THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

BULLETIN

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F.C.I.B.

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B.B.M.

31st COUNCIL OF THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

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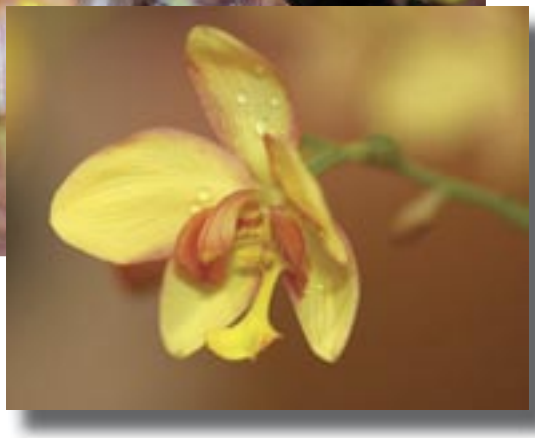


Dr Jane Goodall, keynote speaker of the Biology in Asia Conference with the orchid named in her honor, *Spathoglottis* Jane Goodall

A Message from the President of the 31st Council ……

We have just celebrated our 30th Anniversary in December 2004. This is the start of yet another exciting year for the Institute. To our new members, I extend a warm welcome to our society. To our existing members, I hope that you will all have fun and join in the activities that we have planned for you this Council year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all outgoing Council members (i.e., 30th Council) for their contributions and hard work. New Council members are warmly welcomed into our working group. The perseverance and dedication of the members of the Organizing Committee in putting together a highly successful International Conference las t year must be acknowledged and applauded; there is an article in this issue of the Bulletin that summarizes the key events of the conference.

I am pleased to announce that six SIBiol members have been honoured during our 30th Anniversary Celebrations last year. Congratulations to our new Honorary Fellow, Prof Leo Tan (Director, NIE and President, The Singapore National Academy of Sciences, FSIBiol) and to our four newly-appointed Fellows, Asoc Prof Tan Teck Koon (Dean of Students, Office of Student Affairs, NUS), Prof Lee Sing Kong (Dean, Graduate Programmes & Research, NIE), Assoc Prof C.H. Diong (Natural Sciences & Science Education, NIE) and Assoc Prof Yeoh Hock Hin (Department of Biological Sciences, NUS). In addition, Assoc Prof Peter Ng (Director, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Department of Biological Sciences, NUS) was given the Distinguished Biologist Award for outstanding research in biology. We look forward to the continued support of all our Fellows and Honorary Fellows in our Institute's activities.

The 31st Council looks forward to another fruitful year of fulfilling our mission of promoting biology and biology education in Singapore.

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

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary Members:
Ms Airani Ramli
Ms Chua Siew Chin
Mr Mark Corea
Dr Gen Hua Yue
Ms Jani Thuaibah Isa Tanzil
Mr Enoch Lau
Mr Law Hock Ling
Dr Peter Lee Peng Foo
Mr Lim Cheng Puay
Mr Lim Poh Yeong
Mr Michael Linich
Ms Low E-Wen
Ms Mary-Anne Pan
Ms Tan Beng Chiak
Dr Tan Lik Tong
Ms Dionne Teo Li-en
Dr Peter A. Todd
Mr Toh Jenn Peow
Mrs Wong-Ng Lee Gui
Ms Yang Shufen

Student Members:
Ms Magdeline Chew
Mr Hee Kim Hor
Mr Koh Teng Seah
Ms Mantazh Khanna
Ms Noorfaezah Binte Sadon
Ms Tan Ruijuan
Ms Tan Wee Kee

Associate Member:
Mr Haniman Boniran

THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY
30TH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT (2003/2004)

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 30TH COUNCIL

The 30th Council held seven meetings during the year to carry out the business of the Institute. Members of the 30th Council of the Institute for the year 2003/2004 comprised the following officers:

President:	A/P Shirley Lim
Vice-President:	A/P Lim Tit Meng
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Beverly Goh
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Timothy Tan

Council Members:

Dr Li Daiqin
Dr Low Boon Chuan
A/P Sanjay Swarup
Mr Jacques See
A/P Benito Tan
Dr Darren Yeo
Ms Yong Ann Nee (co-opted)

3. MEMBERSHIP

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

Ordinary Members
Dr Sarasa Balasubramanian
Ms Pui Cuifen
Ms Lee Su Li
Ms Rosiah Ahmad
Ms Lim Lian Ching
Mr Mohd Kamal M.S.

Student Members
Ms Seah Wee Khee
Ms Lee Wan-Jean
Ms Tay Yi Lin
Ms Lim Shimin Gwynne

Associate Member
Mr Pwee Kok Ann Timothy

Twenty-four 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 2004 is as follows:

Honorary Fellow:	1
Fellows:	4
Ordinary Members:	90
Associate Member:	8
Student Members:	20
Life Members:	56
TOTAL	**179**

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

4.1 "The Microbial World" Workshop

Based on the overwhelming response to the last few year's workshop on "The Microbial World", it was organised again from 23-24 June 2004, and targeted at Primary School teachers. This workshop was attended by 44 participants. The co-ordinator of this workshop was Asst/P Li Daiqin, and the resource persons for the workshop were: A/P Tham Foong Yee, Mr Timothy Tan and Dr Tan Lay Pheng.

Certificates of participation were issued to all the 44 teachers who attended the workshop. The co-organiser of the workshop was Nanyang Technological University (Natural Sciences, NIE).

Microbial World Workshop 2004

4.2 "Understanding your Chilli Crab Better – the Bioinformatics Approach" Workshop

A workshop was organised on bioinformatics for Secondary School teachers, and held on 26 June 2004. Eleven teachers took part in the workshop which was coordinated by Asst/P Low Boon Chuan. The resource person for the workshop was Ms Lim Yunping, and it was co-organised by the Department of Biological Sciences, NUS.

4.3 4th Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO 2003) & 15th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2004)

The 4th Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO) was held in October/November 2003. The theory tests (Multiple Choice Questions) of the SBO were held on 31st October 2003 at NIE, NTU. The Practical tests were held on 12th November 2003 at (Natural Sciences) NIE, NTU. A total of six students obtained gold medals, eight were awarded silver medals and 18 awarded bronze medals. Five gold medallists (one student declined to take part in the IBO) and four silver medallists from the 4th SBO were shortlisted for an interview by the SBO organising committee, after which seven were selected for training beginning in February 2004. After a residential training camp at NIE/NTU in practical skills conducted in June 2004, and a further series of gruelling tests (theory and practical), four students were finally selected to represent Singapore in the 15th IBO.

SBO October 2003

The Singapore team, comprising Mr Ng Weixin, Mr Brandon Seah Kwee Boon, Mr Lim Tse Yang and Miss Zhang Tianyi, performed extremely well at the 15th IBO (Brisbane, Australia), securing the Top Gold, Fourth Gold and two Silvers. With these outstanding results, Singapore ranked 2nd out of 40 participating countries. The team was led by Dr Lim Tit Meng and Dr Shirley Lim (SIBiol representatives), together with Dr Yap Ann Teck (MOE representative).

The 5th SBO is scheduled on November 2004. 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 tests will be held on 5th November and shortlisted candidates will sit for the Practical tests on 17th November 2004. The prizes for the SBOs are no longer presented a joint Science Olympiad Prize Presentation Ceremony, but decentralised and individual Junior Colleges to hold their own presentations.

4.4 Creative Biology Contest

This activity has been removed from the list of activities by the SIBiol, as more of the Institute's resources are now targeted at Singapore's annual participation at the International Biology Olympiads.

4.5 5th Annual National Biology Convention

The 5th Annual National Biology Convention (ANBC), has been postponed to the year 2005, as the Institute is organising an International Conference on "Biology in Asia" in December 2004.

4.6 30th Anniversary Celebrations

4.6.1 Biology in Asia International Conference

The "Biology in Asia" International Conference has been organised to com memorate the Institute's 30th anniversary. The Conference is scheduled from 7-10 December 2004, at NIE/NTU. The members of the organising committee are:

Co-Chairpersons :	A/P Shirley Lim	A/P Lim Tit Meng
Treasurer:	Dr Beverly Goh	
Secretary:	Dr Darren Yeo	
Members:	Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching	A/P Diong CH
	A/P He Jie	Mr Lee Siew Lin
	Dr Li Daiqin	Mr Jacques See
	A/P Sanjay Swarup	A/P Benito Tan
	Ms Tan Aik Ling	Dr Tan Lay Pheng
	Ms Yong Ann Nee	A/P Tham Foong Yee

The keynote address for the conference (conservation of biodiversity, especially the primates) will be delivered by Dr Jane Goodall of the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation.

The confirmed plenary speakers under the three sub-themes are:

Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation in Asia:

- Dr Patrick Grootaert (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium)
- Prof Dr Jan Slikkerveer (Leiden University, The Netherlands)
- Dr Lucius Eldredge (Bishop Museum, Hawaii USA)
- Dr Pilai Poonswad (Mahidol University, Thailand)
- Dr Stuart Davies (Harvard University, USA)
- Dr Peter Ng (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
- Prof. Roger Kitching (Griffiths University, Australia)

Biotechnology in Asia:

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

Biology Education in Asia:

- Mr David Micklos (DNA Learning Centre, Cold Spring Harbour Lab, USA)
- Prof Leo Tan (National Institute of Education, NTU Singapore)
- Mr Hans Morélis (Institute for Curriculum Development, The Netherlands)

The Guest of Honour for the opening ceremony of the Conference is Mr Thaman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Education, Singapore.

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" Conference, on 9th 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 27 were published this year. The editorial board was headed by Dr Darren Yeo.

4.7.2 Singapore Institute of Biology Website

The Institute has obtained its own website address and has outsourced website-hosting to a commercial service provider. The URL is http://www.sibiol.org.sg/. The website was maintained by Mr Timothy Tan and Ms Yong Ann Nee.

4.8 Research Trust Fund

A call for grant proposals for the SIBiol Research Trust Fund was made in April 2004. No grant applications were received.

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 2003/2004:

Mrs Ang Swee Eng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Chan Woon Khiong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
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)
Mr Chong Ping Lee (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 CH Diong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Ge Ruowen (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr Beverly Goh (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms Goh Poh Moi (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr Goh Tor Heng (Ministry of Education)
A/P He Jie (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Prof Hew Choy Leong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Ho Shuit Hung (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr Ho Wah Chai (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Hong Yunhan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Prof Alex Ip (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Prof Lam Toong Jin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr Lee Siew-Lin (Ministry of Education)
Mr Mobius Leng (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Leung Ka Yin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
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)
A/P Lim Tit Meng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms Lim Yunping (Bioinformatics Institute, A*STAR)
Mr Loh Mun Seng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr Low Boon Chuan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr Shawn Lum (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Dr Henry Mok (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms Ng Bee Choo (Nature's Niche)
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)
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)
A/P Sanjay Swarup (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr Jacques See (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms Siti Alimah Bte Aliyas (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms Subha N (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr 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)
Mr Jimmy Tan (Astro Scientific)
Dr Tan Lay Pheng (Republic Polytechnic)
Prof Leo Tan (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms Tan Lu Yee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
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 Tay Hai Hwee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Tham Foong Yee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr Tong Shaw Wei (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms Veronica Wong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Wong Sek Man (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr Yan Tie (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr Yap Ann Teck (Ministry of Education)
Dr Darren Yeo (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Yeo Hock Hin (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms Yong Ann Nee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Department of Biological Sciences, Science Faculty, National University of Singapore
Natural Sciences, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
Ministry of Education, Singapore
Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore.
Singapore National Academy of Science

Recorded by Dr Beverly Goh, Hon Secretary, 30th Council
Vetted by A/P Shirley Lim, President, 30th Council

THE 5th SINGAPORE BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD AND 16TH INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

The 5th Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO) Theory and Practical tests, organized by the SIBiol, were held in November 2004 at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University (NIE/NTU). A total of six gold medals, 12 silver medals and 16 bronze medals were awarded; and the SBO trophy was won by Hwa Chong Junior College for the third consecutive year.

A total of 10 students were selected for interviews, from which eight were shortlisted for training for this year's 16th International Biology Olympiad (IBO)(10-18 July 2005, Beijing). As before, regular training will be conducted by biology academics from the Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, as well as the Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group of NIE/NTU. This will be from March 2005 to June 2005. Four students will ultimately be selected to represent Singapore at the 16th IBO.

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (SIBIOL)

SUMMARY OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND MOVEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

	Current A/C OCBC Bank	Fixed Deposit A/C OCBC Bank	TOTAL
	$	$	$
BALANCE B/F 1 OCT 2003	20,855.87	20,000.00	40,855.87
ADD: Income	15,957.15	Nil	15,957.15
SUBTOTAL	36,813.02	20,000.00	56,813.02
LESS: Expenditure	16,673.66	Nil	16,673.66
TOTAL	20,139.36	20,000.00	40,139.36

Prepared by:

Mr Timothy Tan T. M.
Honorary Treasurer
30th Council, SIBiol.

Audited by:

(1) A/P He Jie
Honorary Auditor
Date

(2) A/P Chia Tet Fatt
Honorary Auditor
Date

The above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 30th Annual General Meeting held on 23 October 2004 at the Guild House, NUSS.

A/P Shirley Lim S. L.
President, 30th Council, SIBiol.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

INCOME	$	EXPENDITURE	$
A. Membership Dues		A. SIBiol Book Prize	
Existing Members	3,165.00	NIE/NTU	200.00
New Members	250.00		
		B. Publications	
B. Activities		Bulletin (Oct 2003)	624.00
Teachers' Workshops	9,700.00	Bulletin (Apr 2004)	630.00
IBO/SBO (from MOE)	1,211.79		
		C. SNAS	
C. Committed Funds	1,500.00	Subscription (2003/04)	500.00
(from FY 2002/03)		Subscription (2004/05)	500.00
D. Interest from Fixed-Deposits	130.36	D. Activities	
		IBO/SBO	2,619.90
		Teachers' Workshops	2,353.77
		Biology in Asia Conference	5,369.50
		E. Stationery, Consumables	1,831.94
		F. Postage	604.55
		G. Functions (AGM/ANBC)	1,040.00
		H. RTF Audit & Bank Charges	400.00
		I. Income Tax	Nil
Total Income	**15,957.15**	**Total Expenditure**	**16,673.66**
Deficit (S$)			**716.51**

Prepared by:

Mr Timothy Tan T. M.
Honorary Treasurer
30th Council, SIBiol.

Audited by:

(1) A/P He Jie
Honorary Auditor
Date

(2) A/P Chia Tet Fatt
Honorary Auditor
Date

above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 30th Annual General Meeting held on 23 October 2004 at the Guild se, NUSS.

Report on the *Biology in Asia International Conference*, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, 7th-10th Dec 2004

Biology in Asia, a highly successful and well-attended international conference was held at the National Institute of Education (NIE) from 7th to 10th December 2004. The name of the conference combined two key words synonymous with rapid growth: *Biology* as a discipline in science that has ushered us into the brave new world of life sciences; and *Asia* as a geographical zone of many nations that are fast developing both economically as well as academically. The conference's aim was to capture the upbeat mood and aspirations of biologists involved in research, education and industries.

With support from the Ministry of Education, the conference was jointly organized by the Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol) in collaboration with the NIE and the National University of Singapore (NUS) to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the SIBiol. A total of 271 participants from 29 countries participated in three symposia: "*Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation in Asia*"; "*Biotechnology in Asia*"; and "*Biology Education in Asia*". The three symposia encompassed a diversity of sub-themes including such "hot" topics as conservation biology, evolutionary biology, indigenous biotechnology, agri-based & natural products biotechnology, changing paradigms in biology education, and lifelong learning in biology education. These attracted participants from distant and exotic countries such as Sweden, the Netherlands, Yemen, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, among others.

After officiating at the opening ceremony, guest-of-honour, Education Minister, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, attended the Conference Keynote Address delivered by Dr Jane Goodall from the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation. The distinguished and legendary keynote speaker also spent an afternoon meeting teachers and students to inspire them to participate in "Roots and Shoots", an international programme of the JGI that plans and implements service-learning projects promoting care and

concern for animals. Adding further prestige to the conference, were thirteen world-renowned scientists and educators from the United States, Belgium, Australia, The Netherlands, Canada, Thailand and Singapore, who presented plenary talks in the three symposia.

At the Conference Banquet-cum-30th Anniversary Dinner, Prof Leo Tan (Director, NIE and President, The Singapore National Academy of Sciences, FSIBiol) was made an Honorary Fellow of SIBiol for actively promoting biology and biology education in Singapore. Four stalwart SIBiol members, namely Assoc Prof Tan Teck Koon (Dean of Students, Office of Student Affairs, NUS), Prof Lee Sing Kong (Dean, Graduate Programmes & Research, NIE), Assoc Prof C.H. Diong (Natural Sciences & Science Education, NIE) and Assoc Prof Yeoh Hock Hin (Department of Biological Sciences, NUS), were made Fellows of the Institute in recognition of their contributions to SIBiol. Assoc Prof Peter Ng (Director, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Department of Biological Sciences, NUS) was the recipient of the Distinguished Biologist Award for outstanding research in biology.

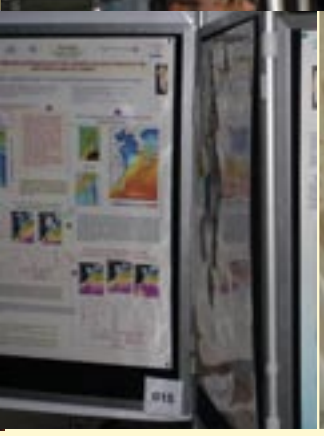
The conference not only served as a timely occasion for networking and exchange of views among local and international biologists and biology educators, but for the many biology students who attended, it also provided an excellent opportunity for conference exposure and a rare chance to rub shoulders with some of big names in the world of biology!

More details on the conference are available at http://www.sibiol.org.sg

Biology in Asia
International Conference
7 - 10 December 2004
Guest-of-Honour, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education
Venue: LT 1, National Institute of Education, NTU
http://www.sibiol.org.sg/
NIE
NUS

Biology in Asia
International Conference
NUS

Avifauna in an Urban
Coastal Landscape
(Paranaque, Philippines)
Irene Arboleda, Roland Reyes
& Ace Sapinoso



International Conference

Biology in Asia

SIBiol Research Trust Fund – Supported projects from latest round of applications

Project proposals submitted to the SIBiol Council following the latest call for proposals for research grants under the SIBiol Research Trust Fund (RTF) [see *SIBiol Bulletin* 27(2), Oct 2004; SIBiol website http://www.sibiol.org.sg/] were reviewed by at least three external reviewers as well as an internal review sub-committee. As a result, the following two projects have been selected for support by the RTF:

Biomedical potentials of marine fouling sponges collected from Singapore waters
Tan Lik Tong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)

Abstract. **-** The broad objective of the research proposal is to discover and identify new potential therapeutic agents as drug leads from local marine fouling sponges. This will be achieved through the biological screening of sponge-derived extracts in two therapeutic areas, anticancer and anti-infective (quorum sensing blockers). Two in-house bioassay systems, the brine-shrimp toxicity and the quorum sensing (based on mutant form of Chromabacterium violaceum CV 026) assays, will be employed in the screening effort. Various chromatographic techniques (e.g. VLC, HPLC) will be used to isolate and purify the bioactive secondary metabolites. The structure elucidation of these molecules will be achieved through extensive 1D and 2D NMR experiments. Results from this project will form good basis for research on other local marine organisms, such as macroalgae, microalgae, tunicates, bryozoans, and gorgonians. Data from the project will also stimulate further interdisciplinary research and collaborations, especially in marine chemical ecology and pharmaceutical sciences. Due to the dearth of research on marine natural products in Singapore, the current project represents another exciting area in marine biotechnology.

The Brachyura fauna of Singapore: a comprehensive study of the diversity of Singapore crabs (Crustacea: Decapoda)
Darren Yeo (Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)

Abstract. **–** Studies of the rich crab (Brachyura) fauna of Singapore (>300 species) are still in the exploratory/discovery phase as seen from recent new discoveries. Previous reports of Singapore crabs are in scattered (and sometimes obscure) publications over more than one hundred years, with many now outdated or erroneous in light of recent advances in systematics and taxonomy and reinterpretations of taxa . Furthermore, there is no comprehensive identification guide to the crabs of Singapore. These present a problem for local ecologists, conservation biologists and management officials, who refer to crabs as bioindicators of ecosystem health; and for teachers, students and members of the public, who's increasing awareness of and enthusiasm for local biodiversity such as crabs has not yet been matched by availability of comprehensive user-friendly identification materials. The present project therefore aims to produce an updated species checklist and user-friendly identification key/guide to Singapore's brachyuran fauna. The project will involve exploration of various coastal, marine and freshwater habitats in Singapore in order to survey and document the crab fauna. Together with identification and analytical studies of crab species, there will also be archiving work carried out, in which all relevant published works reporting crabs from Singapore as well as colour images of crabs will be consolidated to serve as a comprehensive information resource for future educational and scientific endeavours. Voucher specimens will be deposited in the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, and checklists and keys eventually made available to all users in various forms of print and possibly electronic media.

Members-Get-Together SIBiol Lunch
Saturday July 2, 2005

SIBiol members will be invited to a buffet (International menu) lunch. This will be a great time to catch up with friends as well as getting to know new members. We look forward to seeing you at the lunch buffet!

Date and Time: July 2, 2005, Saturday @ 12pm
Venue: Heritage Nonya Resturant @ Omni Theatre, 21 Jurong Town Hall Road

RSVP forms will be sent out soon.