



Bangladesh Academy of Sciences NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL EVENTS

i. BanglaJOL Training Workshop on "Training for Compliance with International Publishing Standards" 18-19 October 2015, Dhaka

A 2-day Training Workshop of Bangladesh Journals On-line (BanglaJOL) Editors was held on 18-19 October 2015 at the Seminar Room of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), National Museum of Science & Technology (NMST) Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The theme of the workshop was loading, updating of website, on-line editing and peer-review processing and maintaining International Publishing Standards etc. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President, BAS, as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, Secretary, BAS and Coordinator, BanglaJOL was present at the dais. Professor Dr. Mohammad Ali Asgar, Fellow, BAS was in the Chair during inauguration. Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Country Coordinator, IUCN and Executive Editor, Bangladesh Journal of Plant Taxonomy was the facilitator for the training. Dr. M A Mazed, Director, BAS moderated the Inaugural Session. Seventeen out of 20 invited editors / members of Editorial Board participated in the Training Workshop. Dr. Mazed welcomed the participants present and expressed thanks for attending the Training Workshop. Professor Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, Secretary, BAS and Coordinator, BanglaJOL explained the purpose of the training of the editors so that the journals they are editing could achieve international standards and contents of the journals obtain impact internationally.

The main purpose of the BanglaJOL program is to make the work and achievements of Bangladeshi scientists visible globally in order to reduce the knowledge gap between the developed and developing countries. Dr. Aziz wished a successful and fruitful training for the participants and expressed thanks to International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) for providing fund for this training.



Address by President Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmad



Participants of BanglaJOL Training Workshop

Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President, BAS delivered the address of the Chief Guest. He mentioned that there are 135 journals floated in the BanglaJOL website. This is a big achievement for the country. He said workshop means action. The main objective of the 2-days workshop is to achieve international standard of the journals so that the journals are visible to the international readers. The Chief Guest mentioned some difficulties in journal editing as editors are not presently employed and are changing their duties after tenure. In many cases the job of editors is honorary. Today the participating editors are taking training and may not be with this responsibility after some time. He advised the participating editors to share their experience with the colleagues of the Editorial Boards. Sustainability and regularity of the journals is also a problem. Sometimes there are financial problem in publishing journals, peer-reviewing is also expensive.

President, BAS expressed that the journals of medical sciences are predominant in the BanglaJOL website. About 66 out of 135 journals on BanglaJOL are from medical sciences. The responsibilities of the editors are very important. In many of the journals, there are many faults; the participants have to overcome these to achieve international standard. He mentioned that the Academy aims to promote excellence in science education and research and is organizing this program in association with INASP. Professor Ahmad expressed hearty thanks to INASP for sponsoring this training programme. He expected the participants to serve the country through this training and wished them a success. With this address the Chief Guest inaugurated the training workshop on "Training for Compliance with International Publishing Standards"

Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, the facilitator of the workshop explained the purpose and details of the program.

He said that the purpose of the training was to learn through sharing knowledge and practice. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Asgar then delivered the address of the Chair. He said that the publication means creation of knowledge and there is no boundary of achieving knowledge. He also said that there are 3 important points related to journal publications:

(i) good research work, (ii) good reference, and (iii) good readers. He expected the participants to keep this point in view while publishing their journals. He concluded by wishing success of participants in the workshop.

ii. Visit of a 4-Member Science Council of Asia (SCA) Team led by Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Secretary General/ Treasurer of SCA, 20 December 2015

A 4-Member Team of Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Secretary General/Treasurer of SCA; Mr. Akira Chiba, Director-General, SCJ Secretariat; Mr. Kosuke Suzuki, Director for International Affairs, SCJ Secretariat and Mr. Noritoshi Sakamoto, Deputy Director for International Affairs, SCJ Secretariat visited Bangladesh Academy of Sciences on Sunday 20 December 2015 to discuss matters related to holding SCA Annual General Meeting and Conferences 2018 in Dhaka under the auspices of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). BAS Council members were present in the meeting. Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President, BAS presided over the meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the SCA delegates and Fellows present. After mutual introduction, Professor Ahmad told the background of the meeting. He then narrated the programs and activities that took place in SCA conference in Sri Lanka during 17-19 December 2015 to the distinguished delegates. Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, Secretary, BAS presented the aims, objectives and activities of the Academy.

Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, Immediate Past Secretary, BAS added to Dr. Aziz's presentation. He discussed about the program related to promotion of young scientists of BAS, like HOPE meeting in Japan, World Science Forum (WSF) meeting in Hungary, Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting in Germany and ACM-ICPC World Competition in different countries of the world. Prof. Choudhury also talked about the BAS-USDA PALS project activities in short.



Meeting of SCA Team and BAS Council Members



President BAS offering a gift to Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino

The Chair invited questions from the members of the delegation. They asked about the selection process of the projects under BAS-USDA program. The Chair replied that projects are invited through daily news papers and then the projects are evaluated and selected through peer review process.

Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmad, President, BAS, talked about the 16th SCA conference to be held in Sri Lanka, on 29 February-01 March 2016. SCA delegates expected 20 scientists from Bangladesh would participate in the conference.

At this point, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury said that Bangladeshi scientists are willing to participate, only impediment is to manage the travel grant for the participants.

Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Secretary General/Treasurer of SCA then said that the purpose of their visit to BAS was to do the ground work of the 18th SCA conference in Dhaka in 2018. Prof. Dr. M Ali Asgar, Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan and Dr. Firdausi Qadri participated in the discussion.

Finally, Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Yoshino, Secretary General/Treasurer of SCA expressed thanks to BAS council for arranging the meeting and for holding cordial discussion.

Professor Dr. Ahmad, President, BAS expressed thanks to the members of delegation and invited them to visit Bangladesh again and to see the heritage and historic places of the country.

iii. Seminar on Meta-Analysis by Prof. Dr. Shahjahan Khan, Expatriate Fellow, BAS, 31 December 2015

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) as one of its regular programs organized a seminar on "Evidence based decision and statistical meta-analysis with applications to randomized control trials in medical studies" on Thursday, 31 December 2015 in the seminar room of the Academy. Dr. Shahjahan Khan, Expatriate Fellow, BAS, Professor of School of Agricultural, Computational and Environmental Sciences, Centre for Health Sciences Research, International Centre for Applied Climate Sciences, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Australia and Chief Editor, Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics (JAPS) presented the topic. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Asgar, Fellow, BAS presided. Prof. Dr. K M Sultanul Aziz, Secretary, BAS called the seminar in order and welcomed the participants and expressed thanks for being present. Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury, Immediate Past Secretary, BAS moderated the seminar.

At the start Prof. Choudhury introduced the speaker, Prof. Dr. Shahjahan Khan to the audience and briefed the academic and professional achievement, of Prof. Khan. Prof. Khan is the recipient of many national and international awards including Dr. Quazi Motahar Hossain Award of Dhaka University. Prof. Khan spoke on different aspects of the Statistical analysis of meta data involved in doing complicated research particularly in health sciences.



Professor Shahjahan Khan delivering his lecture



Participants attending the lecture

After presentation, there was open discussion, question and comments by the participants and answers by the speaker. Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali, Fellow, BAS and Vice Chancellor of BUHS discussed about the topic and encouraged the Academy to organize such type of special seminar. Prof. Dr. Kabir, Dept. of Statistics, Jahangir Nagar University and teacher of Prof. Khan also spoke on the occasion and expressed his pride for Dr. Khan being one of his most successful students. Prof. Dr. Ali Asgar in his address talked about invention in different field of sciences by a group consisting of a

small number of scientists from analysis of a large volume of data. The Chair then expressed thanks to the speaker and the audience for the active participation. There were about 100 participants including teachers, researchers, scientists and students from different Universities and Research Institutes of the county.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

i. Biosafety Conference of South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP), 19-20 September 2015

South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP), Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) organized the 3rd Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference in Dhaka during 19-20 September 2015. The conference was supported by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Bangladesh and Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh. The objective of the conference was to provide an opportunity for scientists, regulators and policy makers in South Asia to meet and discuss issues relevant to the risk assessment and regulation of genetically engineered (GE) organisms with a regional focus. The conference additionally provided an opportunity to hear from leading scientists representing regulatory agencies, public sector research institutions, and the private sectors in South Asia.

ii. TWAS 13th Conference and 26th General Meeting, 18-21 November 2015, Vienna, Austria

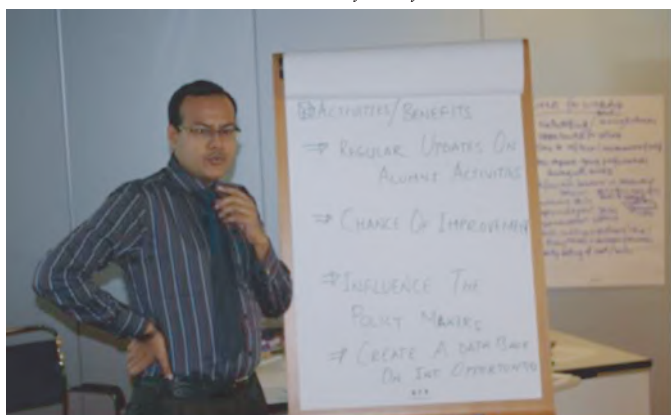
Prof. Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, Immediate Past President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences represented the Academy of the TWAS 13th Conference and 26th General Meeting, 18-21 November 2015, Vienna, Australia. Dr. Ali briefed the Academy of the outcome of the conference. He mentioned the contribution of TWAS for BAS-TWAS Young Scientists Prize every year. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Fellow, BAS also participated in the conference. The Academy sponsored the travel support of Professor Ali to attend the conference.

iii. Inter Academy Medical Panel (IAMP), Young Physician Leader (YPL) Workshop and World Health Summit, 9-13 October, 2015, Berlin, Germany

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) nominated Dr. Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury to represent the Academy Young Physician Leader (YPL) 2015 conference in conjunction with the World Health Summit - 2015 in Berlin, Germany, 7-11 October, 2015. The whole program was co-organized and sponsored by IAMP, M8 alliance and World Health Summit (WHS).



The YPL team in front of MDC



Dr. F. R. Chowdhury presenting his thoughts at the YPL workshop

World Health Summit 2015-We Must Act on Global Health

A defining year for global health

The world has set an ambitious agenda in relation to poverty, development, climate, and the health and well-being of all people-at the same time new

challenges that require determined political action have emerged. Our actions today will define the future of people and planet. The Ebola outbreak, the global migration and refugee movements, the experience of war and insecurity for many people, and the health impact of the financial crisis have put health firmly on the global political agenda. Many of the recent health crises are the result of a lack of commitment, weak governance, and insufficient investments in health systems and social determinants of health. Academia, politics, civil society and the private sector all have to assume more responsibility and act.

In the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the WHS 2015 calls on world leaders to take bold action for global health. We, the members of the M8 Alliance, call for action in five key areas of global health following from the discussion at the 2015 World Health Summit:

1. The health of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons
2. Global health security, sustainability and solidarity
3. Universal health coverage
4. Climate change and health
5. Digital health

iv. World Science Forum 2016, 4-7 November 2015, Budapest, Hungary

Ms. Romana Siddique, Senior Lecturer of BRAC University was nominated by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and selected by IAP (The InterAcademy Partnership) among the only 50 young scientist of the world to attend this prestigious event. Over 900 science leaders from over 100 countries gathered at the World Science Forum 2015. 'The Enabling Power of Science' was the theme of World Science Forum 2015 (Termed as WSF) reflecting on the way how science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy making. World Science Forum 2015 was hosted by Hungarian Academy of Science (HAS) in joint co-operation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and

Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Council for Science (ICSU), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). Based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this forum discussed from 3 to 7 November 2015 in Budapest, Hungary about the science advice into global policy dialogue and inputs summary of scientific research for the forthcoming COP21 climate change negotiation in Paris, France in December.

Prior to the opening ceremony on 4 November, 2015 over 50 young researchers from 30 different countries convened by IAP, WAYS, ICORSA, GYA and UNESCO gathered to analyze challenges and opportunities facing young scientists globally, identifying strategies that link global challenges to career opportunities and present policy recommendations to empower young scientists to impact the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The four organizations representing young scientists around the world came together for the first time to present a unified voice for the emerging international young scientist's movement, which is demanding a seat at the table in policy discussions and decision making that require scientific input.



*Young scientists participating "Scoping the Future".
Photo : IAP*

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

IAP Upcoming Events 19 MAY 2016 - 20 MAY 2016

International Conference on "Technology + Society = ? Future"

The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts will organise an International Conference on "Technology + Society =? Future" together with its partners World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA), Global Round Table (GRT), and European Federation of National Academies of Sciences and Humanities (All European Academies-ALLEA) in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 19-20 May 2016.

11 OCTOBER 2016 - 12 OCTOBER 2016

Florence 1966-2016: Resilience of Art Cities to Natural Catastrophes: The Role of Academies

The international meeting on "Florence 1966-2016" will be held in Rome on 11-12 October 2016 to mark the 50th anniversary of the great Florence flood. It will focus on the resilience of art cities to natural disasters.

IAMP UPCOMING EVENTS

22 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2016

One Health Conference 2016

FEAM, the Federation of European Academies of Medicine will host the "One Health" European Interregional Conference in Bucharest, Romania on 22-24 September 2016. The event will be organised by a number of stakeholders from within and outside Romania, with IAP member academy the Romanian Academy being one of them.

14 APRIL 2016 - 15 APRIL 2016

Improving the Learning of Biology and Related Sciences at the Pre-University Level

The International Conference on 'Improving the Learning of Biology and Related Sciences at the Pre-University Level' will take place 14-15 April 2016 in Santiago, Chile, sponsored, among others, by IAP, ICGEB and RELAB. It will be followed on 16 April by the annual meeting of the IAP meeting Santiago, Chile.

28 FEBRUARY 2016 - 2 MARCH 2016

IAP Conference and General Assembly 2016

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) will host the next IAP Conference and General Assembly from 28 February - 2 March 2016 in Hermanus, South Africa, the theme of which is 'Science Advice', Hermanus, South Africa.

27 JANUARY 2016 - 29 JANUARY 2016

UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on Sendai Framework

The UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 will take place on 27-29 January 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

10 DECEMBER 2015 - 11 DECEMBER 2015

Young scientists expert meeting on "Fresh scientific eyes on the refugee crisis"

On 10-11 December 2015, the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts are organizing a young experts meeting on the refugee crisis to develop a vision document based on the latest evidence. The goal is to provide policy-makers and committed citizens with key insights and potential approaches to address aspects of the current refugee crisis.

IAMP Upcoming Meetings & Events

One Health - European Interregional Conference
22 September 2016

IAMP Conference and General Assembly
27 September 2016

TWAS Upcoming Events

April 2016

6-9: International Symposium on Tropical Meteorology and Marine Science and Technology in Guangzhou, China.

10-11: TWAS-BioVision Alexandria.Nxt 2016 in Alexandria, Egypt.

Editorial Committee

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