



WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS Newsletter (No. 56)–JANUARY 2019



NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

WFCC Executive Board wishes you a happy New Year with every health, success and happiness. We look forward to seeing you in Chile in November 25-29, 2019. Organizers of the ICCC'15 under the leadership of Prof. Cledir Santos have been working hard to welcome you there with an impressive program and social events.

As you know over the last many years we have been facing significant challenges at the global scale ranging from terror events to diseases (SARS, Avian and Swine Flu, Ebola) to natural disasters (hurricanes, floods and earthquakes). As a result, we have not been able to run the ICCC conferences as they have been on a 3-yearly cycle. This year again the ICCC'15 will take place a year earlier from its actual date. However, on the positive side, bringing the conference a year earlier creates an opportunity to us for taking part in the IUMS conferences in the following years and foster our links and close collaboration with the IUMS.

WFCC Executive Board elections in general take place six months before the ICCC conferences, however, as the ICCC will take place a year earlier in 2019 we will run the next election 6 months before the IUMS Conference in October 2020, in Korea <https://www.iums.org/> where WFCC will have participation and the new EB will take over the governance.

From next year onwards, we are also planning to run the elections independently from the ICCC conferences due to the facts I have listed before. Therefore, we will put motions forward to you together with the ballot papers and one of the motions will be about running the WFCC Executive Board elections independently from the ICCC conferences thus giving the Board the required time to fully serve the term. In this way, any unexpected global circumstance cannot alter the serving time for the EB members. We look forward to further discussions with you at the General Assembly to be held during the ICCC'15 in Chile.

I am happy to report again that the 10K Type Strain Sequencing Project, Global Catalogue of Microorganisms under the leadership of Dr Juncai Ma has progressed significantly, revealing lots of important sequence information hidden in the genomes of microorganisms.

Again, the WDCM Global Catalogue of Microorganisms initiative under the leadership of Dr Juncai Ma is providing a reliable platform to establish online catalogues and websites for our member collections. Up to now 40 collections have been using the GCM platform to make their catalogue information available online. Dr Ma invites collections who require assistance to improve their web sites and would like to include example microbial photos from their collections at the WDCM web site.



I had the kind invitations to attend the last two conferences held by the **Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM)**. I would like to congratulate the members of the ACM for impressive organizations both in Taiwan (2017) and Mongolia in 2018. Next one will be in Malaysia this year. In this newsletter you will find the news from their last conference in Mongolia <https://montsame.mn/en/read/166597> .



Asian colleagues have established strong ties among the Asian countries and networking extensively. For the impressive developments with the **AnMicro**: Asean Network on Microbial Utilization please see <http://www.biotec.or.th/en/index.php/global-networks/asean-network-on-microbial-utilization> . I would like to congratulate WFCC Executive Board member Dr Lily Eurwilaichitr for her strong leadership in the activities taking place within the network.

I was also happy to take part in another successful ECCO Annual Conference in Moscow, Russia, <http://ecco2018.ru/>. Like with

the IUMS we are very happy to be in close partnership with the ECCO. WFCC Executive Board members: Cledir Santos, Andrey Yurkov and Philippe Desmeth were also in attendance. Their next meeting will be in Turin, Italy in June 2019.



ECCO-2018 Russian National Organizing Committee members with Ipek Kurtböke

We have also been subject to hoax emails as well as receiving phone calls from people impersonating WFCC-EB members. We have dealt with the issue including reporting them to the relevant organizations dealing with cybercrimes. If any of you receive such calls or emails, please do not reply and report them to us immediately. You can always double check with us if the email or the phone call you have received is genuine or not.

On finishing, I again would like to wish you a happy 2019 and look forward to communicating with you frequently and welcome new members to the WFCC and the WDCM.

With warm regards

Dr Ipek Kurtböke
President



NEWS FROM CONFERENCE PARTICIPATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

WDCM ANNUAL MEETING FOR GCM 2.0 10K TYPE STRAIN SEQUENCING PROJECT

WDCM takes the responsibility to develop an effective information environment that promotes and sustains microbial research data activities, sharing and use to help advance progress and bridge the gaps within and outside the microbiology communities. WDCM has also developed a series of databases for international culture collections and important organizations, which provide support to more culture collections on the way to modern BRC. Until now, 126 international culture collections from 47 countries have joined GCM to share their more than 420,000 microbial strains and help them to develop online catalogue as well as homepage to share their strains data all over the world.

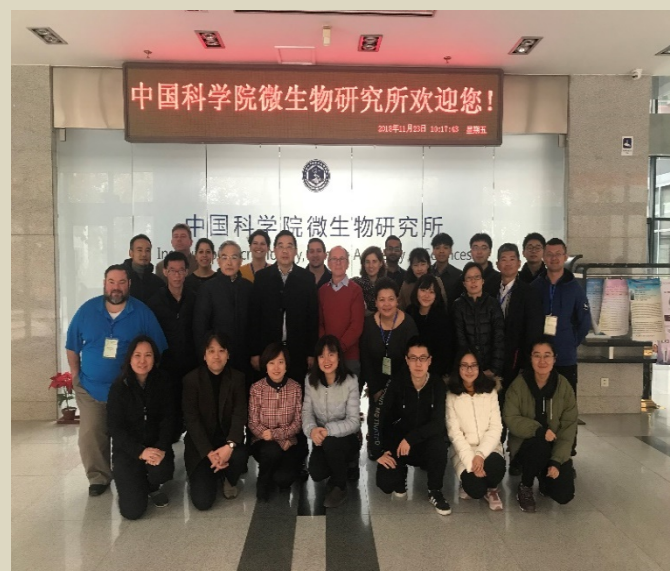


**GCM 2.0 type strain sequencing project
workshop**

Type strain sequencing project is an international coordinated effort to close current gaps in the genomic maps of microbes and hence to promote research through deep mining of the genomic data leading by GCM. This year GCM 2.0 type strain sequencing project workshop and training course organized by WDCM at November 20-30, 2018 in Beijing,

China. The meeting invited more than 50 global taxonomists, microbiologists and bioinformaticians who shared bright advices in cooperating on data analysis and publication of the genome sequencing results for further research and development.

WDCM has been a host to a serious of training courses over the last six years. For this year, the theme focused on the standards of procedures for the participants related to the genome-sequencing project, including sample preparation, data annotation and legal issues that might be faced during cooperation. There were 15 participants from 13 culture collections in ten countries and 18 professors from three countries gave lectures in the training course.



**GCM 2.0 type strain sequencing project training
course**

WORKSHOP AND TRAINING COURSE ON THE APPLICATION AND PRESERVATION OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIA 13-15 NOV 2018, ORGANIZED BY THE MICROBIAL CULTURE COLLECTION UNIT, UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

This workshop has been a collaborative effort between the Microbial Culture Collection Unit (UNiCC) and the Human Development



Taskforce of Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM), which headed by Dr Rosario Monsalud, and Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), which headed by Dr Maria Cecilia Monina A. Villena.

During the workshop, there were more than 50 participants for the public lecture and 14 participants for the workshop. We were honoured to have speakers and participants from local and overseas such as from TBRC (Thailand), the Philippines and Indonesia. We also had participants from more various Universities and Research Institute locally as such UPM, UiTM, MARDI, LGM, RRIM, FGV and Department of Malaysia Chemistry. Besides that, we also had participants from industries such as All Cosmos Industries Sdn. Bhd., Focus Biotech Sdn. Bhd., Phytogold Sdn. Bhd. and Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation Sdn. Bhd.

Conjunction with our 10th anniversary of the University Putra Malaysia Culture Collection (UNiCC), we organized a birthday party too during the event. Since its establishment, the UNiCC has been spreading its goals for research and development. The UNiCC managed to acquire some equipment and operational systems for the culture collection and depository. The unit also provided service to the local and international researchers and widened networking with other institutions in Malaysia and with other countries too. Next year, the UNiCC will organize the 2nd Regional Conference on Culture Collection 2019 (RCCC 2019) and the host for 16th Meeting of The Asian Consortium for The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM 16th) in Malaysia.



Dr Rosario Monsalud



Dr Verawat Champreda



Birthday celebration of the UNiCC

From left to right: Assoc Prof Tan Geok Hun with Prof Dr Abdul Rahman Omar (Director, Institute of Bioscience), Dr Rosario Monsalud, and Dr Maria Cecilia Q. Arcelo-Villena (SEARCA)



REPORT OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE ASIAN CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MICROBIAL RESOURCES (ACM15)

The 15th Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM15) and International conference “Microbial diversity: research, conservation and sustainable use” dedicated to the 45th anniversary of the Department of Microbiology was organized by Laboratory of Microbiology of Institute of General and Experimental Biology (IGEB), Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) at The Blue-Sky Hotel & Tower, Ulaanbaatar, October 4-6, 2018.

On day one, the conference was on “Microbial diversity: research, conservation and sustainable use” and was attended by more than 80 participants from ACM members and microbiologists around the world. It was officially opened by Dr. Ya. Adiya, Director of IGEB and the participants were greeted by the Mongolian traditional music: long songs, throat singing (huumii) and morin khuur, the horse-headed fiddle.



Mongolian traditional music: long songs, throat singing (huumii) and morin khuur, the horse-headed fiddle

Their best wishes for a successful Conference were warmly welcomed by Prof. B. Avid, Secretary General, MAS, Dr. S. Munkhbat, Director, Scientific and Technological Policy Department, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia, Mrs. T. Bulgan, Director, Green Development Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of Mongolia, and ABS National Focal Point.



The Director of IGEB, Dr Ya. Adiya gave an opening remark

Opening ceremony of the ACM15

At the opening ceremony, Dr B. Tsetseg and Dr K. Ando received “Leading environmental worker” award of Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia for their valuable contribution to the study of microorganisms distributed in nature of Mongolia.



Mrs T. Bulgan from MET presented the award to Dr B. Tsetseg and Dr K. Ando



Prof. Michael Goodfellow, the chair of the Bergey's Manual Trust (University of Newcastle upon Tyne) and Dr Ipek Kurtböke, president of WFCC

Following the plenary session, the regular session included talks of Dr. Mitsuaki Suzuki, NIG, Ms. Rie Funabiki, NBRC, NITE, Prof. Batjargal Batdorj, NUM, Prof. Gina R. Dedeles, USTCMS and twenty-one posters were open for discussion in the poster session.



The Chair of 2018 ACM Annual Meeting, Dr J. Enkh-Angalan on behalf of all members of the laboratory of Microbiology congratulated Dr Tsetseg with the award and the 70th anniversary

The plenary session included special talks of six invited speakers namely: Dr Ipek Kurtböke, president of the WFCC, Prof Michael Goodfellow, Senior Research Investigator, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr. Hiroko Kawasaki, Director, Industrial Innovation Division, NBRC, NITE, Prof. Kazuhito Fujiyama, Director, International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University, Prof. Kazuhiko Ando, Visiting adviser, NBRC, NITE and Dr. Tsetseg Baljinova, Honourable member, IGEB, MAS.



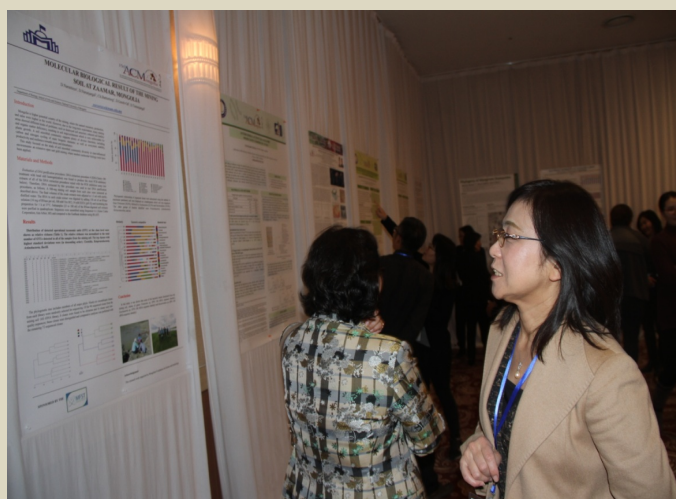
The group photo of ACM members, invited speakers and participants

During the Conference, The ACM15 was reported in news on Mongolian National Broadcaster (MNB), the official, state-funded TV channel



Dr Ipek Kurtböke, President of the WFCC on MNB

On October 5th, ACM Member report and ACM Taskforce meeting was held at “Red Rock Resort Hotel” in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Progress reports of 12 institutes from 9 countries in Asia were presented. The 4 Taskforces: Asian BRC Network (ABRCN-TF), Human Resource Development (HRD-TF), Management of Material Transfer (MMT-TF), and Mutual Aid Association for mBRC (MAA-TF) presented their annual report.



Poster sessions

On the third day, the General Assembly was held. The 16th ACM annual meeting will be held in Malaysia in July 2019 hosting by Microbial Culture Collection Unit (UNiCC), Universiti

Putra Malaysia and the 18th ACM annual meeting will be held in Japan hosting by NBRC, NIES and GCM jointly



From left to right: The Chair of 2017 ACM Annual Meeting, Dr Gwo-Fang Yuan, the Chair of 2019 ACM Annual Meeting, Dr Tan Geok Hun and the Chair of 2018 ACM Annual Meeting, Dr Enkh-Amgalan Jigjiddorj



The group photo of ACM members and invited speakers



ACM members in traditional Mongolian clothes

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

Scientific Collections are getting high-level attention in the USA

By Prof Kevin McCluskey

Through the dedicated effort of leadership at living, once-living, and every other kind of scientific collection, several groups are conducting formal evaluation of the value and impact of scientific collections in the USA.

The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have undertaken a formal NSF sponsored study on biological collections including preserved specimens and living stocks. The project will examine the contributions of biological collections to research and education, describe major advances in their use over the last decade, and envision future innovative ways in which biological collections can be utilized to further advance science over the next decade. The study will also describe the greatest challenges to maintaining biological collections and promising strategies for sustaining support."

WFCC Executive Board member Kyria Boundy-Mills of the University of California- Davis Phaff Culture Collection is a member of the NAS committee. The NAS committee is holding its first meeting in December 2018 and anticipates finalizing their report in 2020. (<https://www8.nationalacademies.org/pa/projectview.aspx?key=51270>).

Meanwhile, the US Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections has commissioned a study of economic models for scientific collections. The IWGSC was established in 2006 by the White House National Science and Technology Council and that charter was renewed in May 2016. This evaluation of the economic impact of scientific collections is being conducted by the Science and Technology Policy Institute and it will be a valuable addition to the initial report by the IWGSC (<https://usfsc.nal.usda.gov/iwgsc-documents>)

Finally, the US Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC) has prepared a formal evaluation of existing microbe collections and has a report on algal collections in the pipeline. The microbial germplasm report will be formalized when the farm bill is signed, hopefully in December 2018 (<https://www.ars-grin.gov/ngrac/>)

The US Culture Collection Network is entering its final months as a sponsored project and there is significant momentum for a renewal. Building on the impact of the old US Federation for Culture Collections, the USCCN has built a strong cohort of interacting collection managers, curators, and directors and with the groundswell of interest looks forward to a productive future.



OBITUARY

Dr TAKASHI NAKASE



Dr. Takashi Nakase, former Executive board member of the WFCC, passed away on July 24, 2018, 79 years old. Nakase was the director of Japan Collection of Microorganisms (JCM), RIKEN from 1989 to 2000 after retirement of Prof. Kazuo Komagata, the first director of the JCM. Nakase was one of the Executive Board member of the WFCC from 1992 to 1996 during the term of Prof. Lindsay Sly's Presidency.

Nakase got a position in the JCM in 1982 when it was a newly born culture collection at that time. Since Prof. Komagata was mostly at the University of Tokyo, Nakase worked as an actual leader of the young JCM to expand its culture collection. Nakase had already been a reputed yeast taxonomist then and he enriched the JCM collection with yeast strains originally studied by himself. The JCM then operated as a general culture collection and a depository authority for bacteria, actinomycetes, filamentous fungi and archaea as well as yeasts and the strain numbers at the collection increased to 9,566 at the time of Nakase's retirement in March 2000 and currently holds 27,000 strains in March 2018.

Nakase contributed to the national culture collection network in Japan as the first president of the Japan Society for Culture Collections

(currently Japan Society for Microbial Resources and Systematics) from 1993-1997 by reorganizing Japan Federation for Culture Collections to strengthen its activity as an academic society.

Nakase also contributed toward the establishment of an international culture collection network among Asian countries. He obtained a governmental fund for research project entitled "Asian Network on Microbial Researches (ANMR)" from 1995 to 2000. In the five-year program of the ANMR, members from ten Asian countries collaborated for studies on basic and applied microbiology and preserved the studied microorganisms from collections of each country. I was involved in the ANMR culture collection network and its activity was expanded to the current "Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources (ACM)". Not only for construction of culture collection and the network, Nakase made efforts for human resource development. Many young microbiologists stayed at the JCM and studied under his supervision. After retirement from the JCM, Nakase studied at the BIOTEC, Thailand on yeast taxonomy with Thai colleagues there from 2002 to 2004. Furthermore, from 2005 to 2011, Nakase was an advisor of the NBRC, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) by my request.

Nakase left great footprint in our community and gave us the opportunity to work together internationally. He will be remembered by WFCC colleagues for his outstanding achievements.

by Ken-ichiro Suzuki (Tokyo University of Agriculture)



AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

[1] WFCC SKERMAN AWARD FOR MICROBIAL TAXONOMY

The Award was established to honour the contributions made by late Professor V.B.D. Skerman to microbial taxonomy, to the establishment of the WFCC World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WDCM), and to the development of the WFCC.

The World Federation for Culture Collections invites applications from young microbial taxonomists for the WFCC Skerman Award for Taxonomy. The aim of the Award is to encourage taxonomic research by young microbiologists and to reward excellence in taxonomic research and significant contributions to the discipline.

The successful recipient of the Award will receive a prize of \$2000 together with a return economy class airfare and registration costs to attend ICC15 in Chile, November 2019. The recipient will be invited to deliver the Skerman Award Lecture on his/her research. The recipient will also receive a certificate of the Award.

Applicants should be less than 40 years of age at the time of application. Applicants should provide a Curriculum Vitae, a list of research publications, the names and addresses of two referees familiar with their research who have agreed to act as referees, and copies of their three most significant research publications.

Applications to be submitted to the WFCC Secretary Dr Marizeth Groenewald by 30th of August 2019 at m.groenewald@westerdijkinstituut.nl

[2] 2019 YOUNG RESEARCHERS AWARD (YRA)

<https://www.gbif.org/news/1FAyeRyx8A00UyiSmu4oG>

CONFERENCES

15th International Conference on Culture Collections - ICC15 - Building Knowledge Based Societies
Universidad de La Frontera, Campus Pucón, CHILE
25th – 29th November 2019

The Chilean Culture Collection of Type Strains - CCCT, hosted at the Scientific and Technological Biosource Nucleus BIOPREN-UFRO, of the Universidad de La Frontera (Chile) has the honour of announce the 15th International Conference on Culture Collections (ICCC-15), which will be held in the Campus of Pucón, Chile from 25th to 29th November 2019.

Once the effort spent in research must return to society through the formal scientific knowledge transfer from the Academy to the Society, the motto of the ICC-15 is "Building Knowledge Based Societies".

It is the third time that an ICC Conference is organised in Latin-America. Both previous Conferences were organised in Brazil: ICC-2 in 1973 and ICC-13 in 2010. Organising the ICC-15 in Chile means an important achievement for the whole Spanish speaking Latin-American Countries.

The scientific programme is been organised in order to provide the latest developments on the different domains of Culture Collections, as well as in the related scientific fields of the Microbiology and Biotechnology, taking into consideration the motto of the ICC-15 Conference.

Over 4.5 working days of the ICC-15 Conference in Chile, the event will be aligned in balance with plenary lectures, symposia, social events and Training Courses.

Pucón is an Andean Mountain Chilean city. It is the main door to the Chilean Patagonia. Pucón is located on the eastern shore of Lake Villarrica, and Villarrica Volcano. Pucón's location by a lake and a volcano, along with its relatively stable climate, especially in summer, make it a popular destination for tourists. It offers a variety of sports and adventure/recreational activities for tourists, including water skiing, snow skiing, backpacking, white water rafting and kayaking, horseback riding, natural hot springs, zip line rides, skydiving and guided ascents of Villarrica volcano.

To travel to Chile, participants should take flights to La Araucanía Airport (ZCO). Then, participants can travel by taxi or transfer from the La Araucanía Airport to Pucón. The taxi fare is 25 Euros and takes 30 min. Additional information and Scientific Programme of the ICC-15 Conference in Chile will be available very soon at: www.biopren.cl

More information about Pucón: