Thursday - April 19, 2007

9:00-10:50 **PLENARY SESSION 3** (WSTCEC:4th Floor Auditorium)

9:00-9:30 • **From a National Plant Checklist to Chinese Virtual Herbarium**

Professor MA Keping
Director General, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100093, China

China is one of the mega-diversity countries worldwide. According to *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae*, there are 31142 plant species, 52% of which are endemic to China. In order to provide sound basis for plant conservation and sustainable use in China, we set up the Chinese Virtual Herbarium (CVH, http://www.cvh.org.cn). In the CVH, there are 4 major components, namely digitized specimens, plant database, e-floras and photos. From the digitized specimen module, you can find information for more than 2 million regular specimens and 3000 type specimens; For plant database module, a number of databases are ready for query, such as national plant checklist, botanical literature database, Chinese herbaria database and interactive keys; E-floras include *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae, Flora of China, Flora of Tibet, Flora of Qinghai, Flora of Qinling Mt., Flora of Sichuan and Flora of Hainan;* Over 26000 plant color photos were uploaded to CVH, which belong to 236 families 1437genera and 3654 species. In addition, we also developed a searching engine for major international herbaria and related databases. From late 2006, we started to prepare a CD ROM for *Catalogue of Life China*. Now, we have the trial version and will complete the first version in late 2007, which will include a national checklist for higher plants, vertebrate and some fungi and bacteria.

9:40-10:10 • **Conserving plant diversity on old and young landscapes - rethinking theory**

Professor Stephen HOPPER
Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, UK

Old climatically-buffered infertile landscapes (OCBILs) are globally rare today, but are prominent in the Southwest Australian Floristic Region, South Africa's Greater Cape, and Venezuela's Pantepui Highlands. They may have been more common globally before Pleistocene glaciations. OCBILs are important for conserving plant diversity, being rich in rare local endemics, phylogenetic relicts and unnamed new species. Insights that may help conservation are emerging from predictions of OCBIL theory. Conventional conservation management has developed primarily from observations and experiments on species from young, often-disturbed, fertile landscapes (YODFLs). It may be that many applications of such theory are contrary to best practice for species under threat on OCBILs.