

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: Annual SEB Salzburg conference 2012

Travel Dates: 29th June – 3rd July 2012

Location: Salzburg, Austria

Group member(s): Zafar Iqbal Malik (s0880563)

Aims:

- (1) Present my research findings at a large international meeting
- (2) Attend oral presentations on environmental control of plant development
- (3) Meet fellow researchers for future collaboration

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

Annual SEB Salzburg conference 2012 was one the largest scientific conferences taking place every year at different venues of the world. This year, it was held at Salzburg, Austria. This conference had four main sessions including Animal biology, Cell biology, Plant biology and Education sessions. Each session had its sub-sessions. I was particularly interested in environmental control of plant development, one of the plant sessions.

The conference was a mixture of talks of keynote invited speakers and short sessions of research presentations. I attended most talks in environmental control of plant development. Diverse models and experimental designs were discussed by speakers on the interaction between development and growth of plants and environmental factors.

I presented my poster titled “Genes that underlie natural variation in *Arabidopsis thaliana* growth rate” in 2nd poster session on 1st July. My presentation was mainly focused on natural variation in growth rate in local accession of *Arabidopsis thaliana* and dissecting the genetic basis of this variation. It includes growth rate mapping of F3 and F5 populations in diverse environments, genotyping with SSLPs markers, QTL analysis, and identification of potentially linked markers to growth rate and their confirmation with fine mapping.

My presentation was well received and a number of researchers were keen to compare their results. I had fruitful discussion with number of my international fellows about research techniques and soft wares. I also got some new ideas and aspects about my work from some senior scientists.

At the end of conference, organizers ask for feedback about choosing the next venues, whether they should be in Europe or outside Europe.

At the end, I would like to thank the James Rennie Bequest for contributing towards the cost of attending this exciting conference, and giving me the opportunity to present my research findings at a large international meeting.