

Activity Report

First ASIAHORCs Joint Symposium

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science held the first ASIAHORCs Joint Symposium, titled “Asian Biodiversity: Characteristics, Conservation and Sustainable Use” on 18-20 July 2009 at the Noyori Conference Hall, Nagoya University in Aichi Prefecture.

The symposium was the first joint project to be carried out by the Asian Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs) in their effort to build a vibrant science and technology community within Asia. Supported by ASIAHORC-member institutions in China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the symposium enjoyed the participation of about 130 researchers from 13 countries.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was kicked off with welcoming remarks by Prof. Motoyuki Ono, president of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi, president of Nagoya University. They were followed by Mr. Shin-ichiro Izumi, director general of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and Prof. Tetsukazu Yahara, chair of the Organizing Committee for the ASIAHORCs Joint Symposium and professor of Kyushu University.



All the symposium participants

Lectures and Intensive Seminars

Lectures were delivered by five prestigious scientists: Dr. Rodrigo Fuentes (Philippines), Dr. Ma Kepin (China), Dr. Chandoramohan Dorairajasingam (India), Dr. Barry Brook (Australia), and Dr. Eric Baran (Cambodia). On the morning of the 20th, intensive seminars on contemporary topics of strong common interest within the Asia region were led by five Japanese researchers. Listened attentively, the participants engaged the lecturers in energetic discussions.



Plenary lecture



Intensive seminar

Parallel Sessions

Parallel sessions were held on two themes: “Monitoring and Assessment” and “Ecological Management and Restoration.” Top-notch scientists from Asian countries who served as coordinators and young researchers gave presentations and engaged in vigorous Q&A discussions.



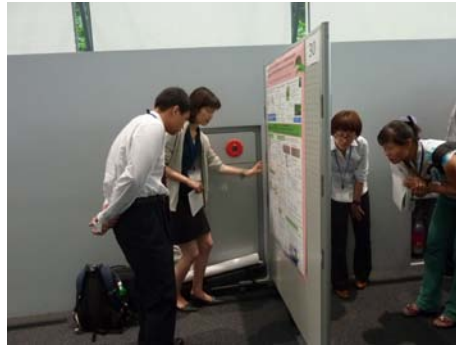
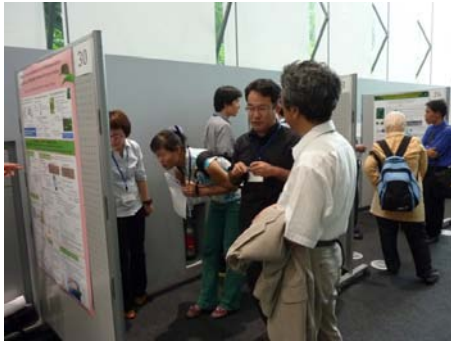
Monitoring and Assessment Session



Ecological Management and Restoration Session

Poster Session

On the afternoon of 18th, 33 poster presentations were provided by mainly young Japanese researchers, who enthusiastically explained their work and answered questions about it.



Field Observations

On the afternoon of the 19th, field trips were made to the Fujimae Tidal Flat and Kaisho Forest, where the young researchers received explanations and held discussions on activities to conserve the ecosystems and the creatures that inhabit them.



At Fujimae Tidal Flat



At Kaisho Forest

Panel Discussion

On the last day, a panel discussion was held on the topic “Toward Future Research on Biodiversity in the Asian Region.” Representing each country, young researchers exchanged views on issues and prospects related to biodiversity research in Asia, including human resource development, research promotion and network building. To this dialogue, Professors Brook, Ma and Kim added comments, followed by an energetic discussion including the other participants.



Closing Remarks

In the closing ceremony, Symposium Organizing Committee chair Prof. Tetsukazu Yahara offered summarizing remarks, pointing out that rapid development over recent years in Asia jeopardizes the region’s ecological biodiversity while, at the same time, elevating its standard of research, and stating that there is an ever-greater need for strengthened biodiversity research collaboration within the region, a first big step to which was taken by the successful holding of this multilateral symposium. The first ASIAHORCs joint symposium closed with a parting message from Prof. Shin-ich Yamamoto, university advisor of Nagoya University.



Prof. Yahara giving summary remarks