THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

SIBiol BULLETIN

Volume 34 Number 1 June 2011 MICA (P) 259/03/2011

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SIBiol Public Forum 2011 - International Year of the Forest

PATRONS

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

Mr Tan Keong Choon, B.B.M.

37th COUNCIL OF THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

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Dr Beverly Goh

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Mr Timothy Tan
Dr Darren Yeo
Ms Yong Ann Nee

Editorial Team
Dr Darren Yeo (Editor)
Ms Yong Ann Nee (Layout)

www.sibiol.org.sg

Message from the President of the 33rd SIBiol Council

Dear Member of the SIBiol,

During SIBiol's 35th Anniversary Celebration Dinner in October 2009, I spoke of the idea of succession planning by founding members of the society, that ensured SIBiol's tradition of Biology-promoting activities were fulfilled, while still allowing the Society to evolve. We have indeed evolved, from organising school-based biology competitions, to the Annual National Biology Convention, hosting the annual Singapore Biology Olympiads since its inception in 2000, and in 2012, hosting the International Biology Olympiads together with the Ministry of Education, and our partners from various educational institutions. Beyond these developments and achievements, SIBiol continues to evolve, and strives to uphold the objectives within its Constitution.

This year, the 37th Council of SIBiol is excited to announce the launch of the first Asian Youth Journal of Biology (AYJB), an e-journal targeted at promoting Science literacy among budding biologists and their mentors. In collaboration with the Science Centre Singapore, this initiative will present opportunities to publish, for the many secondary and college-level students who conduct research within science enrichment programmes with Universities. It will also be an avenue for Biology school teachers to share expertise on teaching and mentoring students in Biology. We hope that members of SIBiol will contribute to the AYJB, and support our various other activities, to enable the Society to continue to evolve and be relevant in the ever changing world of Biology.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Beverly Goh
President, 37th Council, SIBiol

Editor's Note

The SIBiol Bulletin is going paperless. From this issue onwards, SIBiol is ending regular production and distribution of hard copies of the SIBiol Bulletin. Instead, members will now receive a soft copy (PDF) of the bulletin via email. With this small gesture, we hope to achieve three objectives: 1) to contribute, in a small way, to environmental sustainability by saving on paper, envelopes, and printing; 2) to better reach out and maintain contact with society members in a more direct and personal way, i.e. through the emailing of the bulletin from the SIBiol Council straight to members; and 3) to modernise the bulletin, allowing it to better relate with the younger and increasingly tech savvy students and biologists.

Based on past feedback from members, we feel that this change to an electronic bulletin is both a timely and eco-friendly decision. However, we understand if some might wish to still have a hard copy of the bulletin, and invite interested members to write to us at bulletin@sibiol.org.sg to indicate their preference to continue receiving hard copies. We would also welcome any further feedback or comments from members on this matter.

Thanks to those who have contributed in towards the production of issue, especially to Yong Ann Nee for helping with the design and layout.
Darren Yeo

THE SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY

36th COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT (2009/2010)

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 36th COUNCIL

The 36th Council held eight meetings during the year to carry out the business of the Institute. Members of the 36th Council of the Institute for the year 2009/2010 comprised the following Officers:

President: Dr. Beverly Goh
Vice-President: A/P Low Boon Chuan
Past President: A/P Lim Tit Meng
Honorary Secretary: Ms. Karenne Tun
Honorary Treasurer: Dr. Ng Ngan Kee
Council Members: Dr. Adrian Elangovan
Mr. Goh Yan Yih
A/P Koh Chong Lek
Dr. Benito Tan
Dr. Tan Lik Tong
Mr. Timothy Tan
Ms. Yong Ann Nee

3. MEMBERSHIP

Seven new members (3 Ordinary Members, 3 Life Members, and 1 Student Member) were admitted to the Institute during the year:

3.1. Ordinary Members	Mr. Sunny Ho Yong Hou
	Ms. Dawn Tan Siew Hong
	Prof. Wong Sek Man
3.2. Life Members	Dr. Melissa Jane Fullwood
	Ms. Hon Sook Mei
	Mr. See Boon Thiam
3.3. Student Member	Mr. Toh Tai Chong

One member was deleted from the membership list. The member has not paid subscription over three years and does not have an active address in Singapore. By-law 5(c) of the Constitution provides the clause that any member whose subscription 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 September 30, 2010 is as follows:

Patrons:	2
Honorary Fellows:	3
Fellows: 6	
Ordinary Members:	67
Associate Members:	7
Student Members:	18
Life Members:	71
TOTAL	174

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

4.1. "SIBiol Teachers' Workshop" at DBS, NUS (14th and 21st August 2010)

SIBiol organized a workshop entitled "SIBiol Teachers' Workshop – The International Biology Olympiad, A Workshop on How to Prepare Your Students" on 14th and 21st August 2010. It was jointly sponsored by MOE and SIBiol. The workshop was coordinated by A/P Koh Chong Lek. Fourteen places were booked by 9 schools/JCs and a total of 16 teachers attended the various sessions, held at Belayar Creek and DBS, NUS.

The various sessions were conducted by the following instructors:

14th Aug 2010 (Sat):	Dr. Goh Beverly [*Ecology Field Trip: Intertidal Ecology at Belayar Creek*]
	Dr. Goh Beverly [*Field Ecology: Data Analysis]*
	Dr. Ng Ngan Kee, Dr. Benito Tan [*Plant and Animal Systematics*]
21st Aug 2010 (Sat):	A/P Koh Chong Lek, Dr. Sam Choon Kook, Mr. Tan Ter Ming Timothy [*Microscopy Skills, Mitosis, Meiosis, Genetics (Drosophila flies), Serial Dilution]*
	A/P Koh Chong Lek, Mr. Allan Tan [*Restriction Endonuclease Digestions of Plasmids and Agarose Gel Electrophoresis*]

4.2. SIBiol Public Forum at Science Centre Singapore (October 30th, 2010)

This year's Public Forum was organized by SIBiol to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010. It was jointly organized by SIBiol and the Science Centre Singapore on Saturday 30 October 2010, 10am-12 noon, and just prior to the 36th AGM. About 90 enthusiasts have registered to attend the event, which will be chaired by Dr. Adrian Elangovan.

Two talks – one on flora and one on fauna – will be presented by the following speakers at the Forum:

1. "The Lessons Learned from the Study of Plant Biodiversity: the Case of Bryophytes (Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts)"
   Dr. Benito C. Tan
   Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore

2. "Freshwater Animal Diversity in Singapore"
   Dr. Darren Yeo
   Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore

4.3. The 10th and 11th Singapore Biology Olympiads (SBO 2009 and 2010) & the 21st International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2010)

The 10th Singapore Biology Olympiad was held in November 2009 at NIE, NTU. A total of 342 students from 22 JCs and through-train schools sat for the Theory Test on November 10, 2009. A total of 35 students were selected

for the Practical Test held on December 2, 2009. The final medal tallies were 2 Golds, 2 Silvers, 10 Bronzes, and 21 Certificates of Merit.

A total of seven students were shortlisted for the IBO 2010 training in February 2010 in preparation for the 21st IBO in Changwon, Korea, and six students (four boys and two girls) accepted to attend the training. The training consisted of intensive theory and practical sessions conducted from March to May 2010 by various lecturers from NUS and NIE/NTU, ending with a stay-in residential training camp in May 2010 at NIE/NTU. Four students were finally selected to represent Singapore in the 21st IBO held in Changwon, Korea, 10-17 July 2010.

The IBO 2010 team for this year returned home from the 21st International Biology Olympiad in Korea with 1 Gold [Daniel Lim Yan Zheng – ACS(I)] and 3 Silver [Yong Xian Bin – HCI, Zeng Tian Chen – RI (JC) & Kylie Goh Jin Ying – NUSH] medals. A total of 233 students from 58 countries participated in IBO2010, and Singapore was ranked 9th overall. Although the results were not the best that was expected, the entire team was proud that the students had done their best amidst the ever-increasing competitiveness in this event.

The 11th SBO is scheduled for November/December 2010 at NUS, with the theory test on 6th November 2010 and the practical test on 8th December 2010. Dr. Beverly Goh and A/P Low Boon Chuan are co-chairpersons for this year's SBO. The organising committee also comprises Dr. Sam Choon Kook, Dr. Koh Chong Lek, Dr. Ng Ngan Kee, Dr. Darren Yeo, Dr. Peter Lee and Ms. Wang Siew Ping.

4.4.The 23rd International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2012), Singapore

Singapore has been selected to host the 23rd IBO in 2012 (IBO 2012), and SIBiol is proud to take the lead in co-organising this event together with the Ministry of Education.

A/P Lim Tit Meng and A/P Shirley Lim are co-chairs for the IBO 2012 organising committee. The organising committee (comprising the scientific and logistics sub-committees) is being formed, drawing on academics from the Department of Biological Sciences, NUS, and Natural Sciences & Science Education AG, NIE/NTU.

Since the scientific committee members of the IBO 2012 are in the process of being invited and formalised, the annual training committee for the Singapore Biology Olympiad leading up to the annual IBO will be a separate group. The training committee is chaired by Dr. Beverly Goh and currently comprises the following members: Dr. Sam Choon Kook, Dr. Koh Chong Lek, Dr. Ng Ngan Kee, Dr. Darren Yeo, Dr. Peter Lee and Ms. Wang Siew Ping.

4.5. IUBMB 2011 Conference

SIBiol is supporting the IUBMB Conference in October 2011 in Singapore, and A/P Lim Tit Meng sits in the working committee which comprises members from several biology-related societies in Singapore. The secretariat function is by an external vendor. SIBiol will help in publicity, seeking sponsorship and also chairing of some sessions where applicable.

4.6. Biennial Conference of the Asian Association for Biology Education (AABE)

SIBiol was the one of the co-organisers of the AABE Biennial Conference, which was held from 18th – 20th October 2010 at NIE/NTU. A/P CH Diong (Fellow, SIBiol) is the current chair of the AABE, which rotates every two years. The Conference was co-chaired by A/P CH Diong and Dr. Kim

Mijung, and SIBiol was represented in the Organising Committee by Dr. Beverly Goh, while A/P Lim Tit Meng served in the Advisory Committee.

4.7. Publications and Website

One issue of the SIBiol Bulletin (Volume 33) was published, and will be distributed to members later this year. The editorial team comprised Mr. Timothy Tan and Ms. Yong Ann Nee. The Institute maintains its own website address with an outsourced website-hosting to a commercial service provider. In June 2010, the website hosting contract was renewed with a substantially larger, yet significantly cheaper hosting plan. Work is in progress to upgrade and revamp the SIBiol website. The URL is http://www.sibiol.org.sg/ and was maintained by Mr. Timothy Tan and Ms. Yong Ann Nee.

4.8. Asian Youth Journal of Biology (AYJB)

To expand SIBiol's role in the dissemination of knowledge and to enhance its service to members, the 36th SIBiol Council, in collaboration with the Science Centre Singapore, has initiated a plan to establish an online journal called The Asian Youth Journal of Biology (AYJB).

AYJB will be an official journal of The Singapore Institute of Biology and a free online journal to be published twice yearly. This e-journal, to be published within the next year, will serve as a platform for the publication of peer-reviewed original articles in the area of biology by young scientists aged 14 to 20. The main objective of AYJB is to increase scientific literacy amongst budding young scientists.

In addition to original articles, AYJB will publish review articles and book reviews written by students as well as professional scientists. Each issue will feature a section called "Classroom Sharing" where students and teachers can share their ideas on certain experimental techniques. This section could also profile research centres at the schools.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Institute gratefully acknowledges the support and contributions of the following persons and organizations (in alphabetical order) to its various activities during the year 2009/2010:
Ms. P Amuthavali (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Chew Fook Tim (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Chew Shit Fun (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Chong Ping Lee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Prof. Chou Loke Ming (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Chua Ling Lih (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P CH Diong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms. Dong Yang Zi (SIBiol IBO Alumni)
Dr. Adrian Elangovan (Singapore Polytechnic)
Dr. Beverly Goh (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Goh Yan Yih (ACS Independent)
A/P He Jie (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Ho Wah Chai (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Prof. Alex Ip (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Kho Choon Joo (Head of School, School of Life and Physical Sciences, PSB Academy)
A/P Koh Chong Lek (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Prof. Prakash Kumar (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Peter Lee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms. Michelle Lee Swee Ling ((National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Mobius Leng (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Shirley Lim (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Lim Tit Meng (Science Centre Singapore and Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Liou Yih-Cherng (Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Loh Chiang Shiong (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Low Boon Chuan (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mdm. Low Khah Gek (Ministry of Education)
Mr. Bob Koh (Ministry of Education)

Mr. Low Jone Kuen Elvin (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Dr. Shawn Lum (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Prof. Paul Matsudaira (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Rudolf Meier (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Prof. Brent Mishler (Professor of Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, USA
A/P Henry Mok (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Prof. Peter Ng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Ng Ngan Kee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Ong Bee Lian (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Sam Choon Kook (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Mahmud Bin Suntari (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr. Safuan Bin Jasmawi (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Sanjay Swarup (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Myron Shekelle (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Siti Alimah Bte Aliyas (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms. Soh Siew Eng, Sally (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Kathy Su Feng-Yi (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Subha N (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr. Timothy Tan (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Allan Tan Jee Hian (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
A/P Benito Tan (Singapore Botanic Gardens)
Dr. Tan Lik Tong (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms. Tan Lu Wee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Joanne Tan Sze Wei (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
A/P Hugh Tan Tiang Wah (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr. Teo Lu Hee, Stratford (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Andrew Tham (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr. Teo Shiyi (SIBiol IBO Alumni)
A/P Tham Foong Yee (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Toh Nguk Hwee, David (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Mr. Tong Shaw Wei (National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University)
Ms. Karenne Tun (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Wang Siew Ping (Ministryof Education)
Prof. Wong Sek Man (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Wong Wai Peng (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Mr. Yan Tie (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Dr. Darren Yeo (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ms. Yong Ann Nee (Dept of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore)
Ministry of Education, Singapore
National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
National Parks Board, Singapore
Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore
Natural Sciences & Science Education, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University
Science Centre Singapore
Singapore Botanic Gardens
Singapore National Academy of Sciences

Recorded by Miss Karenne Tun, Honorary Secretary, 36th SIBiol Council
Vetted by Dr. Beverly Goh, President, 36th SIBiol Council

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (SIBIOL)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30 OCTOBER 2010
SINGAPORE SCIENCE CENTRE

(I) SUMMARY OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND MOVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

(II) STATEMENT OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (SIBIOL)

SUMMARY OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND MOVEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

	Current A/C OCBC	Fixed Deposit A/C OCBC Bank	TOTAL
	$	$	$
BALANCE B/F: 1 OCT 2009	14,057.36	20,000.00	34,057.36
ADD: Income	38,645.03	Nil	38,645.03
SUBTOTAL	52,702.39	20,000.00	72,702.39
LESS: Expenditure	37,481.74	Nil	37,481.74
TOTAL	**15,220.65**	**20,000.00**	**35,220.65**

Prepared by:

Dr Ng Ngan Kee
Honorary Treasurer
36th Council, SIBiol.

Audited by:

(1) _____ 29/10/10
Dr. Kho Choon Joo — Date
Honorary Auditor

(2) _____ 28/10/2010
Dr. Peter Lee Peng Foo — Date
Honorary Auditor

The above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 36th Annual General Meeting held on 30 October 2010 at the Singapore Science Centre.

Assist. Prof. Beverly Goh
President, 36th Council, SIBiol.

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (SIBIOL)

STATEMENT OF GENERAL ACCOUNT FUND: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

INCOME	$	EXPENDITURE	$
A. Membership Dues		A. SIBiol Book Prizes	400.00
Existing Members	150.00		
New Members	450.00	B. Publications	
		Bulletin (Oct'09)	963.00
B. Activities			
Teachers' Workshop	5,600.00	C. Activities	
35th Anniversary Dinner	350.00	IBO/SBO	12,236.89
		Teachers' Workshop	5,962.20
C. Committed Funds for FY2009/2010 (35th Anniv. Dinner, Teachers' Workshop 2010, IBO2010)	22,000		
		D. Functions	
D. Banking		35th Anniversary Dinner	5,697.65
Interest from Fixed-Deposits	95.03		
		E. RTF Audit	550.00
E. MOE Funding			
IBO training	10,000	F. SIBIOL Website & Domain	672.00
		G. SNAS subscription	1000.00
		H. Committed Funds for FY2010/2011 (Teachers' Workshop 2011, IBO2011)	10,000.00
Total Income	**$38,645.03**	**Total Expenditure**	**$37,481.74**
Surplus (S$)			**$1,163.29**

Prepared by:

Dr Ng Ngan Kee
Honorary Treasurer
36th Council, SIBiol.

Audited by:

(1) _____ 29/10/10
Dr. Kho Choon Joo — Date
Honorary Auditor

(2) _____ 28/10/2010
Dr. Peter Lee Peng Foo — Date
Honorary Auditor

The above statement was adopted at the SIBiol 36th Annual General Meeting held on 30 October 2010 at the Singapore Science Centre.

Assist. Prof. Bevely Goh
President, 36th Council, SIBiol.

The 11th Singapore Biology Olympiad and 22nd International Biology Olympiad preparations

The cream of 20 junior colleges and through-train programme schools participated in the 11th Singapore Biology Olympiad (SBO 2010). In total, 352 students sat for the Theory test round on 6th November 2010 held at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Thirty-eight students from six junior colleges scored well enough in the theory round to advance to the Practical test round, which was held in the laboratories of the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS), NUS, on 8th December 2010. The final result saw eight gold, seven silver, and seven bronze medals, and 16 Certificates of Merit being awarded to the students.

Of these, eight students were shortlisted to undergo four months (March–June) of training under various staff from the Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group (NIE/NTU), and DBS, NUS.

Four of the eight trainees will ultimately be selected to represent Singapore at the 22nd International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2011) in Taiwan in July 2011, and we wish them all the best of luck! Ultimately, we hope that they and all the other students involved benefit from their experience and involvement with the SBO.

NEWS FLASH: Congratulations! Team Singapore@IBO 2011

Congratulations to the Singapore International Biology Olympiad (IBO) team, which scored three Gold medals and one Silver medal at the 22nd IBO held in Taiwan from 10–17 July 2011. The excellent individual performances by team members, Hong Xinyuan (NUS High School), Jin Chentian (Raffles Institution), Javan Lee Tze Han (Hwa Chong Instituion), and Sia Zhen Wei Michael (Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)), helped Singapore to achieve a very admirable overall ranking of fourth out of 58 participating countries. Kudos also to all the trainers, support staff, facilitators, and IBO alumni who helped prepare the team and now share in its success!

SIBiol Teachers' Workshop at Department of Biological Sciences (DBS), National University of Singapore (NUS), 14th and 21st August 2010

SIBiol organized a workshop entitled "SIBiol Teachers' Workshop – The International Biology Olympiad, A Workshop on How to Prepare Your Students", on 14th and 21st August 2010. It was jointly sponsored by MOE and SIBiol. The workshop was coordinated by A/P Koh Chong Lek. Fourteen places were booked by nine schools/JCs [i.e., Anderson Junior College, Anglo Chinese School (Independent), Hwa Chong Institution, Hwa Chong International School, Jurong Junior College, National Junior College, River Valley High School, Saint Andrew's Junior College, and Victoria Junior College] and a total of 16 teachers attended the various sessions, held at Belayar Creek and DBS, NUS.

The various sessions were conducted by the following instructors:
14th Aug 2010 (Sat):
Dr Beverly Goh [Ecology field trip: intertidal ecology at Belayar Creek]
Dr Beverly Goh [Field ecology: data analysis]
Dr Ng Ngan Kee & Dr Benito Tan [Plant and animal systematics]

21st Aug 2010 (Sat):
A/P Koh Chong Lek, Dr Sam Choon Kook, Mr Tan Ter Meng Timothy
[Microscopy skills, mitosis, meiosis, genetics (flies), serial dilution, Gram staining of bacteria]
A/P Koh Chong Lek, Mr Allan Tan [Agarose gel electrophoresis]

A/P Koh Chong Lek
Coordinator, SIBiol Teachers' Workshop

SIBiol Public Forum
Singapore Science Centre, 30th October 2010

To mark the International Year of Biodiversity (2010), and the Singapore Institute of Biology (SIBiol) organised a public forum on Biodiversity from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm on 30th October 2010 at Maxwell Auditorium, Singapore Science Centre. Dr Beverly Goh, the president of SIBiol welcomed the gathering of 113 participants. The Forum provided an opportunity for the participants, mainly academics and students as well as interested "walk-in" members of the public to come together and discuss issues regarding biodiversity and featured two lectures. Dr Benito Tan and Dr Darren Yeo from the National University of Singapore delivered lectures on "The lessons learned from the study of plant diversity: The case of Bryophytes (Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts)" and "Freshwater Animal Diversity in Singapore", respectively. Dr Benito Tan discussed the ecological importance of bryophytes in the proper functioning of natural ecosystems and Dr Darren Yeo highlighted some of the interesting animal diversity of various freshwater habitats in Singapore looking at the ecological roles of these animals. The forum ended with a tea reception giving an opportunity for the participants to interact.

Dr Adrian Elangovan
Coordinator, SIBiol Public Forum

Photos by Timothy Tan

SIBiol PUBLIC FORUM 2011

You are all invited to attend the SIBiol Public Forum, which will be held this year on Saturday 20th Aug 2011 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Singapore Science Centre. The invited speakers are Prof Richard Corlett (NUS) and Dr Shawn Lum (NIE/NTU), who are both experts in terrestrial forest ecology. Following the theme of the International Year of Forests 2011 (http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/), Prof Corlett will speak on climate change and impacts on Singapore forests, and Dr Lum will speak about conservation of Singapore forests.

For more information, please contact the Forum coordinator, Dr Adrian Elangovan (elango@sp.edu.sg).

SINGAPORE PLAYS HOST TO THE 23RD INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD IN 2012!

Singapore first participated in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) as an observer country in 2000. In the first year of competitive participation (i.e., 2001), Singapore's team stunned the IBO community by winning two gold and two silver medals, ranking third overall out of 39 countries. This performance was unprecedented for a country participating for the first time.

Along with the exceptional students that have stepped up, the outstanding performance of the Singapore team was sustained throughout the 10 years of participation as a result of the hard work of a team of dedicated academics from NIE and NUS through the coordination of the Singapore Institute of Biology. It is pertinent to note that Singapore student took the top gold medal twice within these 10 years, which is a feat that few countries have achieved.

The IBO guidelines for member countries stipulate that within 10 years of participation, a country should bid to host the IBO. We are honoured that Singapore is now the host for IBO2012 in July next year. The Singapore Institute of Biology will work closely with MOE, NIE/NTU and NUS to make the event a great success.

A/P Shirley Lim and A/P Lim Tit Meng
Co-chairs, Organizing Committee, 23rd International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2012)

SIBiol TEACHERS' WORKSHOP 2011

This year's SIBiol Teachers' Workshop will be held in NUS in July.

The workshop facilitators are:

1. Dr Koh Chong Lek and Dr Sam Choon Kook (both Natural Sciences and Science Education Academic Group, NIE/NTU), who will share their experience in teaching molecular biology to students (Upper Secondary and Junior College) the fun and effective way.
2. Mr N Sivasothi (Department of Biological Sciences, NUS), who will lead a guided field trip on Kent Ridge and demonstrate how best to teach biodiversity and ecology in the field.

For more information, please contact the workshop coordinator, Dr Koh Chong Lek (chonglek.koh@nie.edu.sg).