

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: Society for Experimental Biology Annual Main Meeting

Travel Dates: 28th of June 2012 – 2nd of July 2012

Location: Salzburg, Austria

Group member(s): Yin Hoon Chew

Aims:

- 1) To present my PhD work at the Young Scientists Award Session
- 2) To deliver an oral presentation in a plant science session
- 3) To meet researchers and build a network for future collaborations

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The Society for Experimental Biology Annual Main Meeting is the biggest annual event of the society that brings together scientists from around the world. This year, the meeting took place at the Salzburg Congress from the 28th of June until the 2nd of July 2012. It was attended by researchers from different area of studies, ranging from plants, animals, and fish to insects. Participants also ranged from undergraduates to postgraduates, post-doctoral researchers, and principal investigators.

The official meeting began on the morning of the 29th of June, with talks given by the President's Medalist Award Winners and the Young Scientists Award Session (YSAS) finalists. These talks were divided into two categories, i.e. plants and animals, and the two sessions were conducted in parallel. As one of the finalists for the YSAS in the plant session, I delivered my talk entitled "An integrated multi-level model of Arabidopsis plant growth and development to flowering". I also attended a Career Planning Workshop, which was organised on the same day. Parallel sessions followed in the afternoon and on successive days, each with a different theme covering various topics of interest such as biomechanics, hormone signalling, data integration, etc. The meeting ended each day with a poster session in the evening.

On the evening of Saturday the 30th of June, the Women in Science Dinner took place to discuss current problems faced by women working in science and the supports available.

On Sunday the 1st of July, I gave a presentation of the same title in an oral session under the theme "Environmental Control of Development". The conference dinner took place later that evening at the Radison Blu Restaurant. It began with a prize giving ceremony for the winners of the Young Scientists Award, followed by a three-course dinner and a dancing session. I was honoured to be selected as the runner-up of the YSAS.

The meeting ended on the 2nd of July, with a bus tour of the city.

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In conclusion, this meeting has been a good experience for me. It gave me an opportunity to present and discuss my work with researchers from related areas, which would be an important exposure for my future career. Thus, I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest and the Company of Biologists for funding my travel to this meeting.