities planned to promote the awareness of CECs throughout 2018.

In addition, we have also secured the funding for the ACS Project SEED Program in early 2018. This will be the first Project SEED Program to be held outside the US. This year also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ACS Project SEED Program since its inception in 1968, USA. This project is awarded to Prof. Dr. Lim Jit Kang, our Chapter Past Chair (2014-2016), and is designed "for economically disadvantaged students to experience what it's like to be a chemist." The project will be carried out in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang. Besides, we have secured the Festival Chemistry Grant 2018, being the third time awardee of the grant. This suggests that we have progressed so far in our chemistry outreach activities. In fact, from this year onwards, our objectives in the outreach program will be geared towards more impactful and meaningful activities. There are still some other grant applications in the pipeline, such as the Global Innovation Grant (GIG) which has been a flagship program for our Chapter, and the Chemical Security Program (CSP) Grant. Once again this year, we have been selected as one of the finalists for the ACS ChemLuminary Award for



Global Engagement. The winner will be announced in the coming ACS Fall National Meeting in Boston, US. Let's keep our fingers crossed! ☺

Since the establishment of ACS Malaysia Chapter in 2014, four universities in Malaysia have set up their respective ACS Student Chapter. They are USM, UTM, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Curtin University Sarawak (Curtin Malaysia). Although the student chapters are under the Education Division in ACS, the ACS Malaysia Chapter has been working closely with the student chapters. We understand the importance of early mentoring and exposure initiatives for the students during their time in university. Hence, I wish to take this opportunity to encourage more student chapters to be established by our members in their respective universities in the future.

The main focus for this new two-year term is to have several activities on Chemical Safety and Security aspect, besides the usual flagship programs. Some of our committee members have been fortunate to be selected to attend the ACS Global Chemists' Code of Ethics (GCCE) workshop organized by the ACS International Office in Melbourne last year. Thus, we hope to organize similar workshop for our Chapter members in 2019 as part of our role as the chemistry- and chemical sciences-based society, and also to share the knowledge that we have acquired from the past workshop.

The success of this Chapter depends significantly on the support of our members. Hence, I wish to invite all members to contribute and play an active part because the Chapter belongs to all of us!

Last but not least, I wish to thank our Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Mohd Bakri Bakar and his stellar team for the job well done. We hope to continue the legacy of success, and elevate the Chapter to even greater heights.

Thank you and Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2018.

*Better Living through Chemistry*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee Hooi Ling', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. Lee Hooi Ling)  
Chair 2018-2020  
Malaysia International Chemical Science Chapter  
American Chemical Society  
Email: hllee@usm.my