

ACSPSNA Newsletter

August 2008

Contents in this issue:

- 1. ACSPSNA 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes**
 - 2. ACSPSNA 2008 Annual Meeting Agenda**
 - 3. Relevant Highlights at the 2008**
-

1. ACSPSNA 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes

The ACSPSNA 2007 Annual Meeting was held at the Hilton Riverside Hotel New Orleans, on November 5, 2007. ACSPSNA 2007 President Jay Gan had a schedule conflict and was unable to attend the meeting. Vice President Yan Jin presided the meeting in his place. The following are minutes from the meeting.

Keynote Presentation on National Natural Science Foundation of China

The main agenda item of the 2007 annual meeting was a keynote presentation by Dr. Jing Luo, Director of Agricultural Division, Department of Life Sciences of National Natural Science Foundation (NSFC) of China. Dr. Luo gave a complete overview of the NSFC, including the history of the foundation, its mission, administrative structure, financial sources and annual budgets, various programs, and evaluation process. It was especially encouraging to see the dramatic annual budget increase since its onset in 1968 to more than 4 billion RMB in 2007.

Dr. Luo then focused on the NSFC programs that are designed to support international cooperation and exchanges. These programs are different in scope and goals as well as different evaluation requirements. Following general criteria for evaluating international cooperation are used by the NSFC: 1) mutual interests, 2) joint input of resources, 3) substantial cooperation, and 4) achievements sharing. Dr. Luo encouraged participation of ACSPSNA members in the relevant programs. He especially emphasized the need for overseas scholars to get involved in project evaluations (only ~100 scientists from outside of China have participated compared to ~6000 scientists from China). For those who are interested in these programs/activities, please visit the NSFC website at <http://www.nsf.gov.cn> or contact Dr. Jing Luo at luoj@nsfc.gov.cn or agri@nsfc.gov.cn.

Discussion on Research Cooperation and Exchange

A brief discussion followed Dr. Jing Luo's presentation. Afterwards, several ACSPSNA members gave informal account of personal experiences based on their collaboration activities with collaborators/organizations in China. Those individuals included: Dr. Bingru Huang, Professor at University of Rutgers, Dr. Minghua Zhang of University of California-Davis, and Dr. H.H. Chen, Professor Emeritus of University of Minnesota.

Welcome New Board Member

Dr. Zhenli He, Associate Professor at the Soil and Water Sciences Department of University of Florida was nominated and unanimously elected as the Secretary/Treasure for ACSPSNA. Welcome aboard, Zhenli!

2. ACSPSNA 2008 Annual Meeting in Houston



Please mark your calendar!

When: Monday, October 6, 2006, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Where: Room 370A, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

The 2008 ACSPSNA annual meeting will take place at the above time and location. We have the following three main items planned for the meeting.

1. Keynote presentation: “Progress in Science and Technology in China” by Consul for Science and Technology, the Chinese Consulate in Houston.
2. ACSPSNA business meeting: Approval of 2007 meeting minutes, financial report, and other items. In addition, we will have a brief discussion on whether there is a need to modify the current association name. The two options that are under consideration are:
 - a. ACSPSNA (The Association of Chinese Soil & Plant Scientists in North America – **no change**)
 - b. ACSPEPNA (The Association of Chinese Soil, Plant & Environmental Scientists in North America)
2. ACSPSNA reception: To encourage more interactions among our members and visiting friends, a reception will be held immediately follow the meeting (6:30 – 8:00 pm) in the same room. Food (vegetables, fruits, cheese platters, Hor’s Doeuvers) and beverages will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you in Houston!

Current association board member e-mail address:

JIN, Yan: yjin@udel.edu
WANG, Dong: dong.wang@ars.usda.gov
HE, Zhenli: zhe@ufl.edu
