

The Centre for Industry Education Collaboration – A Global View

In 2018-19, Dr. Guirong Wang, from Beijing University of Chemical Technology, spent a year with CIEC. This article explores the innovative work of CIEC from her viewpoint*



Guirong with children celebrating their Children Challenging Industry (CCI) success in Cambridge

Why did you choose to visit CIEC for a year?

I met Sir John Holman in November 2017 when he visited Beijing – he was attending an academic event as the President of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He told me about the world-class outreach work that CIEC has been doing for thirty years, explaining that they have combined the design of effective practical programmes with research and evaluation of impact. I did some further research and realised that there was nothing like this elsewhere in the world.

I have always been impressed with the outreach work done in the UK, which has the longest history in the

world, going back to the Michael Faraday Christmas lecture of 1825! In recent years, the Chinese government has begun to recognise the importance of outreach both for primary and secondary school students and for the general public.

In 2016, my home university, Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT), set up the BUCT Outreach Centre, both to promote the development of science outreach and to collaborate with other organisations. Working with my Beijing supervisor, Professor David G. Evans, over the past three years, we have taken part in many national and local science festivals, and organised demonstrations and hands-on experiments for students.

Our activities are very popular, but we wanted to evaluate the activities and do further research on outreach, and we needed some help. That's why I decided to come to the UK and spend a year with CIEC, where I am being co-supervised by Sir John Holman and CIEC's Director, Joy Parvin.

Can you tell us a little about the flagship Children Challenging Industry (CCI) programme that you have observed?

In the first few months of my visit, I became familiar with the publications that have been developed and used in the CCI programme, and observed

*This is an updated version of an article first published in *ChemYork* in Spring 2019

