It is a landmark year for Academia Europaea. September 2018 marks 30 years since AE’s foundation meeting in Cambridge, to which I had the honour to be invited by Sir Arnold Burgen FRS, the Founding President of AE. On 12th April, I was delighted to be back in Cambridge in the company of Sir Arnold and a number of our other founding members to celebrate AE’s 30th Anniversary. I would like to express my thanks to Mary Fowler, Master of Darwin College Cambridge, for organising a very enjoyable afternoon tea party. There will be a further celebration of AE’s 30th Anniversary at the Royal Society in September. More about this in the next newsletter.

In this newsletter you can learn about our latest project in the European Commission’s Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), Making sense of science under conditions of complexity, uncertainty and ambiguity, which begins in earnest in September. I would also like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to our next panel debate, Science for policy: a European perspective, which will be held at Swansea University’s prestigious Bay Campus on 4th September. I will be joined by an outstanding panel of experts, including Professor Peter Halligan, the new Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales.

Linked to our work on science advice, we are holding a networking event and panel debate on Science for policy: a European perspective on Tuesday 4th September at Swansea University’s Bay Campus. This exciting event, jointly hosted by AE Cardiff Hub and Swansea University, is aimed at anyone who would like to explore the relationship between science advice and policymaking. Our experts are Professor Peter Halligan, Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales (CSAW), Professor Ole Petersen, Professor Mike Bowker, Wendy Sadler MBE, Dr Dion Curry and Professor Robert Evans. The event will be chaired by Professor John Tucker. This event is free and open to all. For more information and to register, please visit our website.
Food from the Oceans, 18 months on

Following the successful launch of the Food from the Oceans report, the Cardiff Hub has been working to make the report’s key messages accessible to a wider audience. On behalf of SAPEA and the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) Unit, we have produced an infographics-based set of publicity materials, in partnership with the Cardiff-based agency science made simple. These materials have been distributed as part of an innovative public engagement campaign that includes high-profile international events such as World Oceans Day and European Maritime Day.

Food from the Oceans was one of the case studies at the policy symposium, Shaping European science advice: insights and experience, held in Sofia on 17th May. The opening presentation was made by Professor Ole Petersen, as member of a distinguished panel. Louise Edwards, AE Cardiff Hub Manager, spoke at a high-profile event at the Lisbon Academy of Sciences on 23rd May, which brought together a number of Portuguese experts to examine the Food from the Oceans reports.

Prof Pearl Dykstra [Deputy Chair of the European Commission’s Group of Chief Scientific Advisors] and Prof Ole Petersen during the session on Food from the Oceans at the ALEA Annual meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria

Academia Europaea letter in support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Sierd Cloetingh, President of Academia Europaea, and Ole Petersen, Vice-President of Academia Europaea and Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub, have sent a letter to the Hungarian Minister of Innovation and Technology, László Palkovics, in support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). The proposed amendment of the Law on the MTA and the Law on the 2019 State Budget of Hungary threatens the scientific autonomy and the quality of scientific output from MTA. Academia Europaea has strong links with MTA, with 114 Hungarian scientists and scholars being Members of Academia Europaea. Please click here to view the letter.

Open letter from the President and Trustees of the Academia Europaea

AE’s President and Trustees have written an open letter on the importance of securing a strong and fully participative association agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union for science and technology in the post-BREXIT era. Please click here to view the letter.

New Executive Officer for AE Cardiff Hub

We welcome Juliet Davies, who joined the AE Cardiff Hub in June. Juliet’s role will be to ensure the successful delivery of AE Cardiff’s priorities, including managing our programme of events, undertaking marketing and communications activity and ensuring the smooth operational running of the Hub.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

‘Science for policy: a European perspective’, Tuesday 4th September, Swansea University’s Bay Campus. Further details available on our website.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

The Hub’s half-year report, covering January – June 2018, has been published and is available on our website.