

Minutes from 2019 MASC Annual Meeting

Monday June 17th 2019: 19.00- 20.30

Location: Eurasia Convention Centre, Wuhan

Meeting Attendees

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| Barry Pogson, MASC Director, Australian National University | Australia |
| Sean May, MASC Director, NASC | UK |
| Debbie Crist, Representing ABRC | USA |
| Lifang Zhang, Representing Gramene | USA |
| Xuelu Wang, MASC Director, Huazhong Agricultural University | China |
| Xuehua Zhong, Subcommittee Chair, University of Wisconsin | USA |
| David Mendoza, Subcommittee member, University of Missouri | USA |
| Rodrigo Gutierrez, MASC Director, Universidad Catolica de Chile | Chile |
| Jingjing Zhang, Observer | Australia |
| Isabel Mendoza, Representing Global Plant Council | Spain |
| Bob Schmitz, Subcommittee Chair, University of Georgia | USA |
| Minami Matsui, Observer, RIKEN BRC | Japan |
| Blake Meyers, Representing NAASC and IAIC, Donald Danforth | USA |
| Motoaki Seki, Country Representative and Subcommittee Chair | Japan |
| Masatomo Kobayashi, MASC director, RIKEN BRC | Japan |
| Yuling Jiao, Country Representative, IGDB CAS | China |
| Eunyoung Chae, Country Rep, National University of Singapore | Singapore |
| On Sun Lau, Observer, National University of Singapore | Singapore |

1. Welcome (*Geraint Parry*)

2. MASC financial and organisational update (*slides from Nick Provart*)

- Geraint Parry (GP) provided an update from the file provided by Nick Provart (NP).

This can be downloaded from the MASC website:

arabidopsisresearch.org/images/Documents/Minutes/PROVART_ICAR_MASC_17June2019_r2.pdf

Document Highlights include:

- The Plant Bioinformatics Coursera developed by NP
www.coursera.org/learn/plant-bioinformatics/

- The global bioinformatics community will continue to discuss the future of Araport. Currently TAIR will take on the JBrowse tracks from Araport. The University of Toronto will take on the Thalemine app and this will be supported by a grant obtained by NP.

- The proposed Arabidopsis Super-portal is currently under development at TAIR:
<https://conf.arabidopsis.org/display/COM/Resources>

3. Update on International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

> Summary of 30th ICAR (Yuling Jiao and Xuelu Wang)

<http://icar2019.arabidopsisresearch.org/>

- There are ~1100 attendees, including 114 invited speakers, to ICAR2019.

Attendees come from 25 countries and regions. There are in total four keynote talks, 28 plenary talks, 58 invited concurrent talks, and 77 talks selected from poster abstracts. All

invited speakers received a free registration and US\$300 to cover their costs. Keynote speakers also received accommodation and travel costs.

- The talks are distributed into seven plenary sessions and 20 concurrent sessions. There are also six workshops. There were 208 poster abstracts submitted to ICAR2019.

- Income is from registration fees and sponsorship. There were 791 paying attendees and 46 sponsors.

- Meeting expenses include meals, space renting, coffee breaks, booklets, transportation, etc. There were ~50 volunteers and local organizing committee members, whose accommodation is covered by the meeting

- The organisers targeted a MASC contribution of \$10 for each attendee paying registration fees. As there were 791 paying attendees the organisers aim to provide \$8000 to MASC.

Meeting attendees were very grateful for this contribution. GP confirmed that MASC funds will be used for printing the annual report as well as providing down payments as required for future ICAR meetings.

> Presentation on 31st ICAR: 6-10th July Seattle USA (*Blake Meyers, BM*)

<http://icar2020.arabidopsisresearch.org/>

- BM provided an update about the organisation of ICAR2020. This was also presented in the ICAR2019 closing ceremony. Meeting attendees requested that ICAR2020 registration opens as early as possible so that potential delegates, particularly from China, can apply for a travel VISA well in advance.

> Presentation on 32nd ICAR: 21st-25th June Belfast, UK (*Geraint Parry*)

<http://icar2021.arabidopsisresearch.org/>

- GP introduced the meeting venue and confirmed that the website is now live. Registration will open in Autumn 2020.

Information about ICAR2021 can be downloaded here:

arabidopsisresearch.org/images/ICAR/ICAR2021_Intro_AnnMeeting.pdf

> Discussion on location of 33rd ICAR in Asia.

- Meeting attendees discussed options for ICAR2022. Eunyong Chae (EC) confirmed that Singapore would be interested in hosting but as the Arabidopsis community remains small in her country then it might not be possible for ICAR2022. Barry Pogson (BP) proposed that Australian plant scientists could provide organisational support if the meeting was to be hosted in Singapore in 2025. Motoaki Seki and Masatomo Kobayashi reported that Japan would be unable to host the meeting in 2025 but would be keen to host in 2022. This would be held somewhere close to Toyko. Meeting attendees unanimously agreed that Japan would host ICAR2022.

ACTION: Seki and Kobayashi to begin the planning for ICAR2022 with input from MASC colleagues.

> Discussion on location of future ICARs

- 34th ICAR in the Americas

- Rodrigo Gutierrez was asked whether Chile might be interested in bringing ICAR to South America for the first time. He agreed it might be a possibility and will discuss with the Chilean Society and Plant Biologists and sister societies in the region as it and could be arranged in collaboration with other nations

ACTION: ICAR2023 to be discussed by interested parties over the coming year.

- 35th ICAR in Europe

- GP reported that he had received an approach from Belgian colleagues about hosting ICAR2024. In theory this was met with approval by meeting attendees.

ACTION: MASC to start the formal process of asking Country Representatives about hosting ICAR2024 over the coming year.

- 36th ICAR in Asia

- See above discussion regarding Singapore as a potential venue for ICAR2025.

4. Update on core MASC activities (Geraint Parry)

> Annual Report

- GP thanked everyone for their contributions and confirmed he will post hard copies to those who requested it over the coming weeks.

ACTION: GP to print and post around 60 copies at an approximate cost of US\$1000.

- NP will lead the writing of an article in Plant Direct that will be a digest of the 2018-2019 Annual Report.

- Xuehua Zhang led the thanks to GP for producing the report.

> MASC Website, <http://arabidopsisresearch.org/>

- GP reported that the website is now hosted by Hostpapa in Canada and that it is currently updated with all information from the 2018-2019 MASC annual report. Since the MASC meeting GP has added a country report from Turkey, generated by Baris Uzilday at Ege University.

- GP is happy to continue as MASC secretary. This will be dependent on extending the GARNet funding that is provided by UKRI-BBSRC. In the GARNet grant application there is time included for GP to support MASC activities. The grant decision should be announced in July 2019.

5. Update on activities of MASC subcommittee

> Update from NatVar and Comparative Genomics

- GP reports from email correspondence with Chris Pires that this subcommittee aims to organize a workshop at ICAR2020.

> Update from Systems and Synthetic Biology

- The International Plant Systems Biology conference was held in Roscoff, France in October 2018 and in part was the result of interactions between members of this MASC subcommittee. This meeting was a great success and will continue over coming years.

> GP wondered whether that in order to encourage subcommittee activities, each should be encouraged to organise a workshop session at each ICAR.

ACTION: Ahead of the application deadline GP will contact subcommittee members about the possibility of organizing a workshop at ICAR2020.

6. AOB

- Over the longer term Barry Pogson wondered whether a strategy to encourage greater participation by subcommittee members was to ask them to think about the important areas that could be included in the next MASC decadal plan. The MASC

community attempts to guide the international community through the preparation of decade-long plans (<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/publications>). The 4th decadal plan is scheduled to be published in 2022 and necessitates planning well in advance given the challenges of obtaining appropriate community input for this document.

ACTION: GP and others to encourage MASC members to begin to plan what they hope would be included within this document.