

CUBG Quarterly Briefing



Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens

Winter 2017

October 9, 2017

CUBG Plant Information Management System to Be Put into Use

The Plant Information Management System (PIMS) of Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens (CUBG) has been developed. To brainstorm and optimize its functions and system variously, 44 staff members from 22 botanical gardens gathered together at Chongqing Nanshan Botanical Garden on October 9.



Participants discuss how to optimize PIMS

Up to now, 15 botanical gardens and institutions have participated in the test online. Seven other botanical gardens will also trial the system platform soon. After completion, the system is expected to be put into use by botanical gardens nationwide.

At the meeting, participants reported their trial experiences, and communicated the existing problems with the developers. Afterwards, they brainstormed to improve the management system.

This system, with CUBG as lead, aims to satisfy the botanical gardens in different types with easy but perfect operation.

November 13, 2017

Beijing Botanical Garden, IBCAS trained for the operation of PIMS

To promote the standardized management of the plant records, Beijing Botanical Garden, Institute of Botany, CAS held the operation training on Plant Information Management



System (PIMS) on November 3.

Dr. Sun Guofeng, vice-director of the garden, hosted the course, and all staffs attended it. Prof. Zhang Zheng from South China Botanical Garden, the head of PIMS developing team, CUBG, first introduced the development background, function modules, data application & analysis. Under his guidance, the staffs could collect the plant data via an app called Bio-Surveyor and upload on the computer.

Besides, the staffs also discussed the whole management process and how to manage the data from distinctive collections characteristically.

October-December, 2017

Full-Coverage Conservation Plan for Native Plants in China goes well

During the second phase of this project, another six pilot areas have joined in, which are Hunan, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Shan'xi, Chongqing and Fujian. Up to December 31, more than 80 experts have accomplished the assessment of the native plants in these areas. The results of the assessment will provide the basic data for the field survey and the conservation.

Team Members of XTBG Surveys Southeast Yunnan and Guangxi Areas

Team members of Full-Coverage Conservation Plan, originated from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden's (XTBG) Zero Extinction Program, started to survey southeast Yuannan and Guangxi areas for a half month in October.



Ottelia acuminata var. *jingxiensis*

They finished their survey more than 4000 kilometers passing by Pingxiang, Jingxi, Debao, Nabo in Guangxi Province and Malipo, Maguan, Yuanyang, Lvchun, Jiangcheng in southeast Yunnan to finally collect *Parakmeria yunnanensis*, *Impatiens morsei*, *Ottelia acuminata* var. *jingxiensis*, *Styrax chinensis*, *Hopea chinensis* and *Amentotaxus yunnanensis*, which are listed in the inventory of endangered native plant status in Xishuangbanna area.

Besides, they also introduced 139 species including seeds, which belong to 65 families and 92 genus, to bring back to XTBG.

Hunan Forest Botanical Garden Surveys deeply in Hunan Province

From October to December, team members in Hunan Province surveyed twice in their area. They have investigated almost 500 species in many targeted

areas such as Jiemuxi Natural Protection Zone, Wuyunjie Nature Preserve, Youxian County and Yanling County.

Newly-join areas	Guangdong	Hunan	Jiangxi	Shan'xi	Chongqing	Fujian
Species Numbers	6040	4915	4315	4320	4275	3823
1. Extinct (EX)	3	3	2	0	2	2
2. Critically Endangered (CR)	60	39	26	36	31	13
3. Endangered(EN)	195	202	81	107	121	86
4. Vulnerable (VU)	258	361	132	150	176	147
5. Near Threatened(NT)	382	587	328	451	200	200
6. Least Concern (LC)	4631	3298	2978	3315	3745	3375
7. Data Deficient (DD)	511	425	768	261	99	159

Threatened Category List of Native Plants in newly-join areas

December 5-7, 2017

Annual Work Meeting 2017 of CAS Botanical Gardens Committee held in Shanghai

Annual work conference 2017 of the botanical gardens work committee of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was held in Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden on December 5-7. An academic forum was concurrently held. Prof. Chen Jin, Prof. Hu Huabin, together with directors or vice directors of other 12 CAS botanical gardens, attended the meeting.



Prof. Hu Huabin, secretary general of the CAS Botanical Gardens Work Committee, made work report 2017 of the committee. Directors of the 13 member gardens respectively gave discussion talks on the developing of botanical gardens and the function of botanical gardens work committee.

Summing up the meeting, Prof. Chen Jin, chairman of CAS Botanical Gardens Work Committee and director of XTBG, emphasized the important role of botanical gardens in open system of national botanical gardens and

deployment of strategic plant resources.

21 researchers from 13 botanical gardens presented their research progress at the academic forum, concerning phylogenetic development, molecular biology, plant biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, etc. A workshop also held during the forum to discuss how to combine the scientific research and botanical gardens' development. Finally Prof. Zhang Daoyuan from Turpan Desert Botanical Garden, Dr. Wan Tao from Shenzhen Fairy Lake Botanical Garden and Dr. Chen Gao from Kunming Botanical Garden won the top three prizes.

At the night of December 5, 13 members from the committee were invited to give the advisory on Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden's progressive development plan from 2018 to 2022.

August 7-19, 2017

CUBG course on ex situ conservation techniques completed

To meet the need and improve capacity building, the Chinese Union of Botanical Gardens (CUBG) organized a training course on ex situ conservation techniques from October 24-27.

With experts from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Morton Arboretum, and National Tropical Botanical Garden of USA as teachers, 27 trainees from Chinese botanic gardens got a comprehensive understanding on ex situ conservation and had field practice.



Prof. Chuck Cannon introduces sample collecting in the field

The course mainly focused on collecting living organisms for botanic gardens, data record and management, establishment of living collections, seed germination and seedling propagation, seed bank, conserving genetic diversity, etc. It also included application of new techniques involving transfer of a target species away from its native habitat.

The successful examples of ex situ conservation at National Tropical Botanical Garden of USA were specifically introduced at the course.

The teachers at the training course were Profs. Richard Corlett, Chen Jin, Chuck Cannon, Drs. Shi Jipu, Sean Hoban, and Micheal DeMotta.

September 2-15, 2017

2017 CUBG Horticulture Training course completed

From 2nd-15th November, 21 staff from 13 of China's botanical gardens have been attending a horticulture training course at Kunming Botanic Garden and Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG). The course has been arranged by the Chinese Union of Botanic Gardens (CUBG), with the aim of raising horticulture capacity throughout botanical gardens nationwide.



The two-week CUBG horticulture training course came to a successful end on November 21, marked by receiving certificates of completion from Prof. Hu Huabin, CUBG secretary general and deputy director of XTBG.

The opening was held at Kunming Botanical Garden on November 2. Prof. Sun Hang, director of Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), encouraged the participants to learn from experienced horticulturists, study hard together and improve capacity.

Mr. Martyn Dickson, senior horticulturist at Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE), and David Tricker, indoor horticulturist at RBGE, were invited to be key teachers at the training. They taught pruning, seed sowing, plant care and management, propagation, etc.

The course was comprised of theory course in the morning, practice in the afternoon, and discussion in the evening.

The first part of the training took place in Kunming Botanical Garden from November 2-10. The teachers like Prof. Sun Weibang, Hu Shaoqing and others introduced comprehensive conservation of wild plant species with extremely small populations and establishment of living collections; landscape arrangement of gardening plant; common plant pests; discovery of new plant species; standard of investigating and collecting germplasm of wild plant species with extremely small populations; etc.

The second part of the course took place in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG). The five-day training included identification of tropical plants at species and genus levels, management of plant information, gardening machinery, management of living collections, landscape improvement, themed exhibitions, etc.

The training course was sponsored by CUBG. Like the course over the past

years (2013-2016), three participants in 2017 with excellent performance will be provided a chance to study in Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh or some other famous botanical gardens in UK.