An electrochemical 'Gathering'. Electrochem 2012: Electrochemical Horizons.

Trinity College Dublin 2-4 September 2012

Plenary Speakers and Local Organizers : From left to right : Prof. Richard Compton (University of Oxford), Prof Edmund Magner (University of Limerick, Organizing Committee)), Prof Robert Dryfe (University of Manchester, Organizing Committee), Dr Donal Leech (NUI Galway), Prof Fraser Armstrong (University of Oxford), Prof Wolfgang Schuhmann (Ruhr-Universitat, Bochum, Germany), Prof Mike Lyons (TCD, Conference Chair), Prof. Zhong-Qun Tian, Xiamen University , China), Prof Robert Forster (DCU, Organizing Committee).

The premier UK/Ireland Electrochemistry conference was recently held (2-4 September) in Trinity College Dublin and brought some 180 electrochemists to Dublin from the UK, Europe, China, Australia and Ireland. The meeting was organised by the SCI Electrochemical Technology Group and the RSC Electrochemistry Group**.** Prof Mike Lyons, Principal Investigator located within the School of Chemistry & CRANN was Conference Chair.

The Electrochem series of conferences have been successfully operating for 18 years and represent the premier Electrochemical Science and Technology forum for the UK and Ireland Electrochemistry Community in industry and academia, especially for the upcoming generation of interdisciplinary researchers. Electrochem 2012: Electrochemical Horizons aimed to bring together members of the international community involved in the practice and promotion of electrochemistry (both in its

physical and analytical aspects) and electrochemical engineering. The conference hosted sessions on Energy (the inaugural LD Burke Energy Symposium), Nanoelectrochemistry, Bio-electrochemistry, Electrochemical Methodology and Enabling Technologies, and Fundamental Electrochemistry. Many of the latter topics define the cutting edge of Electrochemical Science and represent a concrete manifestation of some of the key scientific areas of interest to Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) which were major sponsors of the Conference. The meeting was also sponsored by the Electrochemical Society and the International Society of Electrochemistry. There was a mix of Plenary Lectures (5 in total including the RSC Barker and Faraday Medal award Lectures), parallel breakout sessions of keynote talks and contributed lectures (60 contributions in total), and an extended poster session (ca. 80 poster presentations)..

Scientific highlights of the meeting included the Faraday Medal 2012 Award Lecture by Professor Zhong-Qun Tian, Xiemen University China and the Barker Medal Award Lecture by Professor Fraser Armstrong, University of Oxford, UK. Both of these medals are awarded by the Electrochemistry Subject Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Other Plenary Lectures were given by Professor Richard Compton, Oxford University, Professor Wolfgang Schuhmann, Ruhr-Universitat Bochum, and Dr Donal Leech, NUI Galway. The Plenary lectures were selected to reflect the current state of art and to highlight recent developments in nanoelectrochemistry, medical diagnostic advances and energy.

A further highlight of the meeting was the LD Burke Energy Symposium. This inaugural symposium was held in honour of the memory of Professor Declan Burke, late of University College Cork who sadly passed away in 2011. Professor Burke was Ireland's most distinguished Physical Electrochemist who established a worldwide reputation in Electrocatalysis. Many of the speakers in the Energy Symposium were researchers and academics based in Ireland and reflected the very dynamic activity in the Electrochemical energy conversion/storage/electrocatalysis space in Ireland at present. Topics covered in the energy Symposium for example include Bioelectrocatalysis using enzyme or microbe films on electrodes (Donal Leech), Nanorod/nanowire synthesis fabrication for Li ion batteries and thin film PV applications (Kevin Ryan), Nanostructured, nonporous materials for energy applications (Lorraine Nagle), Direct alcohol fuel cell advances (Weng Fen Lin), Artificial photosynthesis at liquid/liquid interface (Michael Scanlon), Electrochemical water splitting at hydrous oxide surfaces (Mike Lyons & Richard Doyle) and Solar energy conversion (Don McElroy).

The hosting of Electrochem 2012 at Trinity College reflects the rude state of health of Electrochemistry in Ireland and its high international profile in these challenging times.