

Kunming Botanical Garden Secrets of Green Leaves

Exhibition dates: 1 Jan - 31 May 2007

Estimated number of visitors who viewed exhibition: 40,000

Introduction

Kunming Botanical Garden, CAS ("KBG") is located at the northern countryside of Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan, which is synonymous to "Reign of Plants". KBG collects and keeps about 4,000 live plant species. It has 13 specialised gardens including the Camellia Garden, Herbs Garden, The Fuligong Greenhouse clusters, The Gymnosperm Zone and Aquatic Landscaped Garden. KBG always organizes various kinds of scientific education activities for the youth and children. In particular, it makes use of public holidays and weekends, when people have leisure time, to conduct various educational exhibitions so as to educate different levels of the public about biodiversity conservation.

As year 2007 approaches, the exhibition "China Botanic Garden Exhibition - Secrets of Green Leaves" sponsored by BGC I opened. Scientific education staff forfeited their rest times and worked wholeheartedly to provide educational interpretation to students and members of the public, and to distribute free-of-charge posters from BGC I to promote plants.

This exhibition activity will continue to go on, so that secondary and primary school students who join KBG's "Spring Tour" activities can still come to enjoy the exhibition.



The proposed goals were:

Learning goals: We showed visitors and students the leaves of different plants in KBG that exhibit different shapes and varieties, so that they can observe the diversity of living things objectively. When visitors read the explanations on exhibition panels, they can understand that leaves will change following seasonal changes and other conditions. They will also learn basic mechanisms leading to such changes.

Emotional goals: Leaves of certain plants change colors because of changes in temperature or moisture content. They are a nice decoration in nature and let people

enjoy their beauty.

Behavioural goals: When visitors see the variety and uniqueness of plant leaves in nature while learning relevant knowledge, we solicit their interest in showing love to nature and protecting plants.

Location of the exhibition

The 18 panel exhibition was held outdoors at the entrance of the botanic garden.



Evaluation and feedback

1. Outcome

During the first three days (1-3 Jan 2007), the exhibition attracted more than 4,000 visitors, in which about 3,550 were adults, about 300 were young people (mainly university and secondary school students), and about 150 were children. We also received 2 school groups during the first three days.

We made inquiries and conversations with visitors. Visitors showed strong interest in the topic of "Secrets of Green Leaves". They were happy to learn so much knowledge and the secrets of the plant kingdom from the apparently simple topic of "Leaves - Secrets of Green Leaves". Moreover, visitors were very interested in the plant posters produced by BGCI. This activity alone distributed about 4,500 posters.

According to random interview surveys conducted with visitors, this exhibition has achieved its goals to varying extents. From random surveys to 100 visitors, 85 people attained their learning goals. All interviewees expressed that through reading the content of this exhibition, they felt a connection with the plant kingdom. They express that they will love nature more and will consciously care for nature in their daily live in future, in order to protect the beautiful plant kingdom.

2. Inadequacies

The production of this exhibition did not have sufficient time to prepare. Production of the panels was not very fine. In other words, the form/appearance of the panels did not match the content being exhibited. We plan to reproduce these panels in the near future, and we will use this opportunity to enrich and increase the content of the panels. For example, we will add information related to the "structure of leaves" and "common plants with ornamental leaves". The leaves of plants in KBG

will be displayed according to their taxonomy, i.e. gymnosperm, fern, and angiosperm. With this arrangement, visitors will have a more structured and better understanding on plants.