

# **International Conference On Bioinformatics 2003**



8 – 10 September 2003  
Penang, Malaysia

## Introduction

InCoB is an annual international conference initiated by the Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network ([APBioNet](#)). The main objective of the InCoB is to provide a platform for experts and budding bioinformaticians to discuss and exchange ideas and thoughts on the development of bioinformatics in the Asia Pacific region. The first conference was successfully held in Bangkok in 2002 and following on this tradition, InCoB 2003 will be held in the lush tropical island of [Penang](#) in Malaysia.

The importance of bioinformatics in the face of the ever-increasing amounts of biological data cannot be denied and it is for this reason that scientists in the Asia Pacific region are striving to use database management, artificial intelligence, data mining and knowledge representation to provide key solutions to the questions posed by their research, particularly on local resources of economic and strategic importance.

InCoB 2003 provides for an international forum that will present cutting-edge computational biology applications and findings on interdisciplinary research such as molecular evolution, health, agriculture, microbes and tropical diseases and on sequence and structure analysis. We welcome submission of abstracts that discuss the conceptual and practical issues of the various topics on computational aspects of bioinformatics research. The organizing committee looks forward to an exciting and challenging programme and warmly invites you to this tropical paradise for a feast of intellectual stimulation and warm hospitality.

## Call for Papers / Posters:

InCoB 2003 invites abstracts on original contributions for oral and poster presentations on the following topics:

- Bioinformatics for disease endemic countries
- Beyond the human genome sequence
- Towards integrative modeling of cellular processes
- Modelling genome structure and function
- Sequence analysis
- Structure analysis
- Expression data analysis
- Bioinformatics and health
- Bioinformatics and agriculture
- Bioinformatics in the Asia-Pacific region
- Bioinformatics and education
- Molecular evolution and phylogenetics

Each participant is welcome to submit more than one abstract but presenting authors are limited to one oral presentation only. All abstracts for oral or poster presentations received at the deadline will be accepted provided that the work described conforms to ethical and scientific standards. However, the Scientific Programme Committee reserves a right to make the final decision.

Authors should submit one (1) copy of the abstract stating whether it is for an oral or poster presentation in a MS word file to the Secretariat ([incob@cgat.ukm.my](mailto:incob@cgat.ukm.my)). All abstracts will be published in the conference abstract book and selected presentations will be offered the opportunity to submit a full paper for publication in Applied Bioinformatics (<http://www.openmindjournals.com/bioinformatics.html>).

Poster Sessions: Each poster selected will be displayed for 2 days at the designated areas. Poster sessions have been arranged to allow for discussions and presenting authors are required to be present at the designated times.  
Guidelines for abstract submission

Abstracts should be prepared using New Times Roman with a font size of 12 according to the format given in the example below:

### **NBBnet : A National Bioinformatics Initiative for Malaysia**

Rahmah Mohamed, Mohd Firdaus Mohd Raih, Sharr Azni Harmin and Latiff Ibrahim  
Centre for Gene Analysis Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600 Bangi, Malaysia  
National Biotechnology Directorate (BIOTEK), Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Parcel C,  
62880, Putrajaya Malaysia

In the era of genomics, proteomics and systems biology, the need for computational biology and computer networks is imperative. In many developed countries such as the USA, Europe and Japan, national, regional and international networks specializing in bioinformatics are already in place. However, in many developing countries, researchers are not able to utilize resources made available in public domains due to lack of training as well as IT infrastructure. In Malaysia, the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (MOSTE) has established the National Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Network (NBBnet) in an effort to provide researchers with necessary informatics-computational infrastructure and resources for bioinformatics.....

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\* Graduate students should provide proof of student status to qualify for student registration fee

**Registration fee:**

Type	Fee	
	Before 30 June 2003	After 30 June 2003
Full participant (non-Malaysian)	USD300	USD350
Full participant (Malaysian)	RM400	RM500
Industry (non-Malaysian)	USD350	USD400
Industry (Malaysian)	RM450	RM550
Graduate student (non-Malaysian)	USD200	USD200
Graduate student (non-Malaysian)	RM300	RM300
Accompanying person	USD100	USD100
Day registration	USD150	USD150

**InCoB Registration Form:**

InCoB Registration:

**1. DELEGATE'S  
INFORMATION**

- Individual
- Include In Institute/Company Group

Name :

Institute / Company :

Position :

Mailing Address :

Postal Code:

City :

Telephone :

Country :

Facsimile :

E-mail address :

Designation :

Principal Investigator

Scientist

Lecturer

Post-doc

Graduate Student

Industry

*I would like to register for the pre conference tutorial*

## **2. Registration fee:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>	
	Before 30 June 2003	After 30 June 2003
Full participant (non-Malaysian)	USD 300	USD350
Full participant (Malaysian)	RM 400	RM500
Industry (non-Malaysian)	USD 350	USD400
Industry (Malaysian)	RM 450	RM550
Graduate student (non-Malaysian)	USD 200	USD200
Graduate student (Malaysian)	RM 300	RM300
Accompanying person	USD 100	USD100
Day registration	USD 150	USD150

Each full participant is entitled to un-limited access to the scientific programme and exhibition, conference material, refreshments, reception and banquet. Accompanying persons are entitled to the exhibition area, reception and banquet. Day registrants are entitled to the scientific programme, exhibition on the registration date specified and abstract book.

### **Payment of Fees**

Payment of fees must be remitted with the registration forms. Payments must be made by cheque (for foreign participants, this must be done with an international bank cheque drawn on a bank in Malaysia. All cheques should be made payable to "Bendahari UKM".

Registration and acceptance of abstracts will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

### **Cancellation and Refunds**

Cancellation can be notified in writing to the Secretary. Cancellation fee:

Before 15th July 2003	Processing fee of USD100.00
Before 1st August 2003	50% refund of fees paid
After 1st August 2003	No refunds

### **Deadlines**

Registration	30th June 2003
Late registration	31st July 2003
Receipt of abstracts	31st July 2003

## Programme :

The scientific programme is divided into keynote, plenary and symposia sessions and will be complemented by poster sessions and a pre-conference tutorial. The conference will also include discussions on education in bioinformatics and will culminate with a round table discourse on networking. The tentative programme for the conference is:

Date	Activity		
4 - 5 Sept	Pre-conference Workshop		
	(Interim Laboratory, National Institute for Genomics and Molecular Biology IKGBM)		
8 Sept	Keynote Lecture		
(9am - 5pm)	Poster Session		
	Symposium 1 Data Mining and Databases	Symposium 2 Bioinformatics and Health	Symposium 3 Education in Bioinformatics
(8pm - 10pm)	Opening Ceremony		
	Conference Banquet		
9 Sept	Keynote & Special Lectures		
(9am - 1pm)	Poster Session		

## Speakers / Keynotes :

Keynote speakers comprising experts in the various disciplines of bioinformatics will be invited to present the latest innovations, technologies, ideas and research findings in their respective areas of expertise.

## Tutorial:

A two day pre-conference workshop will be held from 4 - 5 September at the NBBnet Bioinformatics Laboratory Interim Laboratory, National Institute for Genomics & Molecular Biology, Bangi Selangor. Participation is limited to 24 participants only based on a first-come first-served basis. Workshop details and programme are as below:

## **Course Objectives**

The course aims to introduce as well as train biological and bio-medical research oriented personnel in proficiently using available bioinformatics tools via the EMBOSS software package/JEMBOSS interface.

**Course Content**

EMBOSS setup, installation, EMBOSS programs, JEMBOSS interface  
Teaching Faculty: Dr. Wan Kiew Lian, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**Target Participants**

The course is aimed at postgraduate students, research officers as well as administrators with interests or ties to research in biology (molecular biology, biochemistry) and bio-medicine.

**Course Syllabus**

EMBOSS installation  
EMBOSS configuration and database management  
The EMBOSS libraries and development model Writing an  
EMBOSS application 1: the ACD file Writing an  
EMBOSS application 2: the code Running  
EMBOSS applications Sequences and databases  
Advanced applications  
Genome sequence assembly and annotation

**Accommodation** for the duration of the workshop can be arranged by the organizing committee and invited to the participant.

**Exhibitors:**

A scientific trade exhibition will be held during the conference and will cover a wide range of bioinformatics hardware, software and literature. Companies and suppliers of bioinformatics related material and equipment are invited to display their products and technologies. This exhibition is deemed to be a vital aspect of the conference.

The exhibition space will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Booths of dimensions 3m x 3m are priced at RM 2000.00. Single or multiple booths may be booked by completing the enclosed form. Payment must accompany any booking and should be made in the name of "Bendahari UKM". The layout of the exhibition space will be provided upon receipt of booking. Assignment of booths will also be on a first come-first served basis. Please send the completed booking form / advertisement form to the Secretary.

## EXHIBITION SPACE/ ADVERTISEMENT BOOKING FORM

The Secretariat  
 InCoB 2003  
 c/o School of Biosciences and Biotechnology  
 Faculty Science and Technology  
 University Kebangsaan Malaysia  
 43600 UKM  
 Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
 Malaysia  
 Tel : 6 03 8921 3862

We wish to book the following:

	RM
<b>(i) Exhibition booths</b> (3m x 3m) (a discount of 10% is allowed on booking on more than 1 booth or if your are a special member of InCoB)	RM 2000 each
<b>(ii) Advertisement</b>	
Cover - inner front (colour)	RM 1000 each
inner back (color)	RM 1000 each
outer back (color)	RM 1000 each
<b>Within</b> - full page (monochrome)	RM 800 each
half page (monochrome)	RM 500 each

Name :

Total Of Booth :

Designation :

Company Address :

Tel No :

Fax :

E-mail :

Exhibitors will be provided with 1 table, 1 poster board and a plug point.

All materials relevant to the advertisement eg. color separation, diskette etc. should be supplied by the deadline of 1 August 2003. A late fee of 20% in excess of the above rates are charged up to 15 August 2003. Cheques should be made payable to "Bendahari UKM" and mailed to the secretariat.

### Travel Fellowships:

APBioNet through The International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) is offering 10 travel fellowships valued at USD500 each to cover travel expenses of selected young scientists who are 2003 ICSB members. Applications can be made directly through the Travel Fellowships page of ISCB ([www.iscb.org/travel\\_fellowship\\_form.php](http://www.iscb.org/travel_fellowship_form.php)).

### Hotel & Travel:

Accommodation for the duration of the conference can be booked at the following hotels in Penang:

Hotel	Rating	Rate per night (inclusive of breakfast)	Booking Information
1. Rasa Sayang Resort	*****	RM325	<a href="http://www.shangri-la.com">http://www.shangri-la.com</a> contact person : Ms. Anna Mohd
2. Golden Sands Resort	****	RM260	<a href="http://www.shangri-la.com">http://www.shangri-la.com</a> contact person : Ms. Anna Mohd
3. ParkRoyal Penang	****	RM170	<a href="http://www.grandplaza.penang.parkroyalhotels.com">http://www.grandplaza.penang.parkroyalhotels.com</a> contact person : Mr. Shahrir Amir
4. Ferringhi Beach Hotel	***	RM140	<a href="http://www.ferringhi.com.my/">http://www.ferringhi.com.my/</a> contact person : Ms. Low Iyin
5. Casuarina Beach Resort	***	RM140	<a href="http://www.casuarina.com.my">http://www.casuarina.com.my</a> contact person : Ms. Amran Aziz

Please make your bookings directly with the relevant hotel. Please mention the conference name when making your booking to qualify for the special room rates. A map identifying the location of the hotels relative to the conference venue ([Penang map](#))

Malaysia Airlines has been appointed the official airlines of the conference. When contacting your nearest Malaysia Airlines Travel Centre, please quote **Code No: GINCOB03** when making your bookings with Malaysia Airlines to qualify for special rates.

Penang is easily accessible by air with daily flights from major capitals of the region. It has direct links with Singapore, Bangkok, Nagoya, Medan, Xiamen (China) and Madras, operated by Malaysia Airlines. The airline also operates more than 20 flights daily between Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

The Penang International Airport is about 20 km from the city center. Taxis plying the route follow the coupon system by which fares between the airport and various destinations in Penang are fixed. Air-conditioned taxis and limousines charge higher fares.

### See & Do:

Penang " The Pearl of the Orient" lies off the northwestern coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The state comprises the island of Penang covering an area of about 285 sq. km and a narrow strip of approximately 760 sq. km on the mainland known as Seberang Perai (Province Wellesley) separated by a channel 3 km wide at the closest point. They are linked by the Penang Bridge and a 24-hour ferry service. Its population of more than 1 million represents a happy mix of the major races found in Malaysia with Malays making up 32%, the Chinese 59% and Indians 7%.

Georgetown, at the north-eastern tip of the island is the seat of administration and is also the commercial hub of the state. This bustling metropolitan city combines the best of east and west as seen in its fascinating collection of fine old buildings, each bearing the stamp of different foreign influences in its colorful history. Much of its charm also lies in its famous golden beaches and clear blue seas. Penang today is a resort island in full bloom - an idyllic playground for worshippers of the sun and the sea. Its multi-racial population contributes to a wealth of cultural attractions and festivals for visitors to bring home memories of happy times in Penang. Further information on tours of Penang island and shopping can be found at <http://www.penangweb.com/>

Penang is easily accessible by air via Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Johor Bharu and Bangkok. The destination airport is the Penang International Airport.

### Sponsors:

Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Malaysia  
International Society for Computational Biology  
Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network  
Malaysia Airlines



### **Organizing Committee :**

Patron: Datuk Law Hieng Ding  
Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment

Advisor: Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Latif Ibrahim (National Biotechnology  
Directorate)

Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Nor Muhammad Mahadi (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharr Azni Harmin (National Biotechnology  
Directorate)

Secretary: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sheila Nathan (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Chair, Scientific Committee: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmah Mohamed (Universiti  
Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Chair, Finance Committee : Dr Adura Mohd Adnan (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Chair, Pre- Conference Workshop : Dr Wan Kiew Lian (Universiti Kebangsaan  
Malaysia)

Chair, Technical Committee : Assoc. Prof Dr Mohd Nazalan Najimuddin (Universiti  
Sains Malaysia)

Chair, Social Committee : Dr Habibah Abdul Wahab ( Universiti Kebangsaan  
Malaysia)

### **Contact Information:**

Secretary  
InCoB 2003 Organizing Committee  
c/o School of BioSciences and Biotechnology  
Faculty of Science and Technology  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor D.E. Malaysia

(Attn: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sheila Nathan)

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E-mail: [incob@cgat.ukm.my](mailto:incob@cgat.ukm.my)