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Zheng Wei Zhao, a PhD candidate from ISEM, Faculty of Engineering UoW, received the first prize for "Innovation in Energy Science and Engineering" at the NSW and ACT Postgraduate Student Energy Awards held on 5th September 2006 at the University of Technology, Sydney. This award was sponsored by CSIRO Energy Technology.

About 20 entries were received from six universities in NSW & the ACT. Entries consisted of a project summary and a project poster display (including an 8 minute talk and two minute question time). Entries were allocated to one of three categories: Energy & Society, Innovation in Energy Science & Engineering - Achieving More With Less, and were assessed by a panel of Judges. Three sponsored prizes were awarded in each category - Gold ($1000), Silver ($500) and Encouragement ("centa-meter").

Zheng Wei Zhao will also receive a travel bursary (return airfare and one night's accommodation) to represent NSW & ACT at the Inaugural National Postgraduate Student Energy Awards in Melbourne. This event will coincide with the AIE National Conference titled ‘Energy at the Crossroads’ to be held from 27 to 29 November 2006.

The 5th Homeland Security Summit was held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on 19-21 September 2006. The Summit was organised by the Research Network for a Secure Australia (RNSA) funded by the Australian Research Council. The Security Summit is an annual event that brings together both researchers and practitioners in the fields relating to one of the national research priority areas entitled Safeguarding Australia. The three-day Safeguarding Australia Summit provided an opportunity for attendees representing government, business and academic communities to discuss new trends that are shaping Australia’s homeland security strategies.

On the third day of the Summit, the RNSA Security Technology Conference was organised. The Conference featured about forty technical papers presented by Australian and international researchers working in the area of protection of critical infrastructure against acts of terrorism.

University of Wollongong is an active member of the ARC Research Network for a Secure Australia. At the Summit, UoW was represented by three presentations from Dr Alex Remennikov (School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering) and Dr Katina Michael and Holly Tootell (School of Information Technology and Computer Science). At the end of the Conference, the papers presented by Dr Remennikov and Dr Tootell were nominated for the best paper award. Dr Remennikov's paper on an innovative approach to designing anti-terrorist perimeter protection for critical buildings received the 2006 RNSA Conference Best Paper award.

Dr. Kurt Douglas (UNSW and Australian Geomechanics Society Committee Member and YGP Representative) and Behzad Fatahi (UoW).