

## 2012 ICO: Results and Acknowledgements from the Organizers

2012 International Congress of Odonatology has brought the curtain down upon the theater of the venue, Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, at which 75 participants from 16 countries assembled during the period from 28th July to 2nd August, followed by the Congress field tour of five days.

On 28th July, the Public talk session entitled 'Dragonflies of the world: their charm and conservation' was opened by several dragonfly songs finely sung by a local female chorus, 'Ensemble Otamajakushi (tadpole)'. In the session (chaired by Mr. H. Karube), Mr. Y. Nagahata, Drs. A. Cordero Rivera and M.J. Samways brought to the audience the past, present and future lives of dragonflies themselves and landscapes holding them.

In the Opening ceremony, Dr. H. Ubukata (Secretary of the Organizing committee) declared the opening of the congress, Dr. Y. Tsubaki (Chair of the Committee) and Dr. Y. Saito (Executive Director of the Museum) welcomed the participants and made opening addresses, and then Dr. G. Sahlén (President of WDA), Mr. K. Inoue (President of SIO) and Dr. S. Eda (Honorable President of Japanese Society for Odonatology) delivered congratulatory addresses.

In the congress, 8 plenary lectures, 27 oral presentations, 9 poster presentations, 1 video presentation, 4 photo presentations and 5 workshop reports were given to the audience. The first oral session was dedicated to late Dr. S. Asahina and began with an introduction of Dr. Asahina's biography and publications by Dr. S. Eda.

Beside scientific programs, the participants enjoyed the following events during the congress period: Reception, Tea ceremony, Mid congress field trip, Congress dinner, Dragonfly photo exhibition/contest and honoring, and ICO Award honoring. The Tea ceremony took place in the manner of 'Sencha-do' (Oubakuhigashihonryu school), hosted by Ms. B. Aoyama, and most oversea participants as well as the Japanese experienced this ceremony, a traditional culture in the East Asia.

The Mid congress field trip guided by Mr. H. Karube and his team was favored by magnificent weather and provided the participants good opportunities for observing, photographing, and collecting eastern Asiatic dragonflies. Viewing the works of René Lalique at a small museum and taking lunch together in the museum as well as the evening barbecue and beer at 'bio-garden' would have been oases for the participants because it was hot summer day.

In the Congress dinner the participants had a fun by the auction of dragonfly books/goods donated by several kind participants in addition to enjoying delicious Japanese cuisine and friendly conversations between the participants. A message from Dr. F. Weihrauch inviting to 2013 International Congress of Odonatology to be held in Freising, Germany, was introduced by Ms. M. Piper in this occasion as well as at the end of a session before the closing ceremony. The winners of photo contest judged by Messrs. H. Tanaka, N. Moriue and A. Ozono (all are professional photographers) were: the first place: Ms. T.T.

Makitan (Indonesia), and the second place: Mr. J.J. Vivas (Venezuela). Drs. S. Nomakuchi, R.J. Rowe, G. Jacquemin, J.R. Ott, and G. Sahlén judged the quality of the applied presentations for ICO Award. The winners of ICO Award were: the first place: Messrs. S. Büsse (Germany), H. Okuyama (Japan), and the third place: K. Tone (Japan). The supplementary prize for the first places of photo contest and ICO Award was a just published book, 'Dragonflies of Japan' authored by Messrs. A. Ozono and I. Kawashima and Dr. R. Futahashi.

The Closing ceremony chaired by Mr. K. Inoue, in which Drs. Tsubaki and Saito expressed acknowledgement on behalf of the Organizing committee and the Museum, respectively, Dr. Sahlén and Ms. M. Piper gave praises to the hosting organizations and groups, and finally all the members of the organizers and volunteers were invited onto the stage and were applauded. Throughout the congress, Drs. T. Kadoya and R. Futahashi played an important role in interpreting in the scene of the communication between oversea participants and several Japanese people.

The Congress field tour started in the morning of 3rd August at Odawara, Kanagawa, and then traveled through Nagano, Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures. During 4-day tour all the participants visited various dragonfly habitats, such as Suwa Lake and streams in Nagano, Sawara-ike pond in Yamanashi, and bogs/marshes in Shizuoka. They also enjoyed observing crepuscular flights of several kinds of aeshnids at Asahata-numa marsh near Shizuoka city. When they visited habitat of *Epiophlebia superstes* in Tenryu, North Hamamatsu, they succeeded in collecting four larvae of this 'living fossil' anisozygopteran species (nowadays treated as the most primitive, extant anisopteran), which is endemic to Japan. The participants had a chance to visit Okegaya-numa marsh on August 5 and observed the state of conservational project of *Libellula angelina*, a critically endangered species. They also visited Suwa-taisha shrine where they could touch a traditional Japanese culture. Throughout the itinerary, nearly 50 different species of Odonata were observed by the tour members. This Congress field tour was conducted by Messrs. S. Ugai, H. Natsume, H. Karube, M. Fukui and the volunteers from Shizuoka prefecture.

All the members of the Organizing committee cordially thank all the participants and volunteer staffs in the congress for their scientific and cooperative contribution to the sessions and events, and their devoted support to us, respectively.