**APACE News**

**[Summary of the International Chemical Ecology Conference (ICEC2013)](http://www.apace97.org/index.php/apace-news/168-summary-of-the-international-chemical-ecology-conference)**

19-23 August 2013, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia [The first joint conference of the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (7-thAPACE biannual conference) and the International Society of Chemical Ecology (29-thISCE annual conference)]

 Many APACE members attended the 1-st International Chemical Ecology Conference (ICEC2013) (www.icec2013.com.au) that was successfully held on 19-23 August 2013 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Victoria, Australia and hosted by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Victoria, Biosciences Research Division (BRD). Our first joint meeting of the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (7-th APACE biannual conference) and the International Society of Chemical Ecology (29-th ISCE annual conference), extended invitations to all Chemical Ecologists around the globe, and achieved a long-term aspiration of APACE and ISCE Founders and Executives to organise joint meeting of both societies.
The ICEC2013 Opening Ceremony was heldat the Grand Plenary meeting hall of the conference venue MCEC, the world's first "Six Green Star" environmentally rated centre and the best Convention Centre in Australia, nestled on the Yarra River in the heart of Melbourne.More than 400 delegates from 42 countries were welcomed by the ICEC 2013 Chair A. Prof.AlexandreIL'ICHEV and the Executive Director of the Biosciences Research Division Prof. German SPANGENBERG. DEPI Chief Scientist Dr. Graham MITCHELL presented an inspiring opening to the Congress, followed by welcomes from the ISCEPresident Prof. Ring CARDE and APACE President Prof.Yongping HUANG.Four eminent chemical ecologists were awarded for their contributions to chemical ecology. Professor Walter S. LEAL (USA) received the ISCE Silver Medal Award and entertained the audience with his presentation "Chemical ecology with a cast of thousands and recognition of one". APACE Life-time Achievement Awards were presented to Professor Kyung Saeng BOO (Korea) and Professor Kenji MORI (Japan) who enthralled with his presentation "Semiochemicals – Their stereochemical diversity as revealed by organic synthesis". The ISCE Silverstein-Simeone Award winner Professor Consuelo De MORAES (USA) capped off the morning with her presentation "Chemically mediated interactions among plants, insects, and pathogens".
Plenary Lectures continued after lunch with presentations from leading Chemical EcologistsProf. William FOLEY (Australia), Prof. Ian BALDWIN (Germany), Prof. Monika HILKER (Germany), Prof. Rod PEAKALL (Australia), Prof. Jeremy McNEIL (Canada) and Prof. Roberto KOLTER (USA).
The ICEC 2013 academic program showcased the diversity of Chemical Ecology research including plants, microorganisms, invertebrates, vertebrates, soil and aquatic organisms, as well as examples of chemical interactions between all trophic levels and included more than 460 abstracts presented during 3 days of 18 concurrent symposiums and a full day poster section.Later ICEC delegates reported that location of all rooms in one floor and close to each other was very convenient to delegates who wished to move quickly between concurrent symposiums to attend different presentations.

The core of the ICEC2013 Academic Organising Committee representing both societies was comprised of Prof.Youngping Huang(Co-Chair and APACE President), Dr. Eric B. Jang,Dr. Gary Fitt, Prof. Myron Zalucki from APACE andProf. Ring Carde (Co-Chair and ISCE President), Prof. Jocelyn Millar, Prof. Bill Hansson, Prof.May Berenbaum from ISCE. The ICEC hosts from BRD, DEPI (Alex ILICHEV, David WILLIAMS and German SPANGENBERG) and all members of Organising Committee together with Professional Congress Organising Company –(WaldronSmith Management) worked hard to ensure the success of ICEC2013.The Conference Program and Abstract Handbook edited by A.L. Il'ichev, R.T. Carde, D.G. Williams, and M.P. Zalucki was published with all abstracts and now available for download from websites of both societiesAPACE (www.apace97.org) and ISCE (www.chemecol.org).
The ICEC2013 delegates came from all continents: Europe (17 countries); Asia (15 countries); Australia and New Zealand; North America (USA and Canada); South America (Brazil, Chile, Argentina); Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria). Delegates from 42 countries in total were represented by the following numbers of delegates: Australia-(86), Japan-(53), USA-(46), China-(46), New Zealand-(26), Germany-(25), India-(10), Sweden-(12), UK-(8), South Korea-(7). The countries represented by 1 delegate each were Belgium, Indonesia, Israel, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Pakistan, Belorussia, Bangladesh, and Nigeria.

The Social program included a Welcome Reception on the first day and the Gala Dinner at the Showtime Events Centre, located on the nearby riverfront, that provided an opportunity for delegates to get together, network and mingle with colleagues and new acquaintances.

Field Day Tour through the Yarra Valley Agriculture Area took participants to the Healesville Sanctuary specialising in native Australian animals. An alternative half-day guided tour visited the Centre for AgriBiosciences Research (AgriBio) that is a $288 million world-class state-of-art facility for agriculture biosciences research and development.

The major support to the ICEC2013 was provided by thehost organisation - the Department of Environment and Primary Industries Victoria, Biosciences Research Division,Horticulture Australia Ltd. and Melbourne City Council, together with the contributions from the International Society of Chemical Ecology and Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists for student travel awards, and awards for the best student oral and poster presentations during the conference.
The newly established APACE Life-Time Achievement Award that recognises long-term career achievement and significant contribution to Chemical Ecology research in Asia-Pacific Region was supported by Sumitomo Co. (Japan). The ISCE Silver Medal Award 2013 Lecture was supported by Suterra Co. (USA). The ISCE Silverstein-Simeone lecture award that was made in honour of the enormous contribution made to the field of Chemical Ecology by Drs. Robert M. (Milt) Silverstein and John B. Simeone, the founding editors of the Journal of Chemical Ecology was supported by Springer Publishing Co. (USA). The ISCE Student Travel Award Symposium was supported by Trece Co. (USA).The ICE2013 Applied Chemical Ecology Symposium was supported by Rescue Co. (USA).

There was almost unanimous agreement (>98%) from delegates that the conference provided great value to delegates and their agencies, with one delegate commenting that it was "one of the best conferences I have ever attended in terms of quality research".This first joint conference of the APACE (www.apace97.org) and the ISCE (www.chemecol.org) achieved a long-term aspiration of their Founders to establish the tradition of regular joint conferences. Both chemical ecology societies agreed to hold joint conferences every 4 years, with the next joint conference to be held in 2017 in Kyoto, Japan.