



IUBS
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IUBS activities

7th April 2014

Dear IUBS Members,

We are now in the middle of the triennium 2012-2015 and I would like to share with you my views about the activities of IUBS over the last months and the projects we can still engage in the near future.

As in the past triennia, IUBS adopted scientific programmes at the General Assembly in Suzhou. IUBS provides seed funding for the implementations of the programmes. Since 2012, a financial annual report is requested and analyzed by our auditor. The results are included in the IUBS audited accounts report. Each year the programmes propose an action plan with a budget that are reviewed and approved by Executive Committee members. The aim is to develop high quality projects for the benefit of the biological community. You receive annually the summary of the programmes activities: workshops, conferences, publications. An extensive review of these programmes will be carried out before the next General Assembly.

IUBS also sponsors the participation of young scientists in international conferences. This activity started recently and over 42 young scientists from many different countries have already benefited from our help. IUBS also provides seed money for the organization of conferences in IUBS member countries. We will keep on supporting these activities.

The organisation of scientific conferences, workshops and meetings is not the only objective of IUBS. One of our main roles is to increase the network between disciplines and countries and to create links with other international organisations. During this triennium we have worked to develop the visibility of IUBS among the scientific community. We have participated in several meetings with Unesco, ICSU, ICSU regional offices and other others international bodies to voice the concerns and priorities of Biologists. For instance, we are currently working with Unesco on a conference about the future of botanists, we have written a document about the role Biology should play in the Urban Health and Well Being programme of ICSU and we provided a rationale for biodiversity and ecosystem information service for the international meeting of science advisors (where I will be attending next August). The trend for the new international programmes is to focus on human oriented biology. Separately and nationally, the biologists cannot do much to stem this tendency. Future Earth is one of these programmes. It was launched at Rio+20 and aims to provide critical knowledge required for societies to face the challenges posed by global environmental change. IUBS is very concerned that biologists participate in the fundamental questions addressed by this programme. Indeed, it is only at an international and interdisciplinary level that biologists can have weight and influence on the content of these big international programmes and the policy implemented.

In 2014, we will have a meeting of the Executive Committee of IUBS. We will inform you in due time on the agenda so you could send comments or suggestions by email. You will be invited to send a representative if you wish. Our aim is to combine this meeting with the first conference on Unified Biology.

I trust IUBS can rely on your support to keep on developing our scientific and political influence.

Nils Chr. Stenseth
IUBS President