Report on the 2nd Conference on Botany at Suzhou China 18th-20th March 2015. Success, Challenges and the Way Forward

by

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History of the conference:

The first conference on Botany was held at Suzhou China on 12th-14th March 2014 on which the main symposium was on Plant Growth and Development (SPGD2014) and Plant and Environment (SPE2014). The conference was organized to enhance academic knowledge and research findings exchange among participants on the two symposiums. The growth, differentiation, development and reproduction of plants are most mysterious and fascinating phenomena of the nature. With the progress of science, the mystery of the plant growth and development has gradually been recognized, which has greatly promoted the development of human society. On the other hand Plants play immeasurable roles in the human survival on his environment. They are the foundation of human survival and development.

The two symposiums therefore were to enhance participant's discussion on plants-environment interactions such as plant protection, plant diversity, plants-soil interactions and growth and development of plants. Prof. LixiJiang (Zhejiang University, China) and Prof. Zakaria A. Mohamed (Sohag University Egypt) addressed main issues on plant growth and development and the contribution of plants and environment on human survival. The success of the first

conference on Botany resulted on preparation and conduction of the 2nd conference on Botany namely CB 2015 and workshop 3. The 2nd conference on Botany was organized by Prof. Wenjun Zhang from Sun Yat-sen University, China, Dr.Maqshoof Ahmad from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan and Dr.Washa B. Washa from MUCE, Tanzania and well-coordinated by Becky Yu from China

Objectives of the 2nd Conference on Botany

Among many other plant issues, exchanging the latest research results and sharing advanced plant research methods were basic objectives of this conference. Areas from molecular biology, biochemistry, biophysics, microbiology and immunology were discussed in the following co-located biological conferences: 2015 Conference on Advances in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (CABMB 2015), 2015 International Conference on Advances in Biophysics (ICAB 2015), 2015 Microbiology and Immunology Conference (MIC 2015).

Success of the 2nd Conference on Botany

One among the three opening presentations was on immunology basedfinding and was given by Prof. Peter S. Spencer(Biological mechanisms underlying organic solvent neuropathy)from (Oregon Health & Science University, USA). Following presentations on 19th and 20th March 2015 were presented with 75% on immunology based findings, 20% on plant physiology based and 5% on biophysics based findings. One of the biophysics finding was presented by Prof. John P.T. Mo on (Engineering the support systems of complex Assets) from Australia. Among plant physiology finding were presented by Dr. Usama Abdel-Hameed (Phenetic analysis of morphological and molecular traits in *Acanthaceae*juss) and by Dr. Washa Washa (Effective cutting type in the rooting of *Dalbergiamelanoxylon* in Tanzania). Discussion on the findings in

this conference was a big success in plant science and immunology in terms of scientific knowledge exchange and sharing of the new research methods as was the main objective of the conference. Another success indicator of the conference is that all Eleven (11) submitted papers for CB 2015 were accepted for presentation in the conference while 130 papers submitted for workshop 3 is about 120 were accepted for presentation. All 4 attendees registered for CB 2015 attended the conference while among 55 attendees registered for workshop 3, 50 of them attended as another success of the conference. Results to indicate how many papers published from the presented papers is not yet given out by the journal.

Challenges on the 2nd conference on Botany

The first challenge found to be a hindering factor for applicants to register and attend is financial situation where by among 120 accepted papers only 55 applicants were able to pay registration fee and among 55 registered applicants only 50 were able to obtain financial support to attend presentations. Only few companies and employers are able to support their employee register and attend the presentations as a result most attendees funded themselves.

Basing on the name of the conference (The 2nd conference on Botany) attendees could expect 90% of papers to be presented on plant findings rather than other areas, instead immunology and medicine papers took the 90% of the presentation and only 5% was on plant findings. The challenge here is how plant researchers especially from Africa can be encouraged to apply for presentation of their findings in consideration that plant and environments are crucial component for survival and development of human being.

Basing on the reality that the 2nd conference on botany is an international conference, the number of attendees can be attributed by location of the conference center. It is true that Suzhou is one of

the famous, historical and commercial cities in China but is a bit difficult direction for attendees from Africa, USA and many other areas except for Asia and China itself. The location contributes to high Air and Train fare to arrive at Suzhou.

The way forward

CB 2015 as an international conference can be a very useful tool in exploring new research findings and new research methods in plant sciences and medicine. It is upon conference organizers to seek for more sponsors of the conference in order to lower the attendee's registration fee.

If the interest of the conference is to share findings on plants related to medicine and treatment this should be clear in the call for submission of papers for presentation. This will enable attendees to submit related papers for presentation. Plant researchers should be more encouraged and give a priority to enable large number of plant papers.

Selection of the holding country should give affordable location for attendees from all directions easily reach the place. This also can raise the number of attendees to travel easily to the venue. Organizers also can think on selecting one of the African countries to be holding country of the conference in consideration that there are many plant researches in Africa.