



4th International Symposium of Integrative Zoology Biological Consequences of Global Change

Press Release

The 4th International Symposium of Integrative Zoology was held in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan province in Southwestern China, from 4 – 6 December 2010.

The symposium was organized by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS); International Union of Biological Science (IUBS); Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); Institute of Zoology, CAS; Kunming Institute of Zoology, CAS; China Zoological Society and China Committee for International Union of Biological Sciences (CCIUBS). The symposium was supported by the Bureau of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, CAS; Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS; Department of Learned Societies Affairs, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST); Department of International Affairs, CAST; Department of Life Science, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC); Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC; Department of Basic Research, Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Department of International Cooperation, MOST.

In 2008, the ISZS launched the international research program Biological Consequences of Global Climate Change (BCGCC). In October 2009, the program was expanded and renamed Biological Consequences of Global Change (BCGC) and adopted by the IUBS as a new International Scientific Program at the 30th General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa. Currently, 13 well-known, established scientists from the USA, Australia, Norway, Chile, Russia, India and China have already joined or have expressed interest in joining the program.

As a matter of fact, this symposium is a formal part of this ISZS/IUBS BCGC program. The theme of the symposium is “Biological Consequences of Global Change (BCGC) – Data Analysis and Sharing” and the focus of the symposium was on how to collect and analyze data for global change research so that the scientists from around the world can work together to plot out a practical approach to establish a working mechanism for international data analysis and information sharing.

Over 120 researchers from 16 countries attended the symposium. Those included Dr Jean-Marc Jallon (President, ISZS and Secretary General, IUBS), Dr Abraham Haim (Vice President, ISZS), Dr Nathalie Fompromix (Executive Director, IUBS), Dr Juergen Heinze (Member of Executive Committee, ISZS) and Drs Nils Stenseth, Yury Dgebuadze and Hiroyuki Takeda (Members of Executive Committee, IUBS). The symposium was opened by Dr Zhibin Zhang, Vice President of both IUBS and ISZS.

Over the symposium, a special workshop on the BCGC program was also organized and 22 scientists attended. At the end, consensus were reached that in the last three years, the program made considerable progresses and achieved more than it is. To follow the program in the coming years, a scientific committee is to be formed and different working groups are to be set up. At the same time, specific research proposals are to be called for, a mechanism of information exchange and sharing is to be established, and a special database is consolidated. It is agreed that the qualified research proposals are to be funded with some seed funds from the program and a formal paper from program is to be composed and released to the authorities and public concerned in 2011.

In addition, 2010 is set by the United Nations as a Year of Biodiversity. As a result, there was a special session to note the year after the opening ceremony. Drs Jean-Marc Jallon (France), Motonori Hoshi (Japan), Valery Neronov (Russia) and Yanping Zhang (China) delivered plenary lectures at the session to memories the UN Year.

Representatives from the Chinese State Bureau of Forestry, Ministry of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Science, China Association of Science and Technology, were also present at the opening ceremony.

For further information, please contact the ISZS News Officer, Mr Chunxu Han on 6480-7295 or 13910617416, email ISZS2@ioz.ac.cn.

Additional Information

What is the ISZS?

The International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership-based organization of professionals re-established in 2004 and aims to promote zoology by improving communication between zoologists and zoological organizations; increase the availability of resources needed to conduct zoological research; and promote co-ordination, collaboration and co-operation between different fields of zoology. By representing a broad cross-section of zoologists and other interested in animals, the ISZS provides a unified voice for zoologists across the world while elevating zoology to the global stage. Our core business is the organization of the International Congress of Zoology every four years, publishing a multidisciplinary scientific journal Integrative Zoology, organizing International Symposia of Integrative Zoology in non-Congress years, and facilitating international research programs.

What is the IUBS?

The International Union of Biological Science (IUBS) is a non-governmental non-profit organization established in 1919. Its goals are to promote the study of biological sciences; to initiate, facilitate and coordinate research and other scientific activities necessitating international, interdisciplinary cooperation; to ensure the discussion and dissemination of the results of cooperative research, particularly in connection with IUBS scientific programs; and to support the organization of international conferences and assist in the publication of their reports.