



BULLETIN

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PATRONS

Mr Richard Edward Hale,
F.C.I.B.

Mr Tan Keong Choon,
B.B.M.

**30th COUNCIL OF THE
SINGAPORE INSTITUTE
OF BIOLOGY**

President

Assoc. Prof Shirley S. L. Lim

Vice-President

Assoc. Prof Lim Tit Meng

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Dr Darren Yeo

Ms Yong Ann Nee

Bulletin Editor

Dr Darren Yeo

A Message from the President of the 30th Council

Times flies and our society is celebrating her 30th Anniversary this year! I am pleased to inform members that we are celebrating the auspicious occasion with a big bang!! Other than our usual workshops for teachers and hectic organization and preparation of the Singapore Biology Olympiad, selection of shortlisted students to train for the International Biology Olympiad, we have planned a series of events for our Institute's anniversary.

The first important event is our "Biology in Asia International Conference" which is scheduled from 7th to 10th December 2004, so, do mark those dates in your calendar! We are proud to announce that our keynote speaker is none other than the world renowned Dr Jane Goodall. Our 30th Anniversary Dinner will be held on the 9th December in conjunction with the Conference Banquet. During this dinner, we shall be conferring upon deserving members, the Honorary Fellow, Fellow and Distinguished Biologist awards. Come join us to honour these "chosen ones"!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all outgoing Council members (i.e., 29th Council) for their contributions and hard work. New Council members are warmly welcomed into our working group – "these are exciting times.." quoted from my previous message in last year's first issue of the Bulletin, aptly describe the atmosphere of the tenure of this present Council. We look forward to another fruitful year of fulfilling our mission of promoting biology and biology education in Singapore.

Happy 30th Birthday SIBiol!!

Associate Professor Shirley Lim
President, 30th Council
The Singapore Institute of Biology

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003/2004

Date	Event	Venue
31 Oct 2003	4th Singapore Biology Olympiad Theory Test	NIE
12 Nov 2003	4th Singapore Biology Olympiad Practical Test	NIE Bio Labs
Mar–Jun 2004	Theory and practical training of representatives selected from the 4 th Singapore Biology Olympiad in preparation for 15 th International Biology Olympiad	NIE & NUS
23–24 Jun 2004	Life Science Workshop for Primary Science Teachers	NIE
26 Jun 2004	Introductory Bioinformatics Workshop for Teachers	NUS
11–18 Jul 2004	15th International Biology Olympiad	Brisbane, Australia
Oct 2004	30th Annual General Meeting	NUSS Guild House
7–10 Dec 2004	Biology in Asia International Conference, incorporating 5th Annual National Biology Convention-SIBiol 30th Anniversary Celebrations	NIE
9 Dec 2004	SIBiol 30th Anniversary Banquet-cum-Award Ceremony	To be confirmed

THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY 29TH COUNCIL, ANNUAL REPORT (2002/2003)

1. GENERAL REVIEW

The objectives of the Institute were actively promoted during the year as reflected by the activities organized by the Council. These are summarized below:

2. THE 29TH COUNCIL

The 29th Council held nine meetings during the year to carry out the business of the Institute. Members of the 29th Council of the Institute for the year 2002/2003 comprised the following officers:

President:	A/P Shirley Lim	
Vice-President:	A/P Lim Tit Meng	
Honorary Secretary:	Ms Tan Aik Ling	
Honorary Treasurer:	Ast/P Beverly Goh	
Council Members:	A/P He Jie (co-opted)	Ast/P Li Daiqin
	Ast/P Sanjay Swarup	Mr Jacques See
	Mr N. Sivasothi	A/P Benito Tan
	Ms Tan Lay Pheng (co-opted)	Dr Darren Yeo

3. MEMBERSHIP

Eleven new members (eight Ordinary Members, one Student Member, one Associate Member, and one Life Member) were admitted to the Institute during the year. They were:

<u>Student member</u>	<u>Ordinary Member</u>
Ms Alison Hunt	A/P Shoba Ranganathan
	Mrs Susan Kwan
<u>Life Member</u>	Dr Seow Teck Keong
Dr Chew Fook Tim	Mr Joshi Shashikant
	Dr Mok Yu Keung, Henry
<u>Associate Member</u>	Dr Low Boon Chuan
Mr Basil Loh	Mr Goh Tor Heng
	Ms Yong Ann Nee

Twenty members were deleted from the membership list. These members had either requested to cancel their membership or not paid their subscriptions for over three years. By-law 5(c) of the Constitution provides the clause that any member whose subscriptions is two years in arrears may by resolution of the Council be excluded from membership of the Institute after the Council has informed him/her of its intention to do so by letter. Some of these members were not contactable, having relocated without providing a forwarding address. The membership profile of SIBiol as of 30 September 2003 is as follows:

Honorary Fellow:	1	Fellows:	4
Ordinary Members:	107	Associate Member:	7
Student Members:	20	Life Members:	53
		TOTAL	192

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

4.1 “The Microbial World” Workshop

As there was overwhelming response to last year’s series of Project-based Biological Science Workshops, particularly for the workshop, “The Microbial World”, it was re-run in May 2003 for the benefit of those teachers who missed it the first time around. This workshop was attended by 51 participants who gave very good reviews of the quality of the workshop. The co-ordinator of this workshop was A/P He Jie and the resource persons for the workshop were: Ast/P Tham Foong Yee, Mr Timothy Tan, Ms Tan Lay Pheng and Ms Tan Aik Ling

Certificates of participation were issued to all the 51 teachers who attended the workshop. The co-organiser of the workshop was Nanyang Technological University (Natural Sciences).

4.2 Biodiversity Symposium

The Institute co-organised a symposium, “Biodiversity of Singapore – What’s up?” with Nature’s Niche Pte. Ltd and Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research (Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore) on 11 – 12 July 2003. This symposium was held in association with the launch of the new Chek Jawa guidebook as well as an award ceremony to Lady McNiece in recognition of her contribution to nature and conservation in Singapore.

The plenary speakers at the symposium were A/P Peter Ng (Research); Dr Leong Chee Chiew (Management); Prof Leo Tan (Education); Prof Chou Loke Ming (Conservation). A total of 250 people attended the 2-day symposium and listened to 30 speakers in all. The SIBiol members involved in the co-ordination of the symposium were Mr N. Sivasothi, Dr Darren Yeo and Mr Jacques See. Details of the workshop are available at this webpage: <http://rnbr.nus.edu.sg/biodiversitysymposium/>

4.3 3rd Singapore Biology Olympiad 2003 (SBO 2003) & 14th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2003)

The 3rd Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO) was held in October/November 2002. The theoretical test (Multiple Choice Questions) of the SBO was held on 26th October 2002 at NIE, NTU. The Practical test held on 20th November 2002 at DBS, NUS. Seven of the gold medal winners from the 3rd SBO were short listed for an interview by the SBO organising committee, followed by intensive training beginning in February 2003. After initial training (February to May 2003), the students were further short listed to the final team of four. They attended a residential training camp at NIE/NTU for training of the practical skills needed for the Practical tests in the IBO.

The Singapore team, comprising Ms Shirleen Soh, Mr Chew Guoliang, Mr Hong Enping and Mr Ho Jianghai, did well at the 14th IBO (Minsk, Belarus), securing one Gold and three Silvers; Singapore ranked 5th of 41 participating countries. The team was led by Dr Shirley Lim and Dr Beverly Goh (SIBiol representatives), together with Mr Goh Tor Heng (MOE representative).

The 4th SBO is scheduled in October-November 2003. A/P Lim Tit Meng is the Chairman of the SBO Organising Committee and the Committee comprises A/P Shirley Lim, Ast/P Beverly Goh and A/P He Jie. The theoretical test will be held on 31st October and short listed candidates will be sitting for the Practical test on 12th November 2003. Details of the Prize Presentation Ceremony will be finalised at a later date.

4.4 Creative Biology Contest

The 8th Creative Biology Contest was cancelled this year as only four entries were received.

4.5 4th Annual National Biology Convention

The Singapore Institute of Biology will be holding its 4th Annual National Biology Convention (ANBC), immediately after the SIBiol 29th AGM on Saturday 18th October 2003, at the NUSS Guild House at the National University of Singapore. The coordinators for the ANBC are A/P Benito Tan, Ms Tan Aik Ling and Mr Jacques See. Five invited speakers will be delivering talks on the following topics:

- *Development Biology of fish* by Dr Low Boon Chuan of DBS, NUS
- *Molecular Phylogeny of Licuala palms in Malaysia* by Dr Adrian Loo of DBS, NUS
- *Structural Biology* by Dr Seow Teck Keong of DBS, NUS
- *Use of Bioinformatics* by A/P Tan Tin Wee of Biochemistry, NUS
- *Pollution Ecology of Singapore coastal water* by Dr Sasi Nayar of TMSI, NUS

4.6 30th Anniversary Celebrations

4.6.1 Biology in Asia Congress

The 29th Council formed an organising committee to plan for a conference in 2004 to commemorate the Institute's 30th anniversary. The conference is scheduled on 29 November to 2 December 2004 [**Editor's note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the conference has since been re-scheduled for 7-10 Dec 2004**]. The members of the organising committee are:

Co-Chairpersons:	A/P Shirley Lim	A/P Lim Tit Meng	
Hon. Treasurer:	Ast/P Beverly Goh		
Hon. Secretary:	Dr Darren Yeo		
Members:	A/P Chia Tet Fatt	Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching	A/P Diong CH
	A/P He Jie	Ast/P Li Daiqin	Mr Jacques See
	Ast/P Sanjay Swarup	A/P Benito Tan	Ms Tan Aik Ling
	Ms Tan Lay Pheng		

Prof Richard Leakey, a renowned anthropologist, has consented to be the keynote speaker for the Congress [**Editor's note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the keynote speaker has since been changed to Dr Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist**]. The theme for the Congress, "*Biology in Asia*" encompasses three sub-themes with two co-chairpersons co-ordinating each session:

- *Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation in Asia*: A/P CH Diong and A/P Benito Tan
- *Biotechnology in Asia*: Ast/P Sanjay Swarup and A/P Chia Tet Fatt
- *Biology Education in Asia*: Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching and A/P Lim Tit Meng

4.6.2 30th Anniversary Dinner and conferment of Distinguished Biologist Award and Fellows of the SIBiol

The 30th Anniversary Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Congress Banquet during the "Biology in Asia" Congress in November/December 2004. During this dinner, a Distinguished Biologist Award will be given to a deserving biologist in Singapore and new Fellows of the Institute will be also honoured.

4.7 Publications

4.7.1 Singapore Institute of Biology Bulletin

Two issues of the Bulletin Volume 26 were published this year. The editorial board was headed by Dr Darren Yeo.

4.7.2 Singapore Institute of Biology Website

The Institute's website address is renamed after the change of website. The URL is <http://rmbn.nus.edu.sg/sibiol/>. The website was maintained by Mr N. Sivasothi.

4.8 Research Trust Fund

No new grants were awarded from the Research Trust Fund due to low interest accrued.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Institute gratefully acknowledges the support and contributions of the following persons and organizations (in alphabetical order) for its various activities during the year 2002/2003:

Dr G Agoramorthy (Research & Conservation, Wildlife Reserves of Singapore)
 Ms Airani Ramli (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Mr Alfredo Amiel P. Leonardia (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Anand Balan (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (Ministry of National Development)
 Dr Chan Woon Khiong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Cheong Kim Fatt (Ministry of Education)
 Mr William Chew (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Dr Chew Fook Tim (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Chew Shit Fun (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 A/P Chia Tet Fatt (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Prof Chou Loke Ming (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching (Ministry of Education)
 Mr Chua Whye Leng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Vilma D' Rozario (Nature Society, Singapore)
 Mrs Anne Dhanaraj (Singapore Science Centre)
 A/P CH Diong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Ms Ann Fong (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Dr Beverly Goh (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Ms Linda Goh (Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, National Parks Board)
 Mr Goh Si Guim (Nature Society, Singapore)
 Mr Goh Tor Heng (Ministry of Education)
 Mr Mohd Noor Haron (Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore)
 A/P He Jie (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Prof Hew Choy Leong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Ho Hua Chew (Nature Society, Singapore)
 Mr Ho Wah Chai (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Dr Hong Yunhan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Koh Li Ling (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mdm Kok Oi Yee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Ruth Kiew (Singapore Botanic Gardens, National Parks Board)
 Ms Lai Chiu Yun (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Prof Lam Toong Jin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Lin Meisi (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Mr Benjamin Lee (Central Nature Reserve Branch, National Parks Board)

Ms Cynthia Lee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Lee Wan She (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Grace Leng (Creative Kids)
 Mr Mobius Leng (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Dr Leong Chee Chiew (National Parks Board)
 Dr Li Daiqin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Liew Chye Fong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Shirley Lim (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr Lim Cheng Puay (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Kelvin Lim (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Lim Kim Seng (Nature Society Singapore)
 Mr Matthew Lim Lek Min (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Norman Lim (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Lim Tit Meng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Tyrone Lim (Singapore Zoological Gardens Docents)
 Mr Simon Longman (Arboriculture Division, National Parks Board)
 Dr Adrian Loo (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Loh Mun Seng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Low Boon Chuan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Jeffrey Low (National Parks Board)
 Dr Shawn Lum (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 A/P Lye Lin Heng, Irene (Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore)
 Lady Yuen-Peng McNeice
 Dr Henry Mok (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Sasi Nayar (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Ng Bee Choo (Nature's Niche)
 Ms Ng Ngan Kee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Peter Ng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Ong Bee Lian (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Ruth O'Riordan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Pan Shen Quan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Grant W. Pereira (Green Volunteers Network, Singapore Environment Council)
 Mdm Poon Chew Leng (Ministry of Education)
 A/P Prakash Kumar (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Qin Lin (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr Jagdish Ramakrishnan (Saatchi & Saatchi)
 Ms Uma Sachidhanandam (Singapore Environment Council)
 Mr Salim Bin Bidin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Sanjay Swarup (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Brandon Seah (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Ms Seah Wee Kee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Jacques See (Ability Driven Education Pte Ltd)
 Mr Seow Kah Ping (Physical Planning Division, Urban Redevelopment Authority)
 Mr Howard Shaw (Singapore Environment Council)
 Prof Shih Choon Fong (National University of Singapore)
 Ms Greasi Simon (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)

Ms Siti Alimah Bte Aliyas (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr N Sivasothi (Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Subaraj Rajathurai (Nature Society, Singapore)
 Ms Subha N (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Allan Tan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Tan Aik Ling (Ministry of Education)
 A/P Benito C Tan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Tan Beng Chiak (Raffles Girls Secondary School)
 Ms Cheryl Tan (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Mr Tan Heok Hui (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Jimmy Tan (Astro Scientific)
 Dr Tan Koh Siang (Tropical Marine Science Institute, NUS)
 Ms Tan Lay Pheng (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Prof Leo Tan (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 A/P Tan Tin Wee (Department of Biochemistry, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Tan Teck Koon (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Hugh Tan Tiang Wah (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Tommy Tan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Ria Tan (RMBR Honorary Museum Associate)
 Mr Tan Swee Hee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Tan Swee Kheng Linda (Raffles Museum Toddy Cats)
 Ms Angeline Tay (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Tay Hai Hwee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr Robert Teo (Pulau Ubin Branch, National Parks Board)
 Dr Tham Foong Yee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr Tong Shaw Wei (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Mr Tran Anh Duc (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Tun Phyu Phyu Karenne (Tropical Marine Science Institute, NUS)
 Ms Wang Luan Keng (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Ms Veronica Wong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Wong Sek Man (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Woo Hin Cheow (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Mr Yan Tie (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Astrid Yeo (Import & Export Division, Agri-food and Veterinary Authority)
 Dr Darren Yeo (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 A/P Yeo Hock Hin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Dr Yeong Foong May (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Dr Jean Yong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
 Ms Yong Ann Nee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
 Ms Zeehan Bte Jaafar (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Agri-food and Veterinary Authority
Asian Geographic
Creative Kids
Department of Biological Sciences, Science Faculty, National University of Singapore
Lee Foundation
National Parks Board
Nature's Society, Singapore
Natural Sciences, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
Ministry of Education, Singapore
Ministry of National Development, Singapore
Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore.
Singapore Environment Council
Singapore Science Centre
Singapore National Academy of Science
Swarovski Optik
Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore

Reported by: Ms Tan Aik Ling, Hon Secretary, 29th Council

Vetted by: A/P Shirley Lim, President, 29th Council

SIBiol member receives prestigious award

A/P Benito Tan, one of our SIBiol Council members, was chosen this year by the International Association of Bryologists (IAB), as the recipient of the prestigious “Richard Spruce Award” given to outstanding bryologist in research. The award was announced at the XV World Congress on Bryology held in Merida, Venezuela from Jan 12 to 18. A/P Tan is the fourth recipient of this award, and the very **first from Asia!** The award came with an invitation to give a special lecture at the next bryological world congress to be held in 2005 in Vienna of Austria simultaneous with the holding of the XVII International Botanical Congress.

BIOLOGY IN ASIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 7th to 10th December 2004 National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

The Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol), together with the National Institute of Education (NTU), and Department of Biological Sciences (NUS), is organising *Biology in Asia*, an international conference to be held from 7-10 Dec 2004. The conference, which marks the 30th anniversary of the SIBiol, will be held at NIE.

We are honoured to have as our Conference Keynote Speaker, the world-renowned primatologist, **Dr Jane Goodall** (Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation), who will be speaking on conservation of biodiversity, especially primates.

The conference covers a broad range of topics under three symposia:

- Biodiversity, Ecology & Conservation in Asia
- Biotechnology in Asia
- Biology Education in Asia

Plenary sessions in these symposia include the following eminent biologists from various biology fields:

Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation in Asia

- Dr Stuart Davies (Harvard University, USA)
- Dr Lucius Eldredge (Bishop Museum, Hawaii, USA)
- Dr Patrick Grootaert (Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium)
- Dr Peter Ng (NUS)
- Dr Pilai Poonswad (Mahidol Univ. Thailand)
- Dr Jan Slikkerveer (Leiden Univ, The Netherlands)

Biotechnology in Asia

- Dr Charles Arntzen (Arizona State Univ., USA)
- Dr Michael Horn (Prodigene, Inc.)
- Dr Maurice Moloney (Sembiosys Genetics, Inc.)

Biology Education in Asia

- Mr David Micklos (DNA Learning Center, Cold Springs Harbour Lab, USA)
- Prof Leo Tan (NIE/NTU)

SIBiol members are entitled to a discounted registration fee. For more information on the conference, and details on registration, and abstract submission, please refer to the following websites:

Biology in Asia International Conference
 website: www.dbs.nus.edu.sg/sibiolconference/

Conference Announcement:
www.dbs.nus.edu.sg/sibiolconference/2ndannouncement.pdf

SUMMARY OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

	Current A/C HSBC Bank & OCBC Bank (\$)	Fixed Deposit A/C OCBC Finance (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
BALANCE B/F: 1 OCT 2002	20716.57	20000.00	40716.57
ADD: Income	22582.94	0.00	22582.94
SUBTOTAL	43299.51	20000.00	63299.51
LESS: Expenditure	22443.64	0.00	22443.64
TOTAL	20855.87	20000.00	40855.87

Prepared by:

Dr Beverly Goh P.L.
Honorary Treasurer
29th Council, SIBiol

Audited by:

A/P Tan Teck Koon & A/P Prakash Kumar
Honorary Auditors

The above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 29th Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2003 at the Guild House, NUS.

Dr Shirley Lim S.L.
President, 29th Council, SIBiol

STATEMENT OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2003

INCOME	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
A. Membership dues		A. SIBiol Book prizes	
Existing members	455.00	NUS	200.00
New members	440.00	NIE/NTU	200.00
B. Activities		B. Publications	
Teachers' Workshops	10200.00	Bulletin (Sep 2002)	865.20
IBO/SBO (from MOE)	2209.84	Bulletin (June 2003)	988.00
C. Committed funds (from FY 2001/02)	9000.00	C. SNAS	
D. Fixed deposit interest	278.10	Subscription (2003)	200.00
		D. Activities	
		IBO/SBO	6477.12
		Biodiversity Symposium	1000.00
		Teachers' Workshops	6433.60
		E. Stationery, Consumables	2559.52
		F. Postage	516.60
		G. Functions (AGM/ANBC)	1153.60
		H. RTF auditing	350.00
		I. Income Tax	Nil
		J. Committed activities – 2004	
		IBO/SBO	1500.00
Total Income	22582.94	Total Expenditure	22443.64
Surplus (\$\$)			139.30

Prepared by:

Dr Beverly Goh P.L.
Honorary Treasurer
29th Council, SIBiol

Audited by:

A/P Tan Teck Koon & A/P Prakash Kumar
Honorary Auditors

The above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 29th Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2003 at the Guild House, NUS.

Dr Shirley Lim S.L.
President, 29th Council, SIBiol



The workshop begins with an introductory lecture to the microbial world at Lecture Theatre 2 in NIE



During the "hands-on" sessions at the Natural Sciences Laboratories (NIE), participants made close-up observations of microorganisms with the help of light microscopes.



Not all observations need to be made at the microscopic level only. Macroscopic observations such as studying various aspects of microbial colonies (e.g., density of colonies, colour, or growth form, etc.) is also useful, and can provide important diagnostic information.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary Members:

Dr Sarasa Balasubramanian
Ms Pui Cuifen

THE MICROBIAL WORLD

Life Science Workshop for Primary Science Teachers

2.30 – 5.30 pm, Wed, 23rd Jun 2004 &
9.30 am – 12.30 pm, Thurs, 24th Jun 2004

Natural Sciences Laboratories, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

Jointly organised by:

- The Singapore Institute of Biology
- Natural Sciences Academic Group, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

Due to the overwhelming response and success last year (pictures at left), the Life Science Workshop for Primary Science Teachers is being conducted once again. The Workshop will update participants on knowledge and skills related to life science teaching, and will also consist of hands-on activities that would motivate and enthuse students' interest in life science.

Demonstrations on how different simple organisms such as the bacteria, baker's yeast and bread mold, can be used in classes to introduce students to the world of microorganisms will be conducted. Participants will be instructed on the basic hands-on techniques useful for handling these microbes. These techniques will be incorporated into simple activities included in the 'Life Sciences Guidebook for Primary and Lower-Secondary Levels'.

The main instructor will be Assoc Prof Tham Foong Yee, who teaches undergraduate microbiology, plant pathology as well as introductory life science courses at the National Institute of Education and Nanyang Technological University. She is interested in many areas of biology and has also conducted courses in diversity of organisms, economic botany, food biotechnology and mycology. Her main area of research is in interactions (both mutualistic and parasitic) between micro-organisms and plants.

The fee per participant is \$200.00. The closing date for registration is **15 May 2004**. Due to limited number of seats, the selection of participants will be on a first-come-first-served basis, so register early to avoid disappointment.

For enquiries, please contact: **Asst Prof Li Daiqin (workshop coordinator), Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore**, Tel.: 6874-4372, Email: dbslidq@nus.edu.sg

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILLI CRAB BETTER - THE BIOINFORMATICS APPROACH

Introductory Bioinformatics Workshop for teachers

8.45 am – 1.00 pm, Saturday,
26th June 2004

Computer Lab 5, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore
Level 4, S1A Building, Science Drive 4, Singapore 117543

Jointly organised by:

- The Singapore Institute of Biology
- Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore

Bioinformatics is often regarded a dry topic. In this workshop, assuming no prior knowledge, we will be introducing participants step-by-step to some of the major concepts in bioinformatics using the Singapore favourite - "Chilli Crab" as an example. Participants will also be shown how to use the various bioinformatics resources to aid them in research and teaching this topic the fun way.

The main instructors will be Asst Prof Low Boon Chuan of the Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore (main research areas: Cell Signaling, Developmental Biology and Bioinformatics); and Ms Lim Yun Ping of the Bioinformatics Institute.

This workshop is open to secondary school teachers. Only 30 seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis, so register early to avoid disappointment.

Please register online at the SIBiol website: <http://rmbn.nus.edu.sg/sibiol/>

SIBIOL RESEARCH TRUST FUND - CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The SIBiol is inviting applications for Research Grants under the Institute's Research Trust Fund (RTF). The aim of the RTF grants is to support/facilitate research on local topics/questions in biology by SIBiol members. To date, the RTF has supported 30 research projects.

Applications are open to Ordinary members as well as Student members of the SIBiol. Student member applications must be in collaboration with an Ordinary member. Grants awarded are up to a maximum of S\$5,000.00, for a two- or three-year project. Grants are strictly meant to cover the cost of consumables or student assistance, and not for the purchase of equipment. Interested members should submit their Project Proposals in triplicate by **30th June 2004** to:

Dr Beverly Goh

Honorary Secretary, The Singapore Institute of Biology, c/o Natural Sciences Academic Group, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, 1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616

The Project Proposal should include the following:

- Objective(s)
- Background information
- Significance of the project
- Itemised estimated costs

List of projects supported by the SIBiol Research Trust Fund in the last 10 years

1. "Regeneration of injured tissue in *Acabaria* sp. (Gorgonacea, Octocorallia): An *in situ* experiment." (1994)
2. "Studies on photosynthetic responses to high solar radiation on high value crops." (1995)
3. "Studies on the biology and transmission of protozoan parasite blastosystis." (1995)
4. "Typification of Ridley's Malaysian species." (1996)
5. "Application of RAPD-PCR and RNA fingerprinting to estimate natural genetic variation in *Acacia Mangium*." (1996)
6. "Factors affecting hatch rates and sex ratios of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) eggs in natural and hatchery nests at Talang Talang Besar, Sarawak." (1997)
7. "Conservation needs of key Southeast Asian taxa." (1999)
8. "Experimental fragmentation and transplantation of the scleractinian coral *Goniopora* to study the relative effects of light, sedimentation and fragmentation on its reproductive cycle and fecundity." (2001)
9. "Using *in situ* mesocosms to study the effects of heavy metal and petroleum hydrocarbon loading on phytoplankton and bacterial dynamics." (2001)

THE 4th SINGAPORE BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD AND 15TH INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

The 4th Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO) was organized by the SIBiol in October/November 2003 at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University (NIE/NTU). The event, which attracted a total of 255 first year students from 11 junior colleges, consisted of two rounds of exhaustive tests that encompassed a wide range of biology topics. The Theory test conducted on 31 October 2003 involved a series of multiple choice questions and lasted for four hours. The top 32 students from the Theory test then advanced to the second round, the Practical Test. This was held on 12 November 2003, where participants spent another four hours being tested on their biology practical skills and know-how.

The results: six students were awarded gold medals; eight awarded silver medals; and 18 awarded bronze medals. The team trophy was won by Hwa Chong Junior College for the second year running.

Following a series of interviews with the SBO/IBO committee, seven students were short-listed from among the gold/silver medalists as potential representatives of Singapore at the 15th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) (11–18 July 2004, Brisbane, Australia). These seven students will undergo intensive training in preparation for the IBO. Regular training sessions have been underway since March 2004, conducted by biology academics at the Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, as well as the Natural Sciences Academic Group of NIE/NTU. This training phase will culminate in a residential practical training stint in June 2004 at NIE/NTU. In addition to providing valuable knowledge and skills for the students, the training phase helps foster their team spirit, and also allows the trainers to get better acquainted with the students. The group will finally be narrowed down to a team of four students to represent Singapore at the 15th IBO.



4th Singapore Biology Olympiad. Theory Test (top); Practical Test (bottom).