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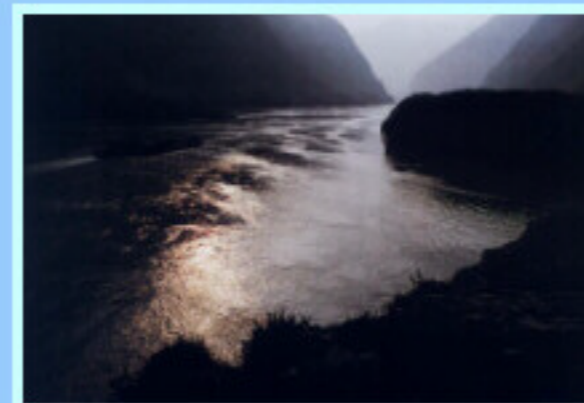
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First Circular
First International Symposium
on Genomics and
Crop Genetic Improvement

Wuhan, China

September 22-25, 2002



Local Organizing Committee

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Symposium Organizer

Professor Qifa Zhang

Director, National Key Laboratory of

Crop Genetic Improvement,

Huazhong Agricultural University

Background

The last decade has seen rapid advances in genome research in a large number of crop species, which has great implications for crop improvement. In particular, the development of high-density molecular marker linkage maps has greatly empowered identification and mapping of agriculturally important genes and also enhanced the exploitation of the exotic germplasm in breeding programs. Molecular marker-assisted selection has now become a routine technique widely used in breeding programs, which greatly improved the efficiency of selection. Integration of transformation into breeding programs has brought new opportunities for acquiring novel traits that otherwise cannot be obtained via conventional breeding approaches.

The recent completion of the sequencing project of the Arabidopsis genome, the near completion of the rice genome, and the progresses of genome mapping achieved in numerous plant species have opened enormous opportunities for crop genetic improvement. The objective of this symposium is to provide a venue for reviewing and exchanging the developments in ideas, approaches, innovations and progresses in plant breeding programs making use of the achievements in genomic research. The conference will feature plenary speeches by world-renowned experts in the field, oral and poster presentations contributed by the participants.

Wuhan is a large city located in a major agricultural area in central China. The city is well blended with a long history, rich traditional Chinese culture and modern industrial development. It is also the home for a number of academic institutions working on various aspects of plant genomics and crop genetic improvement, which have made significant progresses in the last decade. With the repaid development in biotechnology, Wuhan is an ideal place for hosting this international symposium.

Themes

- Genomics-enhanced approaches to exploiting new germplasm and genes
- Molecular understanding and improvement of crop quality
- Genetic and molecular bases of heterosis and male sterility
- Comparative mapping of crop plants
- New approaches in QTL identification and mapping
- Genomics-based innovations in breeding methodologies
- Crop improvement using molecular marker-assisted selection
- Integration of transgenic approaches in crop breeding

Post-symposium tour

A post-symposium tour to the Three Gorges of Yangtze River will be arranged depending on the demand. This is probably the last opportunity for many of us to see the spectacular scenery of the Gorges, as a big dam is now being constructed that is due to completion in 2003. Fee is not included in the registration.

General information

Language : The official language will be English
Registration fee:
Foreign delegate US\$150 (before July 15, 2002)
 US\$200 (after July 15, 2002)
Domestic delegate RMB 600 (before July 15, 2002)
 RMB 900 (after July 15, 2002)
Deadline for Abstract submission: May 31, 2002
Deadline for pre-registration: July 15, 2002
More information will be provided in the second circular.

Sponsors

The National Natural Science Foundation
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Reply and abstract submission form is also available at:
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