



The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) stages its sixth International Rice Genetics Symposium, one of the world's biggest and most important rice research conferences. More than 700 top international scientists and researchers will attend this prestigious event held from 16-19 November 2009, Manila Hotel, Philippines. Adding to its scope and significance, this major event, opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, is held in conjunction with the 7th International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics and the Rice Annotation Project 6 (RAP6) Workshop.

The four-day event builds on the excitement generated by the enormous progress and advancement being made in rice genomics and its enormous potential benefits and contributions to food security, poverty elimination and to global rice industry.

The symposium comes at a key time for the international rice industry, which is under unprecedented pressure caused by record high prices and major production challenges. This meeting provides an important forum for reviewing the most recent advances in rice science, helps in building and strengthening networking among research groups and experts, and provides a forum for in depth discussion, exchange of information and advancements in the genetics and genomics fields and their relevance and contribution to uplifting the current crises in food sufficiency and security. The event will showcase the latest developments in the field, including research on breeding new varieties, mapping and cloning of quantitative trait loci and genes of agronomic and adaptive significance, identification and cloning of genes that help combat biotic and abiotic stresses, and the cutting age advances in genomic tools for gene expression studies and functional genomics such as mutants and other genetic stocks, genomic databases and bioinformatics tools available for rice scientists.

The Rice Genetic Symposium is the 6<sup>th</sup> in a series of symposia being held at IRRI every 4 to 5 years, the first of which was held in 1985. The fifth symposium in this series brought together over 700 rice scientists from 43 countries, featuring world legendary scientists delivering plenary lectures covering a wide range of topics from classical genetics to the most advanced research on gene isolation and functional genomics.

An exciting set of about 20 plenary lectures are lined up for the Sixth Rice Genetics Symposium, featuring eminent scientists from around the world, addressing issues from contribution of rice genetics to poverty elimination, to the most recent developments in the field of genomics and functional and comparative genomics. The plenary sessions will include lectures from the following world distinguished scientists: *Monty Johns, Rod Wing, Jeff Bennetzen, Susan McCouch, Olivier Panuad, Gyn Ann, Venkatesan Sundaresan, Naoko Nishizawa, Bin Han, Julia Baily-Serres, Jian-Kang Zhu, Ko Shimamoto, Daoxiu Zhou, Makoto Matsuoka, Darshan Brar, Qifa Zhang, Sandra Milan, Masahiro Yano, Guoliang Wang, and Usha Zehr.* 

Besides, there are also eight concurrent sessions covering the areas of:

- 1. Evolutionary genetics
- 2. Genome structure
- 3. Disease and insect resistance
- 4. Abiotic stress tolerance
- 5. Translational Genomics
- 6. Developmental genetics
- 7. Grain quality and nutrition
- 8. Breeding applications

Research outputs of various scientists and research groups will further be displayed through a set of poster sessions that will be displayed throughout the 3 days of the meeting.

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Rice Genetics Symposium also promises a series of activities offering abundant opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking. One key activity will be knowledge sharing workshops, chaired by leading experts, that will benefit the attendees from the in depth discussion on special topics in rice genetics. There will be an exclusive conference dinner, featuring a special program that promises abundant opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking. An exclusive field tour of IRRI in Los Baños will highlight the institute's field and laboratory experiments and guarantees a comprehensive and detailed field experience for the delegates. The exhibition showcases the latest technology and introduces potential customers to new products. It offers an international platform for great networking and market penetration opportunities within the rice industry.

## Organized by:



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