

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR CHEMICAL SCIENCES IN DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY AND CLINICAL STUDIES OF ASIAN PLANTS

9-11 April 2007, Surabaya, Indonesia

An international symposium on the '*Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacology and Clinical Studies of Asian Plants*' was recently organized in Indonesia by Prof. Kurt Hostettmann (Chairman of the IOCD Working Group on Plant Chemistry), in conjunction with Airlangga University, Surabaya (coordinated by Dr Wahjo Dyatmiko of the Faculty of Pharmacy).

The symposium was preceded by a two-day workshop on '*Simple Bioassays and the Isolation and Structure Determination of Natural Products from Plant Sources*'.

Unfortunately one week before the beginning of the meeting, Prof. Hostettmann had a very bad skiing accident and could not travel to Indonesia. He was very ably replaced by Prof. Berhanu Abegaz, who chaired the symposium on his behalf. Prof. Jean-Luc Wolfender and Dr Andrew Marston from the laboratory of Prof. K. Hostettmann took over responsibility of organisational matters.

For this symposium, the different committees were as follows:

Organizing Committee Chairman : Dr. Wahjo Dyatmiko, Surabaya, Indonesia Members : Prof. Noor Cholies Zaini, Surabaya, Indonesia Prof. Hendromartono, Surabaya, Indonesia Prof. K. Hostettmann, Geneva, Switzerland Dr. Bambang Prajogo E.W., Surabaya, Indonesia Dr. A. Marston, Geneva, Switzerland Prof. J.-L. Wolfender, Geneva, Switzerland	Scientific Committee Chairman : Prof. K. Hostettmann, Geneva, Switzerland Prof. B. Abegaz, Gaborone, Botswana Members : Dr. Wahjo Dyatmiko, Surabaya, Indonesia Dr. Bambang Prajogo E.W., Surabaya, Indonesia Prof. J.O. Midiwo, Nairobi, Kenya Prof. M.P. Gupta, Panama Dr. A. Marston, Geneva, Switzerland Prof. J.-L. Wolfender, Geneva, Switzerland
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Scientific program

The aim of the symposium was to bring together scientists from Asia and other areas who are involved in the investigation of Asian plants. An update was provided on different aspects of research concerning the chemistry, pharmacology and clinical studies of Asian plants. Lectures on the current state and future trends of Asian traditional medicine were given.

The program was organised to involve three main research topics:

1. The search for new lead compounds from natural sources
2. Pharmacological and clinical aspects of phytopharmaceuticals
3. Quality control of phytopharmaceuticals

The symposium featured 18 plenary lectures from speakers representing Asia and other parts of the world. In addition, there were 16 contributions in the form of oral presentations and 111 posters. About 200 scientists from 17 countries took part in this event. A list of participants and their countries of origin is provided below.

Countries	Nb part.	Countries	Nb part.
Indonesia	116	France	1
Malaysia	21	Germany	1
Thailand	10	Irak	1
Iran	7	Kenya	1
Switzerland	7	Pakistan	1
Japan	4	Singapore	1
India	2	Taiwan	1
Brazil	1	USA	1
China	1		

The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. B. Abegaz in the presence of Nani Sukasediati (General Secretary of National Working Group on Indonesian Medicinal Plants), Prof. Dr. Fasich (Rector of Airlangga University) and Imam Utomo (Governor of East Java, Indonesia). The organizers of the meeting were most honoured to have Prof. Dr. H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol (Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand) giving the opening lecture on plant-based cytotoxic compounds from Thai medicinal plants.

The symposium was then divided into 9 sessions featuring plenary lectures and short communications according to the program schedule included with this report. Various issues related to the chemical diversity of Asian plants, the bioactivities of their constituents, as well as some pharmacological and clinical investigations were presented. Highlights included the development of phytomedicines from Malaysian plants by Professor K.-L. Chan of Penang, Malasia; a study on Indonesian plants by Professor N.C. Zaini of Surabaya, Indonesia; and

work on Chinese traditional medicine by Professor Y.S. Zhu of Singapore. Participants were able to exchange viewpoints on phytopharmaceutical investigations of Asian plants during two poster sessions, in which more than 110 contributions were presented.. A summary of all contributions is provided in the book of abstracts (annexed to this report).

During the closing ceremony four poster prizes were awarded. The winning poster was presented by E. Bachtiar (Sriwijaya Universty, Sumatra, Indonesia) and the runners-up were M. Rudyanto and A. Widyawaruyanti (Airlangga Univerty, Surabaya, Insdonesia) and S. Vargas (University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)

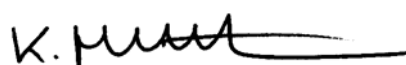
This symposium represented a very important event for the University of Airlangga and was given good coverage by the local press and media.

Workshop

A two-day workshop preceded the symposium on 7 and 8 April 2008. This was organized in the laboratories of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Airlangga University in Surabaya. More than 40 participants from different Indonesian universities (including Airlangga, Bogor, Bandung, Jogjakarta, Timur and Makasar) attended the workshop. Lectures on bioassays for natural products and their isolation and structure elucidation were given by Prof. Jean-Luc Wolfender and Dr Andrew Marston. Demonstrations and practicals, mainly based on TLC bioautography, were given by four PhD students from the group of Prof. K. Hostettmann.

The workshop and symposium went smoothly. The scientific level of the meeting was very high and the participants were extremely pleased by the welcome given to them in Indonesia. The local organizers provided several social events for the attendees, including an evening of traditional dancing and a reception by the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy. This nicely set the scene for a similar meeting which will be held in Botswana in 2008 (25 to 29 February). The venue is Kasane (Chobe National Park, in the north of the country) and the symposium will be organised by Prof. K. Hostettmann and B. Abegaz (www.iocdisdnp2008.org).

Prof. Kurt Hostettmann



Geneva 17 July 2007