

DIVERSEEDS Public Information Event

January 2008, Beijing, China



With the collaboration of INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan) and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature), DIVERSEEDS

successfully hosted a public information event on ‘the value of plant genetic resources’, taking place in the Botanic Garden of the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IBCAS) on 20th January 2008. This activity was carried out by IBCAS, Institute of Crop Science (ICS), CAAS and the National Vegetable Research Center (NVRC) of the Agricultural and Forestry Academy. ‘Life world’ journal and ‘Planta’ forum (<http://www.planta.cn/forum/>) presented gift to each participant. Experts from the IBCAS, ICS-CAAS, INBAR and WWF presented at the event. 10 Media reporters from five newspapers, two scientific presses and one international scientific reporting network participated as well as more than 30 graduates and college students from various research institutes and universities. First of all, Dr. Jin-Zhong Cui, the director of the Documentation and Information Center of IBCAS, addressed a welcome remark. Dr. Jin-He Fu of INBAR presented a report of ‘Bamboo blooming and the conservation of the Giant Panda’. He showed us the harm of blooming bamboo in the habitat of panda and the related strategies to deal with the food shortage of this endangered and most favored animal. For example, considering bamboo diversity which fits panda taste, many species of bamboo should be planted in the habitat of panda to form mingled forest. When one bamboo species booms,



panda could choose on other species otherwise the panda has to migrate but it way is blocked with fragmented landscapes. Basing on his experiences and some examples, Mr. He-Peng Jia, a reporter from SciDev.Net, talked about how to enable the science report to

become welcome news with the emphasis on biodiversity issues with the example of the giant panda that could attract most public attention. Dr. Wei Wei, as a representative of the DIVERSEEDS project, showed the contents and objects of DIVERSEEDS, and pointed out that DIVERSEEDS would act as a bridge from science research to policy making. The project will convey the science knowledge and suggestions obtained by scientist during the studies in plant genetic resources conservation and utilization. At the same time, demands and urgent questions emerged in managements and practices will be forwarded to scientists for further researches. Thus, science researches and protection practices will both result in greater efficiency. Dr. Fan Liu, a research scientist from the National Vegetable Research Center, presented the diverse resources of *Brassicacae* and delivered the breeding process of new varieties. In the end, Yue-Hui Lin, vice-director of the Life World journal, awarded Mr. He-Peng Jia a contribution reward —a one year subscription for 2008 of the Life World



magazine, which is hosted by IBCAS, for his wonderful talk presentation and help during the preparation of this event. At last, all participants were invited to visit the exhibition on the value of plant genetic resources located in the Scientific Popularity Exhibition Center of IBCAS, which is a part of the public information event. People felt the exhibition very interesting and were informed that our DIVERSEEDS exhibition will last more than two weeks.

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IBCAS