



## *Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists – Moving Research and Education Forward in our Region*

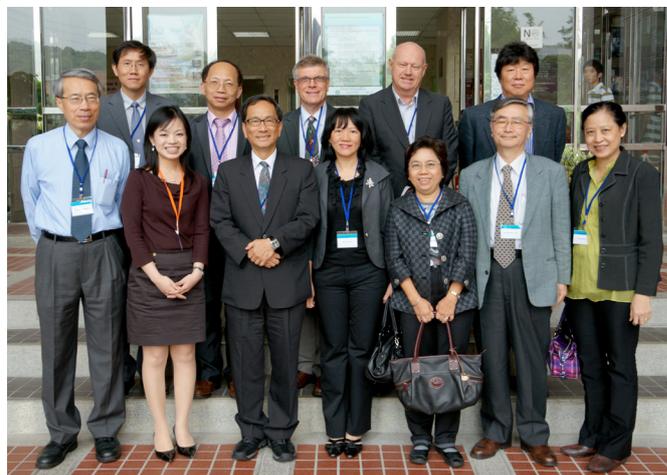
The Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) is playing an increasingly active role in promoting research and education in our region. Council meetings are held annually in association with the FAOBMB Conference each year (or at the triennial Congress), usually held in the last part of the calendar year. Over the past four years, the Executive Committee of FAOBMB has also met in April or May to facilitate the steering of FAOBMB and to develop the programs and conferences of this international organisation. This year, the Executive met in Taipei on 6 May, and I was privileged to attend as observer (in light of my co-chairing role for OzBio2010, the most recently held FAOBMB Conference). The Executive meeting was held at Academia Sinica, home of many of the most prestigious research institutes in Taiwan, together with a Micro-Symposium at which several FAOBMB Executive members and prominent senior local biochemists gave presentations on their recent research.

The incoming FAOBMB President, Andrew Wang (who is also Vice-President of Academia Sinica), noted that the new FAOBMB website ([www.faobmb.net](http://www.faobmb.net)) has opened recently and has many links to various programs and conferences of interest. FAOBMB has appointed a web officer (Shan-Chi Ku) to manage and develop further this website, which will replace the website currently hosted by ASBMB. Other items noted were that Council of FAOBMB, which consists of the Executive plus delegates from constituent countries in the Asia-Oceania region, has been supplemented in its membership by the two FAOBMB Committee chairs, Hoon-Eng Khoo (Education) and Piamsook Pongsawasdi (Fellowships).

This year, the FAOBMB Medal was instituted. It will be awarded annually to a distinguished biochemist or molecular biologist, based on work carried out predominantly within the FAOBMB region. An award for excellence in Education in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the FAOBMB community is under development (details to be announced).

Forward planning for conferences is always high on the FAOBMB agenda. This year's conference will be held in Singapore (5-7 October), at the well-known Biopolis, with the theme 'Creativity and Innovation in Life Science Research, Enterprise and Education'. Conference organisers Siok-Im Koh and Poh-San Lai attended the Executive meeting to discuss their plans for this 22nd FAOBMB Conference (<http://www.burnaby-solutions.com/faobmb2011/>).

Plans for next year's FAOBMB Congress in Thailand, likely to be held mid-November 2012, are also under development. This will be the first FAOBMB Congress for some years not to be held in association with an IUBMB Congress, the previous two having been in Kyoto in 2006 and Shanghai in 2009.



*FAOBMB colleagues pictured at the Institute for Biological Chemistry (IBC), Academia Sinica, Taipei. Back row: (from left): Tzu-Ching Meng (IBC), Yau-Huei Wei (Taiwan), Phillip Nagley (Australia), John de Jersey (FAOBMB Secretary-General, Australia), Uhtaek Oh (FAOBMB Treasurer, Korea). Front row (from left): Ming-Daw Tsai (IBC), Shan-Chi Ku (IBC), Andrew H.-J. Wang (FAOBMB President, Taiwan), Poh-San Lai (Singapore), Piamsook Pongsawasdi (FAOBMB Fellowships chair, Thailand), Masamitsu Futai (FAOBMB Past-President, Japan), Siok-Im Koh (Singapore).*

The FAOBMB Fellowship program is continuing this year with Travel Fellowships for early career researchers available for attendance at the October conference in Singapore. Plans are being developed for a round of exchange fellowships for younger scientists within the FAOBMB region to spend time in laboratories in other countries of our region in order to learn new techniques or to develop collaborations. More details will be available on the website or from FAOBMB Secretary General John de Jersey (email: [j.dejersey@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.dejersey@uq.edu.au)).

Finances are under the watchful eye of Uhtaek Oh (FAOBMB Treasurer). Our regional organisation receives support from the global parent organisation IUBMB, particularly in relation to FAOBMB Conferences and Congresses, and also from the constituent national societies around the Asia-Oceania region. FAOBMB has a modest budget but, in collaboration with its national members where Biochemistry and Molecular Biology are better developed (such as Australia) and emerging commercial sponsors, the regional organisation seeks to provide services and programs of optimal benefit to all constituent societies, especially those in countries where Biochemistry and Molecular Biology are at an earlier stage of development.

*Phillip Nagley  
FAOBMB Council member, representing ASBMB*