

1. Message from the Director General

As Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) enters its third-phase of the Knowledge Innovation Program in 2006, China commenced the first year of the 'Eleventh Five-Year Plan', and with strenuous efforts of the entire staff of KIB, we have witnessed and created a remarkable start of this phase. Adhering to the strategic plan, KIB has founded the organization structure of 'two key laboratories, one garden and one germplasm bank', and started five research supporting platforms, and deployed 21 innovation-research groups and there teams of newly-recruited talents, successfully inaugurating the third-phase of the Knowledge Innovation Program and creating a new strategic plan, under which KIB manages to be a innovation base of CAS centering on R & D of strategic plant resources to meet the nation's strategic needs.

As for national, CAS and local-level research projects undertaken, KIB has obtained research funds for 16 projects from National Natural Science Foundation of China, one Key National Science and Technology Project, five CAS key projects, nine Yunnan Provincial Foundation projects and two Yunnan Talents projects. In addition, 12 new international cooperation projects have been signed up.

In 2006, Prof. Zhou Jun, academician of CAS, received the Yunnan Sci-Tech Outstanding Contribution Award, the fifth famous scientist who received this honor. Dr. Sun Hang received a grant from the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, making himself the sixth KIB winner of this fund. This year, Dr. Li Rongtao and Dr. Xiao Weillie received National One-Hundred Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award and CAS Fifty Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award, respectively. Moreover, through Introducing Talent Plan, KIB has newly recruited one high-level talent and one junior research group leader. KIB has well combined basic research initiatives with applied development projects, creating an appropriate subject orientation and an ecotype status of scientific research team.

KIB has as well made significant progress in scientific publications: articles embodied by SCI index numbered 208, among which, 33 articles were published on journals of TOP 15% of the JCR related fields. Based on the statistical analysis of CAS Literature & Information Center, KIB heads the list of all CAS biology relevant institutions in terms of published articles per capita and ranks second in CAS with regard to ratio of input-output of research funds, and academician Sun Handong has been rated as No. 1 six years in a row among research teams in CAS.

On the occasion of the ninetieth birthday of Prof. Wu Zhengyi, academician of CAS, KIB has successfully held the International Symposium on Biodiversity and Biogeography in East Asia. The first network meeting of East Asia Botanic Gardens and the Seventh BGC National Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation of Botanic Gardens were also held in KIB. Through collaborations with international cosmetics company, Mary Kay and a world leader in pharmaceuticals, Novartis, KIB has further broadened and deepened its international cooperation.

After 13-year self-dependent running, KIB has obtained the approval of establishing CAS-level key laboratory of biodiversity and biogeography. The 33-year, key program of '*Flora Yunnanica*' was completed and passed the evaluation, compiling a 'residence booklet' of higher plants in the botanic-richest province of China. The newly-built scientific research building and the building reconstruction project of state key laboratory have already been put into use, and main building of the germplasm bank and relative infrastructures passed preliminary examinations. Efforts of collecting germplasm resources have also been made.

During his inspection in May 2006, President Hu Jintao highly praised the historic achievements made by KIB scientists and stressed the significance of basic researches in technological innovation and industrialization. Mr. Hu's inspection and remarks suggest high-degree concern of both the CPC and nation in recognizing KIB's critical role in building innovation country, especially in the fields of biosciences, biological industry, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. During inspections of CAS president, Lu Yongxiang, CAS vice president, Chen Zhu and CAS secretary-general, Li Zhigang in the second-half of 2006, the leaders also set new, higher development goals for KIB.

The year of 2007 comes quietly and so quickly that we do not have time to appreciate the joyance of achievements obtained in 2006. The year of 2007 will be a critical year for KIB to enhance the Knowledge Innovation Program and all of us ought to seize the opportunity, summon our courage to overcome hurdles and face the challenges. Depending on the direct leadership of CPC CAS Committee, together with unrelenting endeavors of the KIB staff and graduate students, I absolutely have no doubt that KIB will accomplish more ambitious goals and grow into a leader of plant science, biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization on natural resources in China.

