



PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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Greetings to All Participants at the 11th Pacific Science Inter-Congress in Tahiti



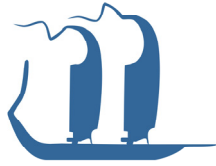
PSA President Dr. Fu Congbin

With the growing scale and scope of human influence on the Earth's natural systems, we are now entering what is effectively a new geological era, "the Anthropocene Epoch". In the Anthropocene, human activities have begun to significantly impact virtually all the planet's ecosystems - even fundamental natural processes such as the climate system and carbon cycle. This significance of the profound shift in the stability of Earth's systems has been amply demonstrated elsewhere, but what is important to note is that we are the first generation to have the intelligence and imagination to understand the collective impact we are having on the planet. With

this knowledge comes both an opportunity as well as an obligation to start to redefine our relationship with the planet - to move from consumption and exploitation towards a path of sustainability.

The mission of the Pacific Science Association is to advance science and technology in support of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region - a vast region that spans from Russia to Chile and Australia to Canada, and including tens of thousands of islands that despite their tiny size, are all linked to one another in important and vital ways.

PSA facilitates interdisciplinary and international research and collaboration with a focus on critical issues, in order to engage science in the service of human needs - to improve both the quality of life of the region's peoples and the integrity of the natural environment upon which all life depends. PSA serves as an important catalyst for scientific and scholarly collaboration and works to help advance scientific capacity in the region. By fostering more effective communication between scientists, policymakers and the public, and by actively involving the Pacific Island states in regional and international scientific activities, PSA's role has never been more critical. The expansive regional scope of PSA may seem daunting, but promoting the "Science of the Pacific" is crucial. After all, the Pacific Ocean is the essential common element



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that links all the countries of the Pacific Rim and Basin. It links us, provides our sustenance, and determines the fundamental conditions under which we live.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to my esteemed colleagues the 11th Pacific Science Inter-Congress in Tahiti, French Polynesia. The theme of “Pacific Countries and their Ocean Facing Local and Global Change” is particularly appropriate given the increasing pace of change that is impacting even the most islands in the Pacific. Each of the Inter-Congress subthemes - Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development; Climate Change and Ocean Acidification; Health Challenges in the Pacific; Politics; the Stakes of Modernity; and Governance and the Economy, all address important current and future challenges for the Pacific in this new Anthropocene Epoch.

I also like to take this opportunity to thank the High Commissioner of the Republic and the President of French Polynesia as well as the communities of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna for their strong support for the Tahiti Inter-Congress. Thanks also go to all members of the PSA International Scientific Committee and the Local Organizing Committee for their great contributions to this conference. Thank you to the hosts of the Tahiti Inter-Congress, and especially the Governments of France and French Polynesia for your outstanding generosity and hospitality.

I have no doubt that this Inter-Congress will provide an important multidisciplinary international platform that will establish new and effective links among the region’s scientists to discuss and review common concerns and priorities in the region, and to further intellectual exchanges and effective communications between scientists, policy makers and the public. There has never been a more important time for the region’s scientists to work together to examine important issues of nature and development, to understand how those factors are inextricably intertwined, and to help the public and policymakers understand how build a more effective path of sustainability that will secure our planet’s future and that of humankind in the Anthropocene.

With sincere wishes for a great and successful Inter-Congress!

Ia orana,

Congbin Fu
President (2007-2011)
Pacific Science Association