

Report of Commission VIII (Genomics & Biodiversity) by Yang-Sook Chun.

First of all, I would like to express my thankful mind to the ISPC committee. I have been very honoured to work as an ISPC member for four years. At the beginning, I did not know what to do as the member because that was my first job. Nonetheless, I could understand and perform my role by virtue of the great support of ISPC members, especially, President Denis Noble, Chair David Eisner, Co-Chair Walter Boron, and Treasurer Malcolm Gordon. I really appreciate their kind cooperation.

I would like to summarize the 4-year activities of our commission (part VIII, Genomics & Biodiversity) as follows.

Activities:

In 2010, I added proteomics to our part, and organized the commission VIII to include genomics, biodiversity and proteomics.

Considering geographic and gender balance, I recruited to the commission five additional members, namely, Noriko Osumi (Japan), J. Kevin Mitchell (Ireland), Auffray Charles (France), L. Eric Huang (U.S.A).

In ISPC meeting hold in Oxford July 10-11 2011, I participated in selecting plenary lecturers and speakers for 2013 IUPS Congress. In particular, I recommended Prof. Hee-Sup Shin as a plenary lecturer. Prof. Shin, one of top scientists in Korea, has studied brain functions in aspects of molecular and electrical physiology using ion channel-knock-out mice. This lecturer is expected to show us a new way to expand the physiological research by adopting genetic and molecular technologies in traditional physiology.

In ISPC meeting hold in Birmingham Mar 2-6 2012, I helped check the rooms and facilities of convention centre where 2013 IUPS congress will be hold. Also, I participated in deciding section programs and presenters for the congress. We decided to merge Genomics & biodiversity, Comparative, Evolution, Endocrine, Reproduction & Development, Physiome, and Systems Biology in the Group 4. We reviewed 58 topics proposed and select 30 topics for Group 4. We found that the related topics were scattered in the program, and thus, we suggested that some topics could be gathered in the same section. Thankfully, the chair Prof. McMillen accepted our suggestion and reorganized the program.

Comments :

In my opinion, we would better change the commission name "genomics& biodiversity". It is true that genomics has been one of the hottest academic topics. Besides genomics, the epigenomics, such as DNA methylation, Histone modification and miRNAs, proteomics and metabolomics are emerging hot topics in biology and medicine. To include more diverse fields in the commission, the present commission name may be reconsidered. If we get a new commission name meaning the diverse topics together, more people will be interested in the IUPS congress and then the congress will thrive more than now.

Four years when I proudly worked as an ISPC member has past so fast. The experience was great to me. Most important thing is that I could communicate with such great scientists whom I really wanted to see once. Now, I feel something is gone from my mind and I will miss them. Thanks again for giving me the great experience and for helping me always.

With my best regards.

Yang-Sook.