

PREFACE

It was a great pleasure for the local ichthyologists to host the 7th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference (7th IPFC) in Taipei, Taiwan from May 16 - 21, 2005. The series of conferences commenced in Sydney, Australia in 1981; the conference was held every four years thereafter in Tokyo, Wellington, Bangkok, New Caledonia and Durban, respectively. In the Taipei conference, approximately 600 participants, among them 393 from 38 countries, met to keep abreast of recent research activity and progress in ichthyology from a total of 21 keynote speeches and 457 presentations (248 oral and 209 posters) in 28 parallel symposia or sessions. In terms of the number of oral presentations, the 10 hot themes were: Biodiversity of Coastal Fishes (15), Reproductive Mechanisms in Fishes: Chondrichthyes (14), Ecological Versatility of Fishes (13), Systematics & Biogeography of Chondrichthyes (13), Deep-Sea Fishes (12), Eels: Biology, Ecology & Conservation (12), Conservation of Freshwater Fishes (11), Conservation of Reef Fishes (11), Dispersal & Retention of Larval Fishes (11) and Reproductive Biology of Osteichthyes (11). The full scientific programme and abstracts of presentations are presented at the website of the 7th IPFC in the Fish Database of Taiwan (<http://fishdb.sinica.edu.tw>) (<http://fishdb.sinica.edu.tw/2001new/english/english.asp>) and the website of the local organizer, the Research Center for Biodiversity, Academia Sinica (RCBAS) (<http://www.biodiv.sinica.edu.tw>) and the Ichthyological Society of Taiwan (<http://www.twichthyology.org>).

We are grateful to Prof. Peter Ng Kee Lin, Director of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research (Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore) for offering us a special issue in the journal of Raffles Bulletin of Zoology (RBZ) to publish the Proceedings of the 7th IPFC. A total of 43 manuscripts were received for consideration for publication in the Proceedings. After peer-review in the formal standard prescribed by the journal, 32 papers were accepted for publication. I'd like to thank Ms. Tan Kai-xin, Dr. Tan Heok Hui, Mr. Low Ern Yee, Martyn, Dr. Tan Swee Hee (RBZ) and Dr. Rong-Quen Jan (RCBAS) for their excellent editing work and effort as well as the list of reviewers who kindly reviewed the manuscripts.

The completion of the 7th IPFC, together with the publication of this Proceedings, would not have been possible without the generous donations and support from the following institutions and agencies of Taiwan: RCBAS, National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium (NMMBA), National Science Council, Nan-Ren-Hu Enterprise, Forestry Bureau and Fishery Agency of the Council of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Administration, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior and Coastal Guard. Also, I would especially like to thank former Director General of NMMBA, Dr. Lee-Shing Fang, for the 2nd largest contribution to our fund raising efforts, besides RCBAS.

In the 7th IPFC, we presented the first Bleeker Awards to the two ichthyologists who have contributed the most to fish taxonomy and ecological studies in the Indo-Pacific region. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Evaluation Committee members who selected Dr. John E. Randall and Prof. Howard Choat as the first two honorees. We would also like to acknowledge Prof. Kent E. Carpenter who prepared the biography of Pieter Bleeker that is included in the Proceedings.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the success of the 7th IPFC. Please note that the conference venue for 8th IPFC in 2009 will be changed from Sabah (Malaysia) to Perth (Western Australia). I hope to meet all of you in Perth.

Dr. Kwang-Tsao Shao
Chairman, the 7th IPFC Organizing Committee

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