ACC, an Asian forum for chromosome communities: 
Eighteen years on

Kiichi Fukui

Department of Biotechnology, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, 
Suita 565-0871, Osaka, Japan

When we look at Asian countries, with all their unique cultures and histories, we can be proud of our traditions, so different from country to country. In contrast, science requires universality from us. However, until the end of 20th century, there was no such a common forum for chromosome science in Asia.

In 1998, while the 18th International Congress of Genetics was being held in Beijing, China, chromosome researchers attending from Japan (Dr. Kiichi Fukui), China (Dr. Youzhi Ma), Korea (Prof. Jae-Wook Bang) and Thailand (Dr. Somsac Apisitwanich) discussed the possibility of creating an Asian forum for chromosome researchers. An enthusiastic discussion followed and unanimously concluded with the decision to have the first Asian Chromosome Colloquium (ACC) at Beijing. One of the reasons why an ACC was agreed upon is that there was already a long tradition of bilateral conferences between China and Japan initiated in 1987 at Beijing (Hong 1989) and in 1992 at Tianjin (Tanaka 1992) by Profs. Hao Shui (Northeast Normal Univ.), Chen Ruiyang, (Tianjin Univ.), Hong Deyuan (Inst. Botany, Academia Sinica) Ryuso Tanaka, Kenji Taniguchi, and Masashi Nakata (Hiroshima Univ.). We always stand on the shoulders of the giants.

The First Asian Chromosome Colloquium at Beijing in 2001

ACC1 was initiated by mainly Chinese and Japanese collaboration. Three years have passed without much apparent activity, however, Chinese organizer Dr. Zhiyong Xin (Director General, Inst. Crop Breed. Cult., CAAS) and his local organizers led by secretary general, Dr. Youzhi Ma (Inst. Crop Breed. Cult., CAAS) made concrete steps in turning ACC1 into reality.

The international side of ACC1 was coordinated by Prof. Kiichi Fukui (Osaka Univ.) and his national secretariat, Drs. Takefumi Sone (Osaka Univ.) and Toshiyuki Wako (Natl. Inst. Agrobiol. Resour.), who visited Beijing to assist their Chinese counterparts. In Sept. 27-29, 2001, at the beginning of 21st century, over 120 chromosome researchers gathered at the Beijing International Conference Center under the unifying theme of "Chromosome Science in the New Millennium". All the foreign participants were impressed by the valuable presentations and enthusiastic discussion; they also greatly enjoyed the delicious traditional Chinese cuisine. The first proceedings of the ACC1 were published under the editorship of Prof. Fukui and Dr. Xin in 2002 (Fukui and Xin 2002).

Figure 1. Group photo of the attendant to ACC1.
The Second Asian Chromosome Colloquium at Daejeon in 2004

ACC2 was held at the International Culture Center of Chungnam University, Daejeon, Korea in May 20-22, 2004; the colloquium organizers were Profs. Jae-Wook Bang (Chungnam Natl. Univ.) and Yasuhiko Mukai (Osaka Kyoiku Univ.). ACC2 was held under the theme of “Chromosome Science in Post-Genome Era” with Prof. David M. Stelly (Texas A&M Univ., USA) as a guest speaker. Over 60 researchers and students gathered and enthusiastically discussed various topics in chromosome science. They also enjoyed delicious traditional Korean cuisine, which has become something of a good tradition of the ACC. The second proceedings were published under the editorship of Profs. Bang and Mukai in 2006 (Bang and Mukai, 2006).

The Third Asian Chromosome Colloquium at Osaka in 2008

ACC3 was held at MO Hall, Osaka University, Japan in Dec. 1-3, 2008, with over 170 participants from Japan, China, Korea, India, Turkey, Russia, Thailand, Philippines, Iraq, Indonesia, etc. Thus ACC3 was long remembered for the reason that the number of Asian nationalities attending was greatly expanded, reflecting the growth of economy and science in the Asian region. The theme of ACC3 was “Development of Chromosome Research Network in Asia”. The organizers were Prof. Kenji Taniguchi (Hiroshima Univ.) and Dr. Xueyong Zhang (ICS, CAAS) with three executive secretariats of Dr. Youzhi Ma (ICBC, CAAS), Profs. Yoichi Matsuda (Hokkaido Univ.), and Takato Koba (Chiba Univ.). All the participants enjoyed not only interesting presentations and discussion but, as usual, delicious traditional local cuisine. The proceedings of ACC3 was published under the editorship of Prof. Taniguchi and Dr. Zhang (Taniguchi and Zhang, 2010).
The Forth Asian Chromosome Colloquium at Beijin in 2010

ACC4 returned to the home of ACC, Beijing, and was held at a resort hotel at Xiangshan in Beijing, where the first Sino-Japanese Symposium on Plant Chromosomes had been held in 1987. The colloquium was held in Oct. 11-14, 2010 with more than 200 participants. The theme was “Advances in Chromosome Sciences” and the organizer was Prof. Zhensheng Li (former Vice President, CAS) with executive secretaries Profs. Youzhi Ma and Xueyong Zhang (ICS, CAAS). This colloquium was the first one to introduce the commercial sessions from the microscopic company, etc. ACC4 is also memorable as the largest ACC to date. All the participants greatly appreciated the organizer’s heartfelt welcome and the smooth organization of the colloquium; they also enjoyed the delicious modernized Chinese cuisine on offer.

The Fifth Asian Chromosome Colloquium at Bangkok in 2015

ACC5 was held at Kasetsart University in Thailand under the theme, “New horizon by unifying of chromosome research” during April 29th to May 1st in 2015. The organizer was Assoc. Prof. Som Sac Apisitwanich (former Dean, Department of Genetics, Kasetsart Univ.) with executive secretary of Assist. Prof. Kornsorn Srikulnath (Dept. Genet., Kasetsart Univ.). ACC5 was also held as a joint meeting of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Society of Chromosome Research, Japan in order to meet the request from the Thai organizing committee. The organizer of Japanese side was Prof. Yoh-ichi Matsuda (Grad. Sch. Agr., Nagoya Univ.) and the general secretary was Assist. Prof. Shinji Kikuchi (Grad. Sch. Horticult., Chiba Univ.). There were 199 attendants including 42 delegates from Japan who enjoyed 6 plenary lectures, 10 symposia, 24 invited lectures, 35 oral presentations, and 38 posters. They were also delighted with Gala dinner, a special cultural dinner party. All the attendants reveled a lot in Thai classic dancing and Thai specialties in the full of Thai mood.
Looking back these eighteen years and forward to ACC6 to be held in Canberra in 2018, we can be very proud of our good tradition in serving as a forum for chromosome researchers within Asian countries by providing venues for meetings, discussion, and local specialties. The professors and doctors who have contributed much to the organization of past ACCs are, however, now retiring. ACC5 will take place at a new venue, where we wish new members with new ideas to join the ACC. We do hope that you, young researchers and students that participate in ACC6, will evolve a new style of ACC, one that is perhaps more fitting to the new Asian and Pacific era of science and technology, by learning something from the past history of the ACCs.

References


