



Report

2nd Asian Conference on Environmental Mutagens

After the 1st Asian Conference on Environmental Mutagens (1st ACEM) at Kitakyushu, Japan in 2007, the 2nd ACEM was followed at Pattaya, Thailand. The conference was hosted by Thai Environmental Mutagen Society (TEMS), National Cancer Institute (NCI), Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University (MUPY) and Asian Association of Environmental Mutagen Societies (AAEMS) with the support from Japanese Environmental Mutagen Society (JEMS) and Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB). The event was held at Dusit Thani Pattaya Hotel from December 15 to 18, 2010 with the theme “Harmonize Gene and Environment: Asian Health Promotion”.

From starting, the conference was very well supported by the AAEMS executive committee, 2nd ACEM international advisory board and invited speakers in giving warm hands to help.

Before the conference, the event was presented through various channels. One among them was the online and the following URLs kindly contributed by the hosting and relating organizations were used for 2nd ACEM publicizing:

<http://www.pharmacy.mahidol.ac.th/acem2010/main.php>

http://www.j-ems.org/aaems/aaems_index.html,

<http://www.iaems.net/meetings.asp>

<http://www.eems-eu.org/eems/article?49>

The upcoming conference was attended by two-hundred and thirty participants represented twenty-seven countries from around the world: Armenia (1), Australia (1), Austria (2), Brazil (3), Cameroon (1), People Republic of China (27), Egypt (1), France (1), Germany (1), India (20), Islamic Republic of Iran (7), Italy (3), Japan (34), Democratic People of Korea (1), Republic of Korea (15), People’s Democratic of Laos (1), Luxemburg (1), Malaysia (7), Myanmar (1), Nepal (1), Philippines (1), Russia (1), Singapore (2), Taiwan (4), Thailand (88), Turkey (1) and USA (4).

The conference was started with a formal opening ceremony by the following successive events. Dr. Takehiko Nohmi, Former President of AAEMS, gave the general message regarding to AAEMS. Dr. Malyn Chulasiri, Co-chair of the conference and President of AAEMS, presented a report on the status of the conference with a visual presentation. Mr. Ittipol Khunplome, Lord Mayor of Pattaya, greeted with the welcome message for the successful meeting and the pleasant stay in Pattaya. Then, Dr. Thiravud Khuhaprema, Co-chair of the conference and Director of NCI, declared the opening of the conference with the opening address.

During the conference, both scientific and social programs were provided. The scientific program consisted of one keynote lecture, four plenary lectures, eight symposia (34 invited speakers), one young scientist award session (6 presentations), six oral sessions (35 presentations) and two poster sessions (102 posters). Regarding to the conference theme, the topics of the symposia were provided accordingly as shown below.

- Biomarkers and environmental carcinogenesis
- Oxidative stress and DNA repair in diseases
- Cancer chemopreventive and dietary impact
- Environmental and occupational issues in cancer
- Innovation of genotoxicity assay
- Genetic polymorphisms and sensitivity to genotoxic carcinogens
- Environmental exposures and health effects
- Mutagenesis and carcinogenesis

For the social program, it was entertained with the welcome reception and farewell party. In addition, the excursions were also offered in between.

Besides the above scientific program, 2nd ACEM also organized one session for local publics in particular by aiming at the environmental issue of a famous industrial estate in Thailand, Map Ta Phut. The purpose was to give the knowledge on the impact of environmental mutagens that was extraordinarily contributed by the 2nd ACEM invited speakers from overseas (with translation). At the same time to hear voices from these participants whom were working and/or living in the area and also to let the responsible staffs from the governmental sectors whom were invited to this special session know. The ultimate goal is to get the cooperation in research and management to solve the problems for the better life quality of the people there.

With the financial contributions from Professor Taijiro Matsushima, Mr. Kikuo Hamada, Mr. Suthat Ungsurungsie and JEMS, eight young scientist, five travel and five poster awards were offered. The young scientist and travel awards were provided to the participants from Cameroon (1), China (1), India (2), Iran (2), Laos (1), Malaysia (1), Myanmar (1), Philippines (1), Russia (1) and Thailand (2). The outstanding poster awards were given to the poster presenters from Korea (1), Japan (2) and Thailand (2).

Regarding to the corporate social responsibility (CSR), the conference also extended the activity by requesting the northern hill villagers to make the bags and name tags for participants. By this way, these villagers whose income is normally below the country average could gain more from this 2nd ACEM event.

In addition to the aforementioned supporters to 2nd ACEM, all sponsors and local organizing committee members as well as those whom were responsible for website creating, venue arranging, transportation scheduling, excursion guiding and other responsible hands also highly help support the conference.

After the conference, the memorable event was presented as the photos and videos in

the URL: <http://www.pharmacy.mahidol.ac.th/acem2010/main.php> for further reminding the participants of 2nd ACEM.

To extend the further memory to 2nd ACEM, the manuscripts from the lecturers and symposium speakers have been invited to be published in the special issue of “Genes and Environment”.

Next to 2nd ACEM, the successive conferences, 3rd and 4th ones have been discussed to be in China (2012) and India (2014). To let the ACEM go on fruitfully and be beneficial for our future world, it is our responsibility to support the event continuously.

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