



# Association Affairs

PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

## ACTIVITIES

### **PSA Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting**

The PSA convened an Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam on 11–13 May 2005. The purpose of the PSA meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Science Council of Asia (SCA) Annual Conference, was to: provide an update on PSA activities since the Bangkok Congress and to advise the Board of new and planned PSA initiatives; solicit the Board's input on a revised Strategic Plan for PSA and for the re-vitalization of PSA Task Forces and Committees; and discuss and plan for the upcoming 21st PSA Congress to be held in Okinawa, Japan in June 2007.

Present at the Board Meeting were PSA President Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Secretary-General and Treasurer Dr. Nancy Lewis, Board Members Dr. Chang-Hung Chou and Dr. Hong Sung-Chick. Also in attendance were PSA Executive Secretary John Burke Burnett, and invited guests Dr. Keiichi Omoto (PSA Council Representative, Japan), Dr. Valentin Sergienko (PSA Council Representative and Chairman of the Russian Academy of Sciences–Far Eastern Branch [RAS-FEB]), Dr. Oleg Shcheka (RAS-FEB), and Dr. Makoto Tsuchiya (University of the Ryukyus, and designated organizer of 2007 Pacific Science Congress).

### **2007 Pacific Science Congress**

The 21st Pacific Science Congress will be held 12–16 June 2007 in Naha, Okinawa, Japan. The Congress will be hosted by the University of the Ryukyus and co-sponsored by the Science Council of Japan. The PSA Secretariat is currently soliciting input from PSA Task Forces and committees on session themes and speakers. The first circulars announcing the 2007 Congress will be sent in mid-2005.

### **Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference**

PSA President Kiyoshi Kurokawa (also SCA Secretary General), PSA Secretary General Nancy Lewis and PSA Executive Secretary Burke Burnett represented the Pacific Science Association at the 5th Science Council of Asia Conference “Bioscience and biotechnology for sustainable development: the future of the Asian economy” held at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam, 11–13 May 2005. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and co-organized by the Science Council of Japan.

The conference consisted of Board meetings, the General Assembly of the Science Council of Asia and three scientific symposia that were open to the public. The first symposium, “Bioscience for Environment and Agriculture”, was chaired by Dr. Le Tran Binh, Director of Biotechnology Institute, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and Dr. Ryuichi Ishii, member of the Science Council of Japan and Professor, College of Bioresource Science at Nihon University. A keynote lecture on “Bioscience for Environment and Agriculture” was delivered by Dr. Tin Wee Tan, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Biotechnology, Singapore and rotating Chairman of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST). This was followed by three invited lectures, “Biotechnology Contributes to the Agriculture and Environment in Japan” by Professor Dr. Ichiro Kajiura, member of the Science Council of Japan and Director General of the National Institute of Fruit Tree Science; “The Scope of Biotechnology in Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia” by Professor Sudanshan Iyengar, Director, Centre for Social Studies, Surat, India; and “The Chinese Eco-Agriculture: Development Strategies, Typical Models and Eco-Technologies” by Dr. Wu Wenliang, Director, Division of Teaching Affairs, China Agricultural University and Director, Agro-Ecology Institute of China.

The second symposium focused on “Bioscience for Health”, chaired by Professor Hoang Thuy Long, Former Director, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) and current Vice-Chairman of the Council of Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Vietnam, and Dr. Sang Dai Park, member of the National Academy of Sciences, Korea and Chairman, Korea Research Council of Science and Technology. Professor Dr. Brandon Wainwright, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, Australia, delivered the keynote address, “New Genetic Paradigms in the Post-Genomic Era”, followed by two invited lectures, “Application of Biotechnology in Vaccine Production and Development in Vietnam” by Dr. Nguyen Thu Van, Director of Vaccine Production Company, Vietnam, and “Healthcare in the Era of Genomic Medicine” by Professor Dr. Yoichi Matsubara, member of the Science Council of Japan and Professor, Tohoku University.

The third symposia concerned SCA Joint Projects, chaired by Dr. T. Galbaatar, Vice-President of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and Professor Fortunato T. de la Pena, President of the National Research Council of the Philippines. Dr. Sudanshan Iyengar gave a progress report on “Institution and Capacity-Building for Sustainable Rural Development in India for the Coming Decade”, followed by Ms. Syamsiah Achmad, Gender Advisor, GEST Group, at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) who discussed the progress of the project “A Comparative Study of the Research Conditions of Women Scientists and the Present States of Women’s/Gender Studies in Asian Countries Towards Sustainable Development”. New projects were then discussed, beginning with “Coastal Ecosystems’ Response to Climate Change and Human Impact in the Asia-Pacific Region (CERCCHI Project)” by Dr. Kazuo Nadaoka, member of the Science Council of Japan, and Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Professor Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, Director, Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Malaysia, who discussed their project “Sustainability Science for Sustainability Governance: An Assessment of the Science-Governance Symbioses”. All the addresses in the three symposia were very well-received.

The Science Council of Asia was established in May 2000 with the following purposes: to exchange information on the current status of science among Asian countries; to promote collaboration and cooperation in a wide range of fields of science in the Asian region; and to advance mutual understanding and trust among scientists in Asia. The 1st SCA Conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2001. Drs. R. Gerard Ward, then PSA President, and Secretary General Nancy Lewis gave a presentation at that meeting, “An Overview of Pacific Sustainability: Challenges for People and Institutions” which has been revised and is included in the second issue of the new journal *Fiji Studies*. The Pacific Science Association has been

represented at the subsequent meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2002), Denpasar, Indonesia (2003), and Seoul, Republic of Korea (2004). Given the similarity in the goals of the two organizations it is appropriate that they work closely together, although the countries represented by PSA and SCA differ to some degree.

It was announced that the 6th SCA meeting would be held in India in May 2006; the 7th SCA Conference will be held in conjunction with the 21st Pacific Science Congress in Okinawa in June 2007.

### **Publications**

Chapters 6–12 of the PABITRA manual, “Biodiversity Assessment in Tropical Island Ecosystems”, part of their Interactive Ecology and Management Initiative, have been published and is available for download on their website ([www.botany.hawaii.edu/pabitra](http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/pabitra)). The first five chapters were made available previously, and so the entire publication is now available online. Part of the Division for Ecosystem Conservation in the PSA’s Task Force on Biodiversity, PABITRA is a collaborative network of over 70 conservation scientists and professionals investigating the function of biodiversity and the health of ecosystems in the tropical Pacific Islands. PABITRA contributes to DIVERSITAS, the global program of biodiversity science, coordinated by IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) and the regional network of DIVERSITAS in Western Pacific and Asia, which is coordinated by the Center for Ecological Research at Kyoto University.

### **George B. Elyakov, 1929–2005**

Academician Professor George B. Elyakov passed away on 2 May 2005 in Moscow, Russia after a long illness. Dr. Elyakov was born on 13 September 1929, in Kostroma, Russia. A corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Science since 1970 and an active member since 1987, he was an expert in organic chemistry of natural compounds. He became Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1991, and was also Chairman of the RAS’s Far Eastern Branch in Vladivostok and Director of the Pacific Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry. Dr. Elyakov was an active member of the Pacific Science Association for many years, and a Board Member of PSA since 1999. The PSA extends our sympathies to his family and colleagues.

### Membership Application

I/We wish to enroll in the Pacific Science Association in the following membership category:

- Associate scientific institution (US\$50)
- Corporate associate (US\$100)
- Individual associate (US\$40)

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Return to Pacific Science Association, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, USA.



## Executive Board

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## Pacific Science Association Membership Information

The Pacific Science Association is a regional, nongovernmental scientific organization founded in 1920. The objectives of the association are to advance science and technology in the Pacific region by increasing interdisciplinary collaboration; to build capacity in science and technology; to encourage science for public policy and the common good; and to promote the "science of the Pacific" and Pacific Island involvement in regional and international scientific activities. Scientific committees have been long established to study and to seek solutions for important problems of Pacific interest. Scientific task forces have been established to explore interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary areas identified as relevant.

Regular members of the association are adhering organizations (e.g., the national academy of science or a like body) from each country or definite geographic area within or bordering the Pacific Ocean, or with scientific interests in the region. In addition, associate membership may be held by individual scientists, scientific societies and institutions, and corporations.

The association is directed by the Pacific Science Council with its elected executive board. The executive board meets annually and makes recommendations to the council, which meets during congresses and inter-congresses. The president serves as chair of the council. The secretariat is located at:

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