

## Nanjing Botanical Garden Sun Yet Sen

### Support Nanjing Botanical Garden to conserve plants for people and the environment

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*Exhibition dates: 26th April-26th September 2006*

*Estimated number of visitors who viewed exhibition: 50,000*

#### **Introduction**

Nanjing Botanical Garden (NBG) is the first national botanical garden established in 1929 in China, the predecessor of the garden was Botanical Garden Memorial Sun Yat-Sen. Now NBG Mem. Sun Yat-Sen and Institute of Botany, Jiangsu Province and Chinese Academy of Sciences are merged into a single unit as a comprehensive research institution of botany.

The 186 ha. garden features luxuriant vegetation, lawns, hills and lakes. As a research center on central and northern subtropical flora of China, the garden has a living collection of 3000 taxa. It is both a beautiful scenic spot and a plant kingdom. It is also an educational base of national, provincial and municipal level. NBG has made important contribution to people's life and local economy.



#### **Location of the exhibition**

The exhibition composed of 15 panels was displayed in the Conservatory of NBG and included hundreds of living plants and dozens of exhibits. The exhibition was also held on the website of NBG., in form of photos of 15 panels with text which could be read.



#### **Activities conducted with exhibition**

Activity book: 4000 activity books & leaflets with text of all 15 panels, evaluation form and questions of knowledge test were printed. The leaflets were sent to 24 local primary and middle schools, in case their students were not be able to come to the garden to visit the exhibition.

Knowledge test: About 300-400 primary and junior middle school students attended the test.

Lectures: 3 relevant lectures entitled 'Interesting Plants' were arranged for the students in the garden and in Nanjing Foreign Language Middle School, with over 300 audiences.

Posters: Over 30,000 BGCI posters were distributed to children aged 5 to 12.

### **Evaluation and feedback**

4000 evaluation forms were sent to 24 local primary and junior middle schools with activity book, and we did a survey according to some of the completed forms and by asking visitors on the spot. Most children thought the exhibition interesting and valuable, arousing their interest in plants and the botanic garden which owns large variety of different plants. They have got some useful information and knowledge about plants from the exhibition and relevant activities like knowledge test and lectures, etc. Most children are also interested in the posters. They like the design, especially the car and the robot.



The Activity Booklet (including a knowledge quiz and a feedback form) was mainly given to 6 schools, namely the 54th Secondary School, the 13th Secondary School, Zhongshan Primary School, Ruijin Road Primary School, Guanghua East Street Primary School, and Fuguishan Primary School. The Booklet was also sent out by mail with "The Science Public" (a science education magazine that targets the youth) to nearly 20 primary and secondary schools. Altogether 24 schools received 4,000 Activity Booklets.

300-400 primary and junior secondary school students participated in the quiz. Almost all answers of the quiz could be found on the exhibition panels. Its aim was to encourage visitors to carefully read the panels and the plant labels in Nanjing Botanical Garden so that they can find the correct answers. They were given a small gift, a plant namecard. This approach not only effectively reinforce the effect of the exhibition, it also made the exhibition more interactive and interesting.

Teachers generally thought the activity booklets were very meaningful. The format of the Activity Booklet was also new to them. Many teachers expressed that they need to use the environment and resources of botanic gardens in future, and to launch relevant activities such as summer camps, onsite Biology class, activities organised by the Biology Interest Group, and plant adoption. Teachers also expressed that they hoped we could extend our work in school campus

and help schools launch more activities, such as setting up a Biology Corner or a Biology Garden, organising seminars, and assisting students to conduct activities such as plant research and tree-planting.

Students said that the exhibition content was relevant to their lives. As the exhibition vividly showed the relationship between plants and human, the exhibition aroused their interest to understand and learn more about the mystery of plants. From visiting the exhibition and participating in relevant activities such as seminars and the quiz, they could have a more comprehensive understanding of the close relationship between plants and human. Now they also have a deeper understanding of the importance of botanic gardens. In future they said that they will show more care for plants and botanic gardens, and will be more willing to participate in activities related to plant protection and plant research.

Almost all of the 35,000 posters have been distributed. Recipients include children between 5 and 12 who study in dozens of primary schools, secondary schools and nurseries. About 80% of children came with their schools, and 20% came with their parents.

Both parents and teachers generally thought that this set of promotion posters had a unique design that can arouse the public's, particularly children's, interest in plants.

Children generally like the design of the poster. They think that the idea is new and interesting, and the colours are sharp. They particularly like the racing car and the robot. Some said that they didn't think that plants could be assembled into such beautiful pictures. Many young children were very eager to get the posters.



## Publicity



The exhibition was publicized and reported through the website of NBG, Xinhua Daily-a major provincial newspaper, Nanjing TV Station and Jiangsu Education TV Station, as well as a journal called 'Children and Science'.