

Our scientists and scholars in the Asia-Pacific region are playing ever increasingly important roles in the world. These roles encompass education, scientific discoveries, entrepreneurship, and international collaboration on many issues including global sustainability and other important matters. FAOBMB is the regional federation of national societies (or nationally organised groups) of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in Asia and Oceania.

Each of the countries in this region, through the national society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology that becomes a Constituent Member of FAOBMB, represent a valued member to us. Each has wonderful scientists there and they play critical roles in various societies. The importance of the community of Biochemists and Molecular Biologist in this region cannot be overestimated. Indeed, FAOBMB is one of the four regional groups that are an integral part of IUBMB, and our emphasis is, of course, on fostering regional development and collaboration. It would be a great advantage for each society to help FAOBMB in reaching out to many less-developed countries in our region, as well as participating in the events of FAOBMB and enabling local scientists to benefit from FAOBMB activities.

The main FAOBMB events are the triennial FAOBMB Congress and the annual FAOBMB Conferences, held in each of the intervening two years between Conferences. Each of these events is held in a different country around our region, hosted by the national society with support from FAOBMB. Outstanding international scientists come to speak at these events.

Moreover, FAOBMB has initiated some important new actions in recent years, such as various awards, getting our website active and ensuring effective communication with our members (which is a key role played by the Secretary General). The Awards for which the scientists of each country, whose society is a Constituent Member of FAOBMB, can apply are in both the senior categories and those for younger scientists. Senior awards comprise the annual FAOBMB Award for Research Excellence, the triennial FAOBMB Education Award (introduced in 2013) and the triennial FAOBMB Entrepreneurship Award (from 2014).

For early career researchers, there are the triennial FAOBMB Young Scientist Award (offered in the year of the FAOBMB Congress) and the FAOBMB Travel Fellowships awarded in supporting PhD students and early career biochemists and molecular biologists to participate in the annual FAOBMB Conference or Congress. These Fellowships often involve Young Scientist Programs, as an enhanced activity.

We also recently implemented FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships, enabling younger scientists to travel to other countries in the FAOBMB region for training in particular techniques or to engage in collaborative research. Another innovative activity recently commenced is the FAOBMB Travel Lectureship Program that enables countries of our region to host visits from accomplished scientists, who can provide the benefits of their skills and experience to foster interactions enabling collaborative research and training across our region.

The Education Committee of FAOBMB provides an important resource in the organisation of the Education Symposium at the annual Conference/Congress of FAOBMB as well as assisting with other significant events and programs in education in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology across our region. Further innovative Fellowships recently introduced are the Education Special Travel Fellowships, which are aimed at improving innovative educational practice and collaboration in biochemistry and molecular biology education. They also enable the Fellowship recipient to gain a wider exposure to research and scholarship in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology education at an advanced international level.

Constituent Members of FAOBMB, and the scientists who are members of these national societies/groups, therefore stand to gain great benefit from active participation in FAOBMB.