

## FAOBMB Sponsors Advanced Summer School in Beijing, China

*FAOBMB was pleased to participate in this Summer School held in July 2013. This activity brought significant education and training in this important area of agricultural development in our region.*

**Dr Supachitra Chadchawan** from Thailand was the FAOBMB-sponsored lecturer at the Advanced Summer School on “**Genetic Regulation of Seed Development in Plants**” held in Beijing, China, during 8-13 July 2013. Supachitra is Associate Professor in the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

This 4th International Advanced Summer School for Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology was organized by the Chinese Society of Cell Biology (CSCB), with the close collaboration of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), and Chinese Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (CSBMB). It was held in the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, China. There were 27 Chinese participants (all students or early career researchers), but a number of Indian students were unfortunately unable to attend, apparently due to difficulties in obtaining visas.

The course comprised theoretical and practical aspects. Supachitra’s participation in the Summer School as lecturer was supported by FAOBMB. Her lecture was on the topic of “Salt Stress Tolerance in Thai Rice”. She also participated in a discussion workshop on various aspects of molecular mechanisms underlying salt tolerance and resistance to other abiotic stresses not only in rice but also in transgenic forms of Arabidopsis and tobacco. These signaling pathways include protein phosphatases and transcription factors.

Other guest lecturers at the Summer School included Professor Trevor Wang (Department of Metabolic Biology, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK), Professor Remko Offrenga (Leiden University, Netherlands), Professor Weicai Yang (Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Professor Mengxiang Sun (Wuhan University, China), Professor Ming Luo, CSIRO Plant industry, Canberra, Australia), together with tutors Professor Chun-Ming Liu (Key Laboratory for Molecular Plant Physiology, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China) and Professor Li-Jia Qu (Peking University, China).

A welcome dinner was held at Xi Bei Restaurant (which was most enjoyable, with great food and good company). A laboratory tour in Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science also was held as part of the Summer School. The Summer School concluded with a farewell banquet.



*Participants in Summer School on plant seed development held in Beijing in July 2013.*

*Front row, from left: Trevor Wang, Supachitra Chadchawan, Chun-Ming Liu*