



Asian Journal of Mycology News

The 2nd Postgraduate Biannual Conference of the Center of Excellence in Fungal Research

The 2nd Postgraduate Biannual Conference of the Center of Excellence in Fungal Research was held on 22nd October 2019 at Room 714, E4 Building, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand. The conference was aimed to provide students the opportunity to present their research work and to exchange research experiences and learn from their senior students and researchers.

The conference commenced with a guest lecture by Dr. Rungtiwa Phookamsak, an alumnus of the center and currently researcher in Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her talk on "Fruitful results of hard work" inspired the students and researchers of the center.

During the morning session, researchers of the Center of Excellence in Fungal Research (CEFR) share their knowledge in fungal research, and present their current works on different online platforms to collate all the worldwide data on mycology. Dr. Olivier Raspé talked about the importance of the DNA sequence quality for molecular analyses. Dr. Saranyaphat Boonmee stated the importance of the MFLU Fungarium, and the procedures and processes that the students need to follow when depositing or loaning herbaria. Dr. Naritsada Thongklang presented the current macrofungal research works in Thailand and Greater Mekong Subregion, and the future of center's mushroom research. Dr. Jutamart Monkai and Dr. Thilini Chethana introduced two important websites, which are managed by CEFR, the "Genera of fungi" (<https://fungalgenera.org/>) and "Faces of fungi" (<http://www.facesoffungi.org/>), respectively. Dr. Ruvishika S. Jayawardena also discussed about fungal plant pathogens and its corresponding website for the taxonomy and phylogeny of phytopathogenic genera (<https://onestopshopfungi.org/>). Dr. Eleni Gentekaki gave the closing speech on the University's Bioscience program including the standards of CEFR and inspired students to work hard.

Furthermore, the conference provided the platform for six Ph.D. candidates to present their research:

1. "Ongoing study on Borderline lichenized lineages" presented by Miss Vinodhini Gowry
2. "Fungi on wild fruits and seeds, and their diversity" presented by Miss Hansika Perera
3. "Current status of species concepts within the Dothideomycetes: High Diversity but not without Taxonomic perils and pitfalls" presented by Miss Dhandevi Pem
4. "Identification and characterization of *Plasmopara viticola* pathotypes" presented by Miss Ishara Manawasinghe
5. "Species composition of freshwater fungi in Thailand: a preliminary report" presented by Mr. Mark S. Calabon
6. "The next generation sequencing technologies and their application in studying fungal community structure" presented by Mr. Yu Wei Hu

This year an award was initiated by CEFR in recognition for the “Best Supervisor/Co-advisor” and this year's awardee was Dr. Ruvishika Jayawardena.

Emer. Prof. Kevin D. Hyde, Director of CEFR, gave a concluding remark encouraging all students and researchers. He pointed out that as the leading center in the world, all students must realize that they must arrange their work with the idea of maintaining high standards. He also stated that in the future center will present a certificate for the Ph.D. students who graduate with high class to motivate and encourage students on their high quality and hard work.



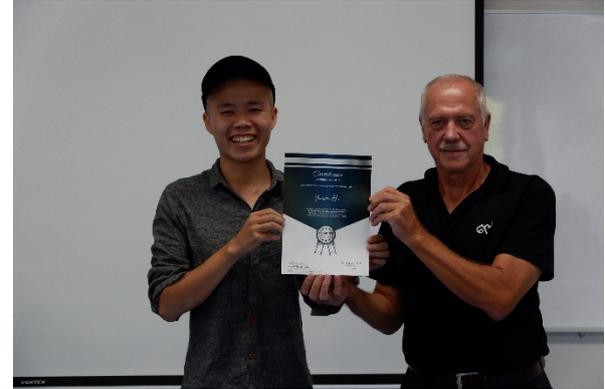
Emer. Prof. Dr. Kevin D. Hyde, researchers and students of CEFR participated the 2nd Postgraduate Biannual Conference



Researchers of CEFR gave a talk on various topics.



Ph.D. students gave a presentation on their research work.



Emer. Prof. Dr. Kevin D. Hyde gave the certificate to speakers



Dr. Ruvishika Jayawardena got this year "Best Supervisor/ Co-advisor Award"