



News: Prof. Dr. David Díaz Díaz receives Honorary Appointment at Jiangsu University

On Friday, October 18, 2017, Prof. David Díaz Díaz (University of Regensburg, Germany, and The Spanish National Research Council, Spain) received an Honorary Adjunct Professorship from Jiangsu University in Zhenjiang (Jiangsu Province). The title, which is essentially valid for life, allows him to teach at the university and perform research at the School of Materials Science and Engineering, however, without obligation to do so. The appointment is an initiative of its professor Songjun Li, President of the Chinese Advanced Materials Society, and an expert in functional materials, polymerization catalysis and sensor technology.

After the ceremony, attended by staff members and graduate students, Prof. Díaz Díaz presented a lecture, entitled “Gel Networks As Reaction Media: Performing Air-Sensitive Photoredox Catalysis Under Aerobic Conditions”, where he introduced an emerging application developed in his research lab of supramolecular gels as confined reaction media to perform air-sensitive photo-induced reactions under aerobic conditions. This discovery might change the way many photochemical reactions are typically carried out in research labs, and open a new door to achieve faster and safer different and important air-sensitive chemical processes, as well as activated new chemical pathways usually hidden in solution.

In the evening, Prof. Songjun Li hosted a dinner at the Zhenjiang Mingdu Hotel Restaurant, featuring exquisite dishes of the Jiangsu Cuisine, and accompanied by excellent Chinese drinks of various levels of alcohol content, ranging from 0 to over 60%!.

Jiangsu University is among the oldest academic institutions in China, counts between 30.000 and 40.000 students, and ranks within the national top 50. It is well known for its excellent materials science program. Prof. Díaz intends to visit the university again next year to explore opportunities for collaboration, for example in the area of functional gels, organic frameworks and catalysis.

Prof. David Díaz Díaz received his PhD in Chemistry from the University of La Laguna (Spain). In 2002, he moved to The Scripps Research Institute (California, USA) for postdoctoral research. Since 2006, he has held various positions in academia and industry ('Ramón y Cajal' Researchers, UAM, Spain, 2006; Sr. Chemist, Dow Chemical, Switzerland, 2007; Tenured Scientist, CSIC, Spain, 2009; Alexander von Humboldt Experienced Researcher, University of Regensburg, Germany, 2010). In

2013, he was awarded with the prestigious DFG Heisenberg Professorship and appointed as Associate Professor at the University of Regensburg. He has received the Young Investigator Award from the Polymer Network Group (Japan) and is the Editor-in-Chief of Gels. His main research interest focused on the development of functional soft materials.



Photo: Prof. Yunjin Qu conveys the Honorary Adjunct Professorship to Prof. David Díaz Díaz at Jiangsu University (Wednesday, October 18, 2017).



Photo: Prof. Songjun Li with Prof. David Díaz Díaz at the School of Materials Science & Engineering, Jiangsu University (Tuesday, October 17, 2017).

<http://material.ujs.edu.cn/info/1173/4292.htm>

<http://www-oc.chemie.uni-regensburg.de/diaz/index.php>