



Media Release

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TWO CURTIN UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS SCOOP \$5,000 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Professional Development Awards worth \$5,000 have been awarded to two Curtin University academics.

Associate Professor Dr John Simpson and Associate Professor Dr Shaobin Wang were presented with their awards at a breakfast at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre this morning.

The awards are presented under the Perth Convention Bureau's annual Professional Development Awards program embracing each of Perth's five leading universities.

Dr Simpson, Associate Professor in the School of Economics and Finance, is an internationally renowned expert on international banking, economics and finance in the areas of international business risk and risk management. Over the past five years he has focused on the financial economics of energy specifically relating to oil and gas pricing.

He is a Fellow of the Finance and Security Institute of Australasia (FINSIA) as well as being a member of the Economist Society of Australia, the International Association of Energy Economics and serving on the committee of the Netherlands-based Centre for Energy and Value Issues (CEVI).

Dr Simpson plans to use his award to attend various CEVI related conferences as well as undertaking academic study leave at various universities in the Netherlands and Turkey. During this time he will canvass support for Curtin University to host the CEVI conference in 2013.

Dr Wang is Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, joining Curtin University in 2003. An expert on greenhouse gas reduction, he is a member of the Australian Society of Catalysis and plans to use the award to attend the 11th International Conference on Carbon Dioxide Utilization (ICCDU) in France in June where he will canvass support for Perth to host the ICCDU conference in 2013.

Bureau Managing Director Christine Allen said today that the Professional Development Awards program had been responsible for generating convention business worth more than \$80 million to the Western Australian economy since being launched in 1999.

"The program is a win-win situation for the Bureau," she added. "We're delighted to assist in the professional development of our academic community, enabling them to attend overseas conferences and network with their international peers. In return we get to identify a range of valuable bidding opportunities for conferences that have the potential to come to Western Australia."

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