

Promoting Agriculture Proteome Research Activities in the Asia and Oceania Region

In the rapidly growing economies of Asia and Oceania, food security has become a priority concern. With a rising population, growing more food at affordable prices becomes even more important. This challenge requires integrated approaches to increase agricultural production and cope with environmental challenges. Proteomics can play a role in addressing the growing demand for food. The advent of proteomics has allowed researchers to identify a broad spectrum of proteins in living systems. This capability is especially useful for agriculture because it may give clues not only about nutritional value but also about yield production and how these factors are affected by adverse conditions. To promote agricultural proteomics activities in the Asia and Oceania region, the Asia Oceania Agricultural Proteome Organization (AOAPO) was established in 2010 and formally launched at the second International Symposium on Frontiers in Agricultural Proteome Research (FAPR) held in Tsukuba, Japan, in November 2010. AOAPO activities cover a broad range of agricultural proteome research areas including crop, food, insect, microbial and animal proteomics.

The third International Symposium on FAPR was held in Tsukuba, Japan, November 8–10, 2011 and was an outstanding success. The symposium was organized by the National Institute of Crop Science of Japan and cosponsored by OECD Co-operative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems, and Journal of Proteome Research. The second AOAPO council meeting was held during this symposium, and Setsuko Komatsu was elected as first president-elect of AOAPO. Paul Haynes and Ghasem Hosseini Salekdeh were also elected as vice-president and Secretary General of AOAPO, respectively.

The AOAPO mission is summarized in the following central points: (i) Promote the regional and international exchange of agricultural proteomics knowledge and research techniques via training courses and workshops, as well as organization and funding for regional and international meetings. (ii) Provide expert advice to governmental and nongovernmental agencies on the support of agricultural proteome research. (iii) Collect and distribute information on agricultural proteome-related programs and projects. (iv) Act as liaison with other international organizations involved in proteomic research and related developments and provide support for their activities.

Over the past 2 years, members from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand have joined AOAPO council. AOAPO plans to continue its support for holding regular international symposia in Asia and Oceania region. The primary goal of international symposia is to provide a regional forum where Asia-Oceania scientists active in agricultural proteome science can discuss the latest technological developments for proteomics studies, as well as their applications to agriculture problems pertinent to the region. The next International Symposium on FAPR is scheduled for

Wuhan, China in November 2012. Further information on AOAPO mission, structure and activities is available at <http://www.aoapo.org>.



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