Complimentary registration to two TMS technical conferences is really just the beginning of the benefits for a TMS Young Leader Professional Development Award winner. For many past awardees, this experience marked the beginning of a more professionally rewarding phase in their involvement with both TMS and their field of expertise:

“I had attended the TMS Annual Meeting in 2005 and just gave one technical presentation. At the 2009 TMS Annual Meeting, through the Young Leader program, I had a totally different experience. I became familiar with the structures, technical divisions, and technical committees of TMS. I was nominated and approved to be a member of the Alloy Phases Committee under the Structural Materials Division. I could feel the expectation and responsibility when the committee chair welcomed me to be a new member.”

—Ying Yang, assistant materials scientist, CompuTherm

The access to division council meetings, the opportunity to observe a TMS Board of Directors’ meeting, and the exposure to a variety of social functions have also been cited as high-value experiences by a number of awardees:

“Being the recipient of a 2010 Young Leader Professional Development Award from the Light Metals Division enabled me to participate in many activities that I had not previously known about. Starting with the Materials Bowl on Sunday afternoon, followed by the Light Metals Division meeting, committee meetings, poster sessions, luncheons, and the Board of Directors’ meeting, I met and networked with people from all walks of our field. In fact, at the end of the Tuesday night awards banquet, I ran out of business cards to hand out!”

—Andre Phillion, assistant professor, University of British Columbia

Supported by the TMS Foundation, the program provides funding for ten professionals under the age of 35—two from each of TMS’s five technical divisions—to be mentored by division leaders as winners of the Young Leaders Professional Development Award each year. Opportunities to participate in the decision-making and long-range planning of the society, as well as making contacts with prominent TMS members, are intended to cultivate awardees for TMS leadership positions in the future:

“Although I had previously attended two TMS Annual Meetings, receiving the Young Leader Award in 2010 facilitated my participation in functions that I would not have otherwise attended and provided me an opportunity to meet TMS colleagues in areas outside of my immediate area of research. . . . I have volunteered to co-organize a symposium on grain boundary behavior for the 2011 Materials Science & Technology Conference with colleagues that I met while attending my committee meeting in Seattle.”

—Douglas Spearot, assistant professor, University of Arkansas

Applications for the 2011 TMS Young Leader Professional Development Award are being accepted until October 15. Active participation in TMS Young Leader activities, interest in participating in a TMS division technical committee, and a willingness to support current and future TMS activities as a volunteer are among the criteria considered by the division selection committees:

“Receiving the 2007 Young Leader Award gave me the opportunity to get a deeper understanding of what TMS is, what TMS does, and how TMS works.”

—Christina Meskers, business development manager, Umicore Precious Metals Refining

Award applications can be accessed at the TMS Young Leaders home page at http://www.tms.org/YoungLeaders/YLhome.aspx. For additional information, contact Bryn Simpson, TMS member services and student affairs manager, at bsimpson@tms.org.

Tap into the experience and insight of seasoned colleagues for career development advice at your convenience with the TMS e-Mentoring Program. TMS e-Mentoring allows you to confidentially pose questions to a TMS member on career issues and options, and seek advice on strategies for ensuring your continued professional growth. To use the e-Mentoring Program, log on to the TMS Members Only home page and select “e-Mentor Program.” This will access a secure online form that enables you to submit a question to a volunteer mentor. Your TMS e-Mentor will e-mail a personal response to you within a few days.

For the latest news on opportunities offered through the TMS Young Leaders Program, go to our newly redesigned website at http://www.tms.org/YoungLeaders/YLhome.aspx. In addition to an updated look, this online resource features detailed information on Young Leader awards programs, as well as access to back issues of the Young Leader Newsletter.
Career and scientific opportunities in structural materials will be discussed by Sudarsanam Suresh Babu, the Young Leader Tutorial Luncheon speaker at the Materials Science & Technology 2010 Conference (MS&T ’10) in Houston, Texas. The luncheon will take place on October 20 from noon to 2 p.m.

Babu is currently an associate professor at The Ohio State University and a Distinguished Scholar of Edison Welding Institute, both based in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to this, he was a technology leader at Edison, where he led research and development in computational welding modeling, welding metallurgy, and solutions for joining advanced materials in the automotive, aerospace, heavy manufacturing, and medical industries. He has also held several positions at Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he conducted basic and applied research in welding metallurgy and phase transformations in steel, aluminum alloys, and nickel-based superalloys. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge.

Babu said that he relishes the complex challenges presented by materials science and engineering (MSE), noting that computational tools have enabled an era of unprecedented understanding and discovery. To optimize these advances, according to Babu, scientists and engineers must take an interdisciplinary approach to solving problems. “I can’t stress enough the importance of being able to work on a team to achieve greater challenges,” he said. “There is a tremendous need in industry for materials scientists and engineers with that ability, as well as an understanding of the entire life cycle of a product.”

Babu continued that contemporary environmental and economic challenges have opened an array of opportunities for the creative MSE professional, particularly those who can use sophisticated technologies to explore more complex materials and develop innovative, commercial solutions. “You must be persistent, and ignore the doomsayers,” he said. “Young professionals also need to develop a strong business sense early on and use it. If you do that, you will succeed in whatever you do.”

Applications for the 2011 International Scholar program are being accepted until September 15 and can be accessed at the TMS Young Leaders home page at http://www.tms.org/YoungLeaders/YLhome.aspx.

Q. What prompted you to apply for the International Scholar?
A. I thought it would be a great honor to attend the Japan Institute of Metals annual meeting to present my work on behalf of TMS and Los Alamos National Laboratory—organizations which have supported my professional development. This program is also an excellent opportunity to promote technical exchange among young society members within JIM and TMS.

Q. What experiences were of particular value to you?
A. During my visit, I had the opportunity to visit the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), the University of Tsukuba, and the Tokyo Institute of Technology. It was a great experience to meet and interact with young professionals in Japan and to learn about their work.

Q. What do you feel was the most important aspect of being selected as an International Scholar?
A. I established many new contacts and made many new friends that I hope to see again in the future. I was especially impressed by the young faculty members that I met. They do a great job performing research and mentoring students in the outstanding laboratories that they have assembled. One aspect that was beyond my expectations was the welcoming and conscientious hosting by JIM, its representatives, and all of the people with whom I interacted.

Q. What advice would you give to others who might be thinking of applying to be an International Scholar?
A. I highly recommend applying. The experience is very rewarding and provides you with some insight about the careers of young professionals in Japan. I also recommend doing some sightseeing during your visit. I was very lucky that the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. It was beautiful!