

## Conference and Events

### **International Conference “Ecological Consequences of Biospheric Processes in the Ecotone Zone of Southern Siberia and Central Asia”, September, 6-8, 2010, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

The conference has been dedicated to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initiation and uninterrupted activity of Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition (JRM CBE) performing by the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS). This expedition is aimed to discover the unique fauna and flora of Mongolia, and to pursue the investigation on structure, dynamics and functioning of communities of the various groups of organisms, their habitats, ecosystems, as well as exploration of biological resources and natural conditions of the country.

The conference was opened by the President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, academician B. Enkhtuvshin, who highly appreciated the long-term activities and gained results of the joint expedition on the investigation of the nature, environment and biological resources of Mongolia. The co-chairmen of the organizing committee, a vice-president of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, academician D. Regdel and a member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, RAS, academician D. S. Pavlov have made welcoming speeches to the participants of the conference.

At the opening ceremony, the following people are took in part with salutatory speeches, namely: Mr. G. Bayarsaikhan, a member of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Nature of the Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia; Mr. S. S. Markianov, head of the Department of External Relations of RAS on behalf of the President of Russian Academy of Sciences, academician Y. P. Osipov; Mr. C. Jargalsaikhan, deputy minister of the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism; Ms. C. Kulanda, deputy minister of the Ministry of Culture, Science and Education; Prof. G. Bernardi from the International Union of Biological Sciences; Dr. R. Yakumar from the Eastern-Asian Network of Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO.

Altogether 220 scientists and researchers from six different countries, such as Russia, Mongolia, Germany, Israel, USA, Uzbekistan

and Kazakhstan are participated in the conference, who involved the research on biological diversity, ecosystem functioning and environmental issues of Mongolia as well as Central Asian and South Siberia. About 80 speeches have been discussed at the conference with addition of more than 120 poster presentations, which besides of Plenary session, were sectioned into seven different sessions as Ecological and social problems of the natural environment pollution; Environmental problems of aquatic and wetland ecosystems of the Baikal Lake basin; Causes and effects of century dynamics of climatic conditions; Present condition of the especially protected natural territories and prospects of their development; Ecological risks in anthropogenic (agricultural and forest) ecosystems, and Floristic, faunistic and biogeocoenological diversity in the ecotone zone of Southern Siberia and Central Asia.

The sectional sessions discussed the talks mostly based on results and reports of the studies carried out in the frame of joint expedition, and future perspectives and project recommendations for the period of 2011-2015 years were also carefully considered. Besides of these, many presentations were given by scientists from various countries, which based on results of individual research or other project implementations.

At the final plenary session discussed the report of each section's chairman and the main results of the conference works were integrated, and as a conclusion, the Ulan-Bator declaration was adopted.

Also at the final plenary session of the conference, a member of the parliament of Mongolia, Mr. Kh. Narankhuu addressed to the Expedition with a special speech. He very highly estimated and acknowledged the contributions made by the JRM CBE to the investigation of biological resources and ecosystems of Mongolia, and especially, the applied works concerned on the estimation of pastoral land conditions in steppe and desert-steppe zones.

At the closing ceremony of the conference, a

big group of Russian and Mongolian participants of JRMCBCE received 8 state, 5 governmental and 4 academic awards, as well as certificates of honor from the different ministries and MAS.

The proceedings of the conference, which consisted from abstracts of 186 reports by 365 authors from 90 academic institutes, universities and various other organizations of Russia, Mongolia, Germany, Israel and USA, have been published in two volumes, prior to start of the conference. The materials of the conference are available on the website of Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, [http://www.sevin.ru/menues1/index\\_rus.html](http://www.sevin.ru/menues1/index_rus.html). The proceedings were delivered to major 15 libraries of Mongolia, together with more than 500 issues of JRMCBCE transactions on various aspects of biological and ecosystem research.

All the actions, which taken within the framework of conference, including opening ceremony and closing session were widely broadcasted via mass media of Mongolia.

### **The Ulaanbaatar Declaration**

Participants of the International conference “Ecological Consequences of Biospheric Processes in Ecotone Zone of Southern Siberia and Central Asia” (6-8 September 2010, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) devoted to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Joint Russian-Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition by the Russian Academy of Sciences and Mongolian Academy of Sciences are:

*Considering* states of the Convention on biological diversity, the Convention on combat desertification, the Ramsar convention, the Frame convention on climate change, and the Declaration of millennium,

*Welcoming* efforts of the governments of Mongolia, Russia, and other countries of the region in the field of environment preservation,

***Recognizing*** that all the countries in Central Asia possess the sovereign right to use their natural resources at own discretion, but not to the detriment of other countries and ecological stability in region,

*Confirming* that the territory of Central Asia has contrast ecological regimes and contains ecosystems, especially sensitive to external influences,

*Understanding* that owing to anthropogenic

influence for the last years, the ecological situation in Central Asia gets tendency of deterioration of conditions of the ecosystems’ functioning and reproduction of their biological potential, and also,

*Taking into account* that on the territory of Mongolia, there passes the southern border of forest and forest-steppe of boreal ecosystems, which have extremely important soil-protective and water preserving roles both for entire region of Central Asia, and for adjacent territories,

*Call* the governments, scientific and public organizations, first of all that of Mongolia and Russia, to strengthen cooperation among themselves, and also with international organizations and other countries, interested in preservation of ecological stability in the region, having given maximum attention to the following directions:

- Development of actions to preserve biological diversity on population, species and ecosystem levels, and also on expansion and optimization of the network of especially protected natural territories including transboundary protected areas.

- Formulation of the regional strategy to preserve rare and endangered species of plants and animals, and sustainable use of soil and biological resources of the countries in Central Asia and Southern Siberia, including frontier areas and ecotone zones.

- Development of strategy of forests preservation, including actions on their restoration, artificial afforestation and rational use.

- Optimization of traditional ways in using pastoral resources, development of methods for degraded pasture restoration, and organization of experimental works in this field.

- Realization of long-term ecological complex monitoring of the environmental conditions and biological diversity in the region with use of ground field supervision on constant key plots and ranges, and also data of remote sensing, ecological mapping and geographical information systems.

- Development of the basin approach to study biological and landscape diversity, structure and functioning of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems with account of transboundary processes of pollutants’ carry and corridors for penetration of alien species of

plants and animals.

- Formulation of the regional program and infrastructure for development of ecotourism, ecological education, and popularization of issues on biodiversity preservation as the integral component of sustainable development of the countries and peoples of Central Asia.

- Perfection of nature protection politics concerning extraction and commercial use of mineral resources to provide damage indemnification, maintenance of soils recultivation and reproduction of biological resources.

- Development of actions on recultivation of technogenic complexes, amelioration of desertified territories and on combat progressing anthropogenic processes of land degradation.

- Development of national plans and their coordination within the limits of the region on participation in the International decade of mountains (2002-2012), the International decade of water (2003-2013), the International

decade on combat desertification (2010-2020), and the International year of forests (2011), which are carried out by initiative of the United Nations with participation of many international organizations, as UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, IUBS etc.

- Working out concepts of the development of natural-economic regions in Mongolia and frontier territories of the adjacent states on principles of sustainable development in view of ecological, social and economic features, including preservation of the rich cultural heritage.

The participants of the conference express their hope that the governments of the countries of Central Asia, research and nongovernmental organizations, which concern study and use of natural resources and the environmental preservation will make corresponding decisions for elimination of environmental problems, and contribute to strengthening cooperation on all the aspects mentioned above.

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