

N E W S L E T T E R

December 2011

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Dear NSCF members.

I have started as a new chairman of the NSCF board midst busy autumn. This is my first Newsletter, and I apologize you, for it is little late.

Unfortunately I couldn't attend the NSCF conference in Iceland, but I was fortunate to be there last time in 2004. Tomas and his staff know, how to arrange a memorable conference, as you can read from the report in this newsletter.

I'm pleased to lead NSCF especially now, since – as I very much hope – the organization will accept the Baltic countries as our full members. Hopefully we can make a proposition for the change of the NSCF charters to our next general meeting in the fall 2012. And what will be more proper place for that than Tartu and AH-HAA Science Centre, where our conference will be next year.

As for Tietomaa Science Centre I can reveal that we are combining our organization to the Oulu Art Museum and the Oulu Regional Museum. With that the city of Oulu hopes to make an attraction for tourists and school groups alike that is both multi-scientific and artistic. But I'll tell you more about it in the next newsletter.

Have a nice and “gifted” Christmas time!

Sampo Puoskari
Tietomaa Science Centre
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10 days exchange job in Experimentarium from 15th August to 24th August

by edutainer Julia Oflijan, Science Centre AHHA

The aim of the study trip to Experimentarium was to learn how explainers interact the audience when they use the exhibition. Expand my knowledge how to manage with different kind of audience while leading workshops or science-shows. I was really inspired how competent explainers are in communication with every kind of audience and hope to develop my competence in communication to the same level as theirs.

I gained an insight not only in explainer work, but also the statistics, shop, ticket and booking system. The first thing I noticed was that the weather has an influence for the amount of visitors in Experimentarium. Much more visitors come on a rainy day than on a sunny day. The same is in AHHA, when the weather is bad, then more visitors come to science centre. Although Experimentarium shop is two times smaller than AHHA's it has the similar assortment of goods that we have. Booking system in Experimentarium is also similar as in AHHA. The one big difference from Experimentarium is that in AHHA we offer for the groups a guided exposition tour for about 30 minutes. The interesting thing that they do instead of it is welcoming visitors in lobby with small demo experiments. I was really inspired by that and the experiment trolley that we had in our centre is finally taken into use.



The ticket system also differs in Experimentarium from AHHA. In Experimentarium visitors get a receipt and if they need to go out then also a tempel. In AHHA we have unique ticket system, because visitors need to give fingerprints in order to pass the gates and also every visitor gets a wristband.

During my time in Experimentarium I had opportunity to participate in part of the training for new explainers, got an insight of school programmes, current projects and saw how Friday meetings were held. On that meeting they discussed plans for new building, spoke about the new upcoming "creepy crawlly" exhibition and held an opening ceremony for a new small stage.

During those days that I spent in Experimentarium I learned many new things. I was even so lucky that got an opportunity to make once a soap bubble show in English. Hopefully I will make similar soap bubble shows in AHHA.



My trip to Experimentarium was very interesting, educative and inspirational. Although I had disadvantage in Danish language I had great colleagues who helped me to understand. I got a really great ideas that we can use at AHHA to improve our daily routines.

I thank Experimentarium for having the time to show me how they do their daily work. I felt very welcome at Experimentarium and people there were so friendly, kind and opened to share the knowledge. I also thank the NSCF for an amazing opportunity and economical support.

NSCF Explainer Seminar 29. February – 2. March 2012

Early next year Experimentarium will be hosting the 3. NSCF Explainer Seminar.

The NSCF Explainer seminar is exclusively open to communicators and explainers who have direct interaction with guests.

Aim:

To highlight what characterise “The Good Science Show”.

To create a forum for exchange of ideas and good practice.

This year the overall theme is ‘How to perform the good Science Show’. We will address different issues such as: How to differentiate between different audiences? How to choose the right content? What can be borrowed from other genres?

We invite all participants to bring their best Science Show – live or on tape.

The programme will form an intriguing mix of; Workshops on professional skills, Plenary talks on communication and education, Exchange of good practice ...and lots of Networking.

Time: Wednesday the 29. February 11:00 am to the 2. March 13:00 pm

Place: Experimentarium, Tuborg Havnvej 7, DK-2900 Hellerup, Denmark

Price: 160 € for members of NSCF, 230 € for non-members. The prices do not include accommodation.

More information:

Send an email to seminar@experimentarium.dk and we will keep you posted on when the homepage is launched and when we open for registration.

Looking forward to welcoming you at Experimentarium!

Wednesday February 29 – Show us your best show

11.00 Registration

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Experimentarium's favorite science show followed by science shows performed by the participants. Each show will be followed by a short discussion under the supervision of a moderator

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 More science shows

19.00 Dinner

21.00 End of day one

Thursday March 1 – Making the good show even better

9.00 Key note speaker on "Choosing the right content"

10.30 Workshops

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Key note speaker on "How to differentiate between different audiences?"

14.30 Workshops

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 Key note speaker on "What can be borrowed from other genres?"

17.00 Workshops

19.00 Dinner

21.00 End of day two

Friday March 2 – What's in your toolbox now?

9.00 Workshop.

The workshop gives you time to reflect on what you have experienced at this year's conference. What do you want to implement in your practice back home? What recommendations, ideas and tools from the various workshops and keynotes do you wish to share with your colleagues?

12.30 Lunch

13.30 End of conference – see you next year

The programme may be subject to change.

NSCF CONFERENCE 2011 IN ICELAND

The 2011 NSCF took place in Iceland 21-23 September. The title for this year's conference was Ice&Fire, and the program gave the participants a taste of Iceland's spectacular nature.

The conference was opened with a reception at Reykjavik city hall. The mayor of Reykjavik, Mr Jon Gnarr, NSCF chairman, Mr Svein Anders Dahl and director of Fjöskyldu- og húsdýragardurinn, Mr Thómas Óskar Gudjónsson gave short welcome addresses.

50 participants joined the conference, 4 from Finland, 1 from Estonia, 9 from Iceland, 26 from Norway, 4 from Denmark and 6 from Sweden.

After the conference opening the participants were bussed to Selfoss where a light dinner was served.

Thursday morning started with a short lecture from geologist Tráinn Fridriksson, about what was to be seen and experienced later in the day. First on the program was a visit to the Eyafjallajökul eruption center at Torvaldseyri, where the participants were shown a film about the 2010 Eyafjallajökul eruption, seen from a local family's point of view.



Next on the program was a hike on the Solheimajökul glacier. All the participants were equipped with crampons and iceaxes and went for a guided hike on the ash covered glacier in beautiful sunshine. And the volcano Katla did not erupt...

Lunch was served outdoors, a buffet of grilled chicken, bread and salad, and also a small snack of shark and "Brennivín". After lunch the bus took the participants to Seljalandsfoss, to see a waterfall from the inside and then on to Örkelduháls.

At Örkelduháls after a short hike from the bus, the participants got to taste bread that was baked in the ground of the geothermal site near Örkelduháls. Our Icelandic hosts had literally cooked the bread by burying it in the ground for ca 10 hours. The bread was served freshbaked, with lots of butter. On the way back to Selfoss the participants got to experience a typical Icelandic public bath at Hveragerði.

This nice adventurous Icelandic day was closed by a three course meal made by local Icelandic produce.

The Friday started as most days do, with breakfast before the lectures of the conference started.

The presenters at this part of the conference were:

- ✓ Hilmar Veigar Pétursson, managing director of CCP- on the subject of creating a community on the internet in virtual reality.
- ✓ Jón Gunnar Þorsteinsson, University of Iceland- who told us how the "Icelandic web of science" works and how scientists were involved with the program.
- ✓ Hannu Salmi, University of Helsinki- presented Science center to go.

- ✓ Kai Kaljumäe, Sa Teaduskehus AHHA- who presented next year's NSCF conference at Ah- haa in Tartu, Estonia.

The session at Selfoss was closed with the annual NSCF meeting.

The conference participants then got bussed to Fjöskyldu- og húsdýragardurinn for lunch and closing of the NSCF- conference 2012.

