

11th International Conference for Science Editors Held in Beijing

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The 11th International Conference for Science Editors (IFSE-11), which marked the 25th anniversary of the International Federation of Science Editors (IFSE), was held 24-28 August 2002 in Beijing, China. The theme of IFSE-11 was "Global Science Communication in the New Century". The conference attracted more than 235 scientific editors from almost 30 countries.

IFSE is an international organization that consists of societies of scientific editors and individual editors in various countries and regions around the globe. IFSE's goal is the improvement of scientific communication throughout the world. It is dedicated to answering the need for scientific expression in less developed parts of the world that can benefit from the expertise and organization of more advanced areas and to promoting publication in less developed regions that harbor information of increasing interest to the rest of the world.

The previous IFSE conferences were hosted by academies of sciences, scientific institutions, and governments in Jerusalem, Amsterdam, Philadelphia, Nairobi, Hamburg, Woods Hole (United States), Santa Maria Imbaro (Italy), Barcelona, Sharm e-Sheikh (Egypt), and Rio de Janeiro. IFSE-11, in Beijing, was sponsored by the China Editology Society for Scientific Periodicals (CESSP), the Editology Society of Natural Science Periodicals of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ESNSPCAS), and Science in China Press, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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The Chinese science editors highly valued the opportunity to host IFSE-11.

Miriam Balaban, president of IFSE, provided an opening speech that addressed the development of international scientific editors and publications and declared IFSE-11 open. DING Naigang, chairman of the Organizing Committee of IFSE-11 and president of CESSP, welcomed the participants from different countries and regions at the opening ceremony.

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The conference included plenary sessions and poster presentations. In the plenary sessions, GUO Chuanjie, director of the Committee of Publication, Documentation and Information, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and ZHANG Bohai, vice chairman of the China Periodicals Association, introduced "The Chinese Academy of Sciences and Scientific Journals" and "The Current Situation of Chinese Scientific Journals", respectively. Titles of other plenary presentations were "Open Access to Scientific Literature and Benefits to Developing Economies" (Leslie K W Chan, associate director, Bioline International Centre, University of Toronto, Scarborough, Canada), "Status Quo of Scientific Journals in Korea" (HEO Kwang-soo, former president, Korea Magazine Association), "Nikkei Business Publications and Its Editorial Structure" (Hisao Yoshimura, chairman of the

board, Nikkei Business Publications Inc, Japan), "How To Make Chinese Journals More Attractive to Western Subscribers" (Michael Gallico, managing director, Maney Publishing, The Charlesworth Group, UK), "Publishing Scientific Journals in Developing Countries: Is It Worth It?" (Lewis Joel Greene, deputy president, IFSE, Brazil), "Responsibilities of Scientific Editors" (Robert D Utiger, professor, Harvard Medical School, and editor-in-chief, *Clinical Thyroidology*, United States), "Measuring the 'Impact' of a Scientific Paper" (Jerry Cowhig, managing director, Institute of Physics Publishing Ltd, England), and "Transforming Research: ISI Web of Knowledge" (David Liu, ISI, United States).

Finally, Balaban stressed that we need a database of editors in all countries. She urged each association, country, region, and continent to make its own database of editors, which would help them network with each other and reach colleagues.

After IFSE-11, a short course for scientific editors was conducted on 28-30 August. Topics that were addressed included the present and future of scientific communication, global citation and access to scientific literature, the peer-review system, electronic networks in different regions of the world, and models for electronic databases and digital libraries.

IFSE-11 accomplished its anticipated goals. It gave Chinese science editors a wonderful opportunity to strengthen ties with the international communities of science editors, which will bring about a substantial improvement in Chinese scientific journals. The next IFSE conference, the 12th International Conference for Science Editors, will be held in beautiful Sydney, Australia, in 2004. 🌐