

## 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 (JRMCE) 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 JRMCE 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