

**The Second Meeting of the Asian Consortium for the  
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources  
(ACM)**

**3 November 2005  
Boardroom III, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center  
Bangkok, Thailand**

# **Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM)**

Thursday, 3 November 2005, 15:45-17:45 hrs.

Bangkok, Thailand

## **MINUTES**

1. Ms. Wanchern Potacharoen, new Chair of ACM, welcomed the members to Thailand and to the second ACM Meeting. Then Dr. Katsumi Isono, former Chair of ACM addressed his appreciation and gratitude towards the Director of the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) of Thailand, President of the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) of Japan, Chair of ACM and all participants.
2. Representatives from ten ACM member countries participated in the meeting, namely those from Thailand, China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Mongolia (ANNEX I). In addition, Drs. Hideaki Sugawara, Toru Okuda and Jayaraman Gowrishankar attended the meeting who were invited speakers of the ACM workshops on Bioresource Information Management (BIM) and Human Resource Development Management (HRDM). The workshops were organized in conjunction with 2<sup>nd</sup> ACM meeting. Dr. Pisey Oum from Cambodia was not able to participate in the meeting, although he participated in the two workshops.
3. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Potacharoen, Thailand, while Dr. Fu Gao, China served as vice chairperson. The agenda (ANNEX II) of the meeting was accepted.
4. The members approved “Summary of the Concluding Meeting: The First Meeting of ACM” held on 15 October 2004 at Epochal Tsukuba, Japan, which contained the following issues:
  - 4.1 The General Assembly will be held every year and two vice chairpersons shall be selected.
  - 4.2 Department of Biotechnology, NITE (NITE-DOB) would serve as ACM secretariat for the first 3 – 5 years, beginning from 2004.
  - 4.3 At the moment, members of ACM should be limited to those described in the list of Members from the first meeting (ANNEX III). However, if there is an application for membership in the future, it may be discussed.

## 5. Biological Resource Center Network (BRC) Task Force

- 5.1 Dr. Ken-ichiro Suzuki, Chair of the BIM panel discussion, summarized the BIM workshop (ANNEX IV)(ANNEX V) held on 2 November by adopting the points raised by the invited speakers on the current activities and plans for database management at their institutes as well as the regional network and international linkages. Subsequently, nine ACM country representatives, i.e. Cambodia, China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, reported the current status of bioresource information management. Mostly, the country representatives emphasized the importance of information management for both culture collections and the local network. In the meantime, some countries expressed needs for help for the information management and establishment of network in their countries.
- 5.2 In order to strengthen the network of BRCs among ACM members, it was agreed to setup a prototype of Asian BRC network. Dr. Suzuki proposed to establish a working group (WG) to produce such a prototype. The members of the WG were tentatively considered to include Mr. Juncai Ma (Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), Ms. Potacharoen (BIOTEC, Thailand), Dr. Yong-Ha Park (Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Korea) and Dr. Suzuki (NITE, Japan). Their task will be to establish a prototype of network by linking BRCs as well as to extract items to standardize a network, and to consider and solve possible problems associated with ACM members by the next ACM meeting.
- 5.3 Apart from the WG countries, the data on microbial information of other member countries will also be included. As the first step of the WG to construct a prototype database, the data from Dr. Supawadee Ingsriswang on “A Survey on Microbial Information Management System” obtained from 8 centers of 6 countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, will be used.
- 5.4 Dr. Park volunteered to host the first meeting of the database prototype WG in Korea in early 2006 and the second meeting will be held in China before the 3<sup>rd</sup> ACM Meeting.

## 6. Human Resource Development (HRD) Task Force

- 6.1 Dr. Indrawati Gandjar, Chair of the panel discussion of HRDM workshop (ANNEX VI) held on 3 November 2005, concluded and identified several points to be considered on HRD as reported from ACM member countries and recommended from participants:
  - To encourage young microbiologists to study the indigenous microbial diversity of the respective countries
  - To improve the skill and knowledge of young Asian scientists in molecular biology and bioprocess engineering for bioactive compounds so as for them to become independent researchers

- To organize training courses on standard and updated techniques for the isolation, identification, and preservation of important cultures
- To support the research and special training activities for ACM member countries who need assistances
- To plan and elaborate exchange programs of scientists for short and long terms with leading ACM member countries such as China, Japan, Korea and Thailand
- To enhance dissemination of the research results to all ACM member countries for evaluation at seminars and workshops
- To coordinate good collaborations among the ACM members

6.2 The need for Human Resource Development among the ACM members can be divided into two areas, i.e. academic and specialized fields. For academic fields, representatives from China and Korea informed that there are scholarships for international students to undertake M.S. and Ph.D. studies in both countries under the scheme of their respective academy/MOST. They agreed to explore such an opportunity and announce to ACM members in due course. In the meantime, Japan and Thailand can support the ACM members with a short-term training program in specialized fields such as culture collection management, identification & taxonomy of microorganisms, and molecular techniques for structural and functional analyses.

6.3 Thailand announced the availability of four full scholarships of short-term training at the Culture Collection and Mycology Laboratories of BIOTEC to the ACM members. The training will be under the Neighboring Countries Program targeting at Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. The courses offer three-month training during July – September. The announcement for application for the training will be made in January 2006. For other member countries, the training will be agreed on a case-by-case basis. The trainees should come to Thailand at their own budget and BIOTEC (Thailand) will provide the training without any charge.

7. The third ACM Meeting will be held in October/November 2006 in Beijing, China. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. Gao, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Science (IM-CAS). Dr. Endang Sukara of Indonesia was elected as one of the vice-chairpersons, since Indonesia offered to host the forth ACM meeting in Indonesia, which was approved by the ACM members.
8. In order to make a concrete plan for the Consortium, Dr. Gao asked ACM members to consider and propose themes for the third ACM Meeting.
9. Ms. Potacharoen, Chair of ACM, thanked all ACM members for their participation and declared the meeting closed.