



Association Affairs

PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

PSA UPDATES

The 21st Pacific Science Congress

The 21st Pacific Science Congress will be held 12–16 June, 2007 at the Okinawa Convention Center in Naha, Okinawa, Japan. Hosted by the University of the Ryukyus and co-sponsored by the Science Council of Japan, the Congress will also be held in conjunction with the Science Council of Asia. The second circulars for the 2007 Congress will be sent in mid-2006, and flyers are available for download on the PSA website.

The theme of the Congress is “Diversity and Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Managing Natural and Social Systems in the Asia-Pacific”. Currently planned sub-themes and associated symposia include:

- Islands in Development (including sessions on Globalization; Health and Development; Agriculture; Tourism; and Building Sustainable Communities)
- Maintaining Nature’s Diversity (with both terrestrial and marine components in sessions on Biodiversity; Natural Resource Management and Protection; Ecosystem Services; Invasive Species; and Fisheries)
- Science and Society (sessions on Science Education; Enhancing Institutional Capacity; Media and Science; Science, Society, and Policy; and the Public Funding of Science)
- Technology and Sustainable Society (sessions on Energy; Biotechnology; Hazardous Waste)
- Sustaining Human Diversity (Indigenous Knowledge; Gender and Science; and Origins and Heritage of Pacific Peoples)
- Challenges and Opportunities in Change (Global Warming; Marine Acidification; Newly Emerging Infectious Diseases; Assessing Risk and Vulnerability in Natural Hazards; and Water Resource Management)

These symposia are still under development and the PSA Secretariat is currently refining the sessions and invited speakers. Individual scientists and scientific societies are still encouraged to contact the Local Organizing Committee and/or the PSA Secretariat (contact: Makoto Tsuchiya at tsuchiya@sci.u-ryukyu.ac.jp or Burke Burnett at burnett@bishopmuseum.org).

A link to the Congress website can be found at: <http://www.psc21.net/> and on the PSA website at <http://www.pacificscience.org/congress2007.html>.

Session on Ocean Acidification at the 21st Pacific Science Congress

The Pacific Science Association Task Force on Marine Acidification in the Pacific (TAFMAP) is organizing an all-day session on ocean acidification at the 21st Pacific Science Congress to be held in June, 2007 in Okinawa, Japan.

Oceanic absorption of atmospheric carbon dioxide—a natural process that is accelerating due to increasing levels of anthropogenic CO₂—is causing global-scale chemical changes in seawater, making them more acidic (i.e. lowering pH). The average pH of the world's oceans has dropped by about 0.1 pH units since the beginning of the industrial age. Unless there are early and deep cuts in global carbon emissions, oceanic uptake of anthropogenic carbon may result in a further drop 0.3 to 0.7 pH units by the year 2100. Current data, while early, are highly suggestive that ocean acidification may have enormous negative impacts on many marine organisms, ecosystems, and by extension the human societies and economies that depend on them. Nowhere is the need for additional research on this topic greater than in and for the Pacific region.

The session on ocean acidification, led by Dr. Yoshihisa Shirayama of the University of Kyoto and Dr. Peter Brewer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, will include both natural and social scientists. The session will aim to identify knowledge gaps and research priorities in understanding the acidification phenomenon and its implications, including assessment of possible social and economic impacts. TAFMAP plans to produce a report based on the session at the Okinawa Congress, as an important source for educating the policy community and public in the region about ocean acidification and the potential threat it poses to the marine ecological systems upon which those societies depend.

Please consult the PSA website (<http://www.pacificscience.org/tfmarineacidification.html>) for more information.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The PSA Task Force on Globalization and Human Dynamics is organizing a session at the 21st Pacific Science Congress in Okinawa in June 2007, and is inviting proposals for papers. The session will have two themes: 1) Livelihood and Cultural Preservation, and 2) Human Challenges and Survival Strategies.

The Pacific Science Association was created in 1920 at the First Pan-Pacific Scientific Conference, held in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Objectives of the Pacific Science Association include . . . “to initiate and promote cooperation in the study of scientific problems relating to the Pacific region, more particularly those affecting the prosperity and well-being of Pacific peoples”. In light of contemporary geographical, economic, social, and cultural challenges, and the like, for successful living within the contemporary Pacific Region, our Session seeks to address and engage meaningful issues concerning the physical and social world that Pacific/Asia peoples inhabit. Paper topics may be proposed within either of the two themes below, and may include, but are not limited to, issues such as:

- Geographical/Social/Cultural Impact(s) of the Tsunami of December 26, 2004
- Intensification of Changes Linked to the New Global Economies/Scarcity/Poverty
- Information Technology (IT) in the Age of Globalization/Development
- Migration/Diaspora/Transnationalism/Refugees
- Impact(s) of Tourism
- Altered Philosophical and Religious Perspectives, Including Fundamentalism
- Paradigm Shifts Within Indigenous Languages and Cultures of Pacific/Asia
- Identity/Ethnicity/Indigeneity

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- Diversity/Multiculturalism
- Nationalities/Imagined Communities
- Ethnocentrism/Cultural Relativism/Human Rights
- Gender Variation
- Art/Society/Cultural Exchange

Please send Paper Proposals to:

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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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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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