

The 19th International Congress of
UNITAS MALACOLOGICA

World Congress of Malacology 2016

18 - 24 July 2016
Penang, Malaysia

Unity in Diversity

Final Report

WORLD CONGRESS OF MALACOLOGY

2016

18-24 July

wcm2016.usm.my

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors and society partners for the event, with whom, ensured the success of WCM 2016. A special mention goes out to the Unitas Malacologica FY 2013-2016 Council Members for pushing through and backing up this congress through and through. Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks goes out to the secretariat whose persistent commitment on the ground work since day one till the production of this report has never wavered, in bringing this congress to life.

Professor Dr. Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai

President of Unitas Malacologica 2013-2016



World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

A total of 277 participants attended the congress held by a team of 27 people from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), under the auspices of the 2013-2016 UM Council lead by President, Prof. Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai. The congress was held from 18 to 24th July 2016 at Hotel Jen, in the heart of Georgetown – A UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We proudly present to you the full report since the conception of the WCM 2016 Penang to the end of the congress itself. Prior to June 2013, the proposal to hold WCM 2016 in Penang was put forward and was voted for at WCM 2013 in Azores.

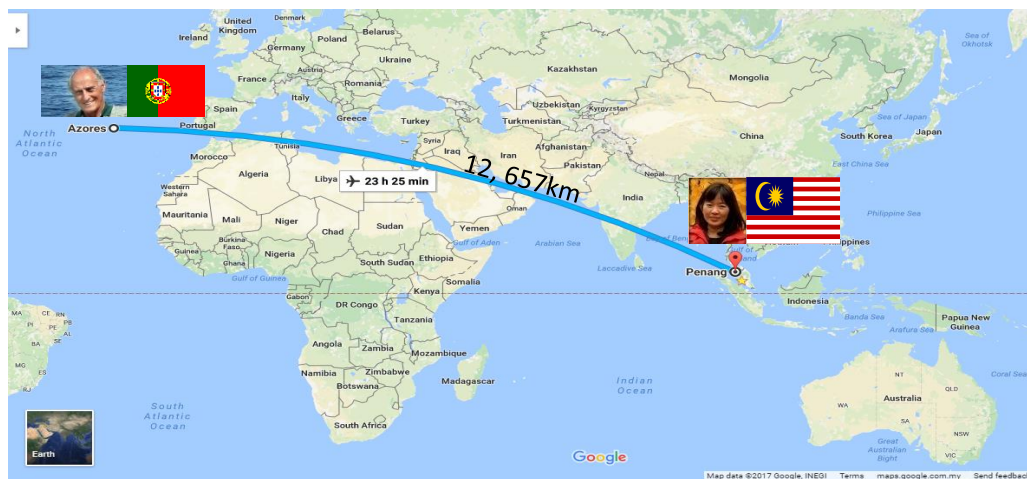


Figure 1. Journey of the UM Presidency and WCM handover

The decision was to take WCM 12,657 km across the continent, to Malaysia, making it the second time WCM has landed on the Southeast Asian shore since 2010 in Phuket, Thailand. The bold proposal to hold the congress in Penang was not made lightly. One of the underlying reasons for the proposal was to enable more malacologists from Asia to attend, to share knowledge with malacologists from the west! Seeing that the costs would have been more affordable for those in Asia, it could in turn gather more young malacologists to fill in the knowledge age gap.

Preparing to host a WCM was no easy feat; Our salute and admiration goes out to all past and future WCM organizers! Expectations from earlier WCMs were high (Europe and its classical charm!) and we thank the malacologists for spreading the word to their enthusiastic circle (60.4% of attendees heard about WCM through the grapevine!) whose attendance and support, we truly appreciate.

Correspondence with participants were strictly via email to keep mailing costs down and it would be easier for filing purposes. Two local teams were set up, the first being the groundwork team who handled logistics such as venue scouting, sponsorships, collaboration with USM as well as online correspondence from the beginning of planning until WCM itself. The additional ad-hoc team was set up to assist the groundwork team on-site for a smoother process in registration, events and logistics. Both teams consisted of graduate students and Universiti Sains Malaysia staff. To future organizers, let it be known that students are actually very capable of handling events!

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

Table 1. Timeline of WCM 2016

Month/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jan		• 1st Council Meeting – presentation of congress plan	• Venue negotiations	• On-going application for local sponsorships
Feb				
Mar				• Early bird registration and submission of abstract deadline
Apr			• Confirmation of conference site	• Deadline for Normal (non-early bird) registration
May				• Deadline for payment
Jun	• Proposal for WCM 2016 in Penang was officially put forward (UM Newsletter No. 33)		• 2nd council meeting @ USM • 1st press conference • Website Launched • First Registration received!	
Jul	• Proposal approved at WCM 2013 in Azores			• WCM 2016 18th-24th July 2016 @Hotel Jen, Penang
Aug				
Sep		• Establishment of Groundwork Local Team and Job Allocation		
Oct		• Scouting for Venue!	• 1st Call of Abstract (UM Newsletter No. 35) Application for local sponsorships	• Consolidation
Nov			• On-going application for local sponsorships	
Dec				

There was a total of 25 symposia organizers for our 15 symposia themes, which were suggested and pushed for by passionate teams!

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

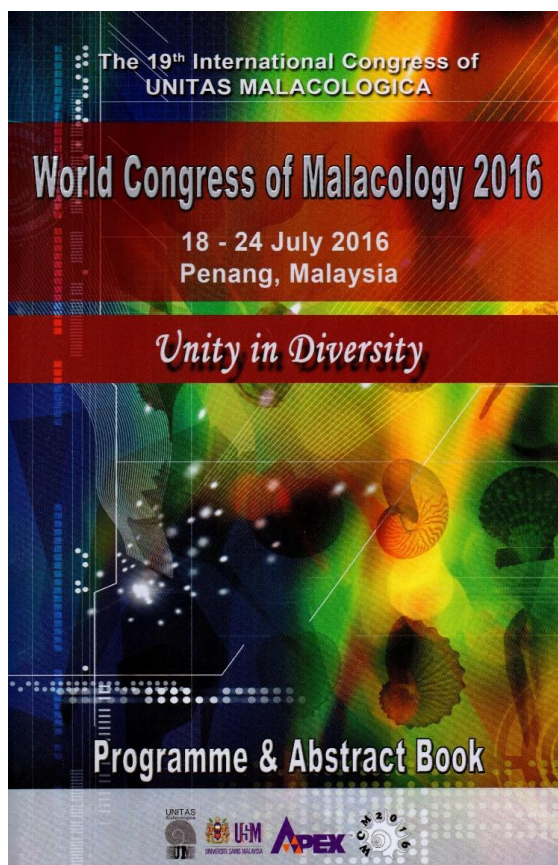


Figure 2. Book of Abstracts front cover



Figure 3. WCM 2016 venue – Hotel Jen, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia Full Report

The total number of participants was 277, a 32% decline since WCM 2013 (409), representing institutions from 41 countries. The congress was represented by the most participants from Japan (36), followed by 28 from Germany and 26 from the United States of America! Interestingly, the attendance in WCM was represented as follows, by percentage and continent.

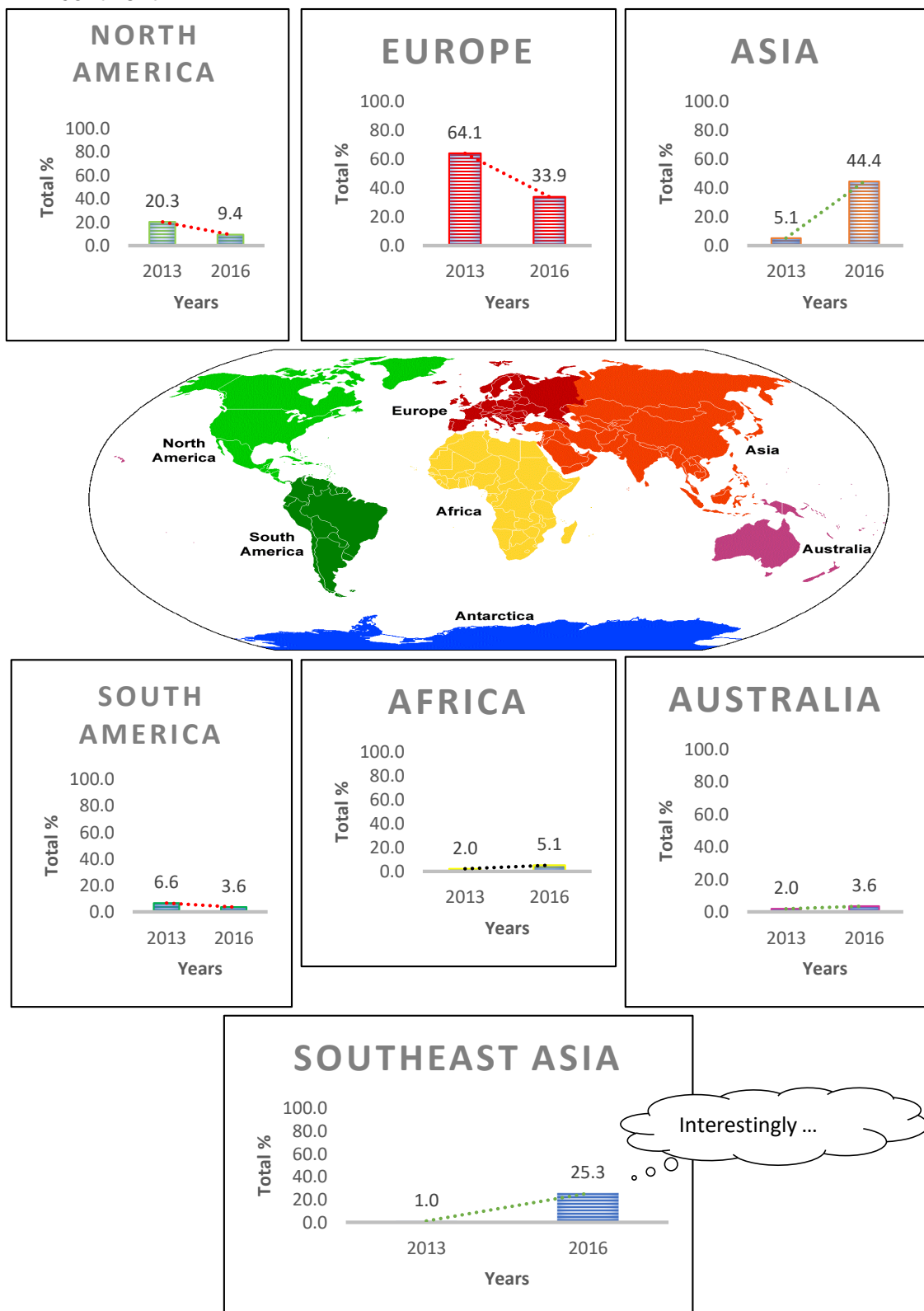


Figure 4. Comparison of WCM 2013 and WCM 2016

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia
Full Report

The obvious trend was the shift in the majority representing continents from WCM 2013 and WCM 2016. A total of 64.1% of the participants in WCM 2013 were from Europe, whereas that representation by percentage has declined to be the second highest (33.9%) in WCM 2016. The second highest representation at WCM 2013 was from North America (20.3%), has declined to 9.4% in WCM 2016. The shift in the locality of WCM 2016 to Asia has boosted the number of Asian institution participation from 5.1% in WCM 2013 to 44.4% (the highest) in WCM 2016. A noteworthy mention is the 24.3% increase in participation from Southeast Asia (4 participants in WCM 2013; 70 participants in WCM 2016).

The following are demographics from our attendance register.

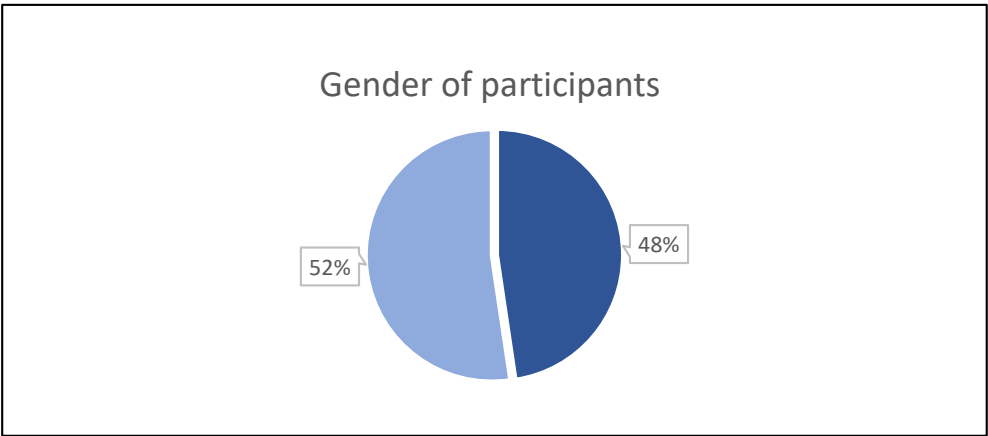


Figure 5. Gender of attended participants are balanced

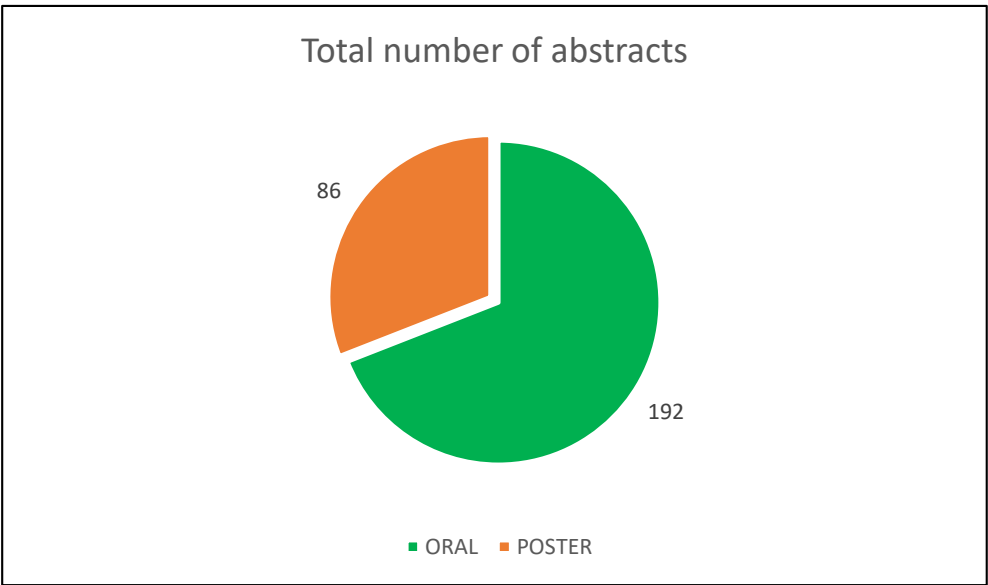


Figure 6. Total number of oral and poster abstracts presented

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

We had four keynote speakers for the congress, covering various areas of interests.





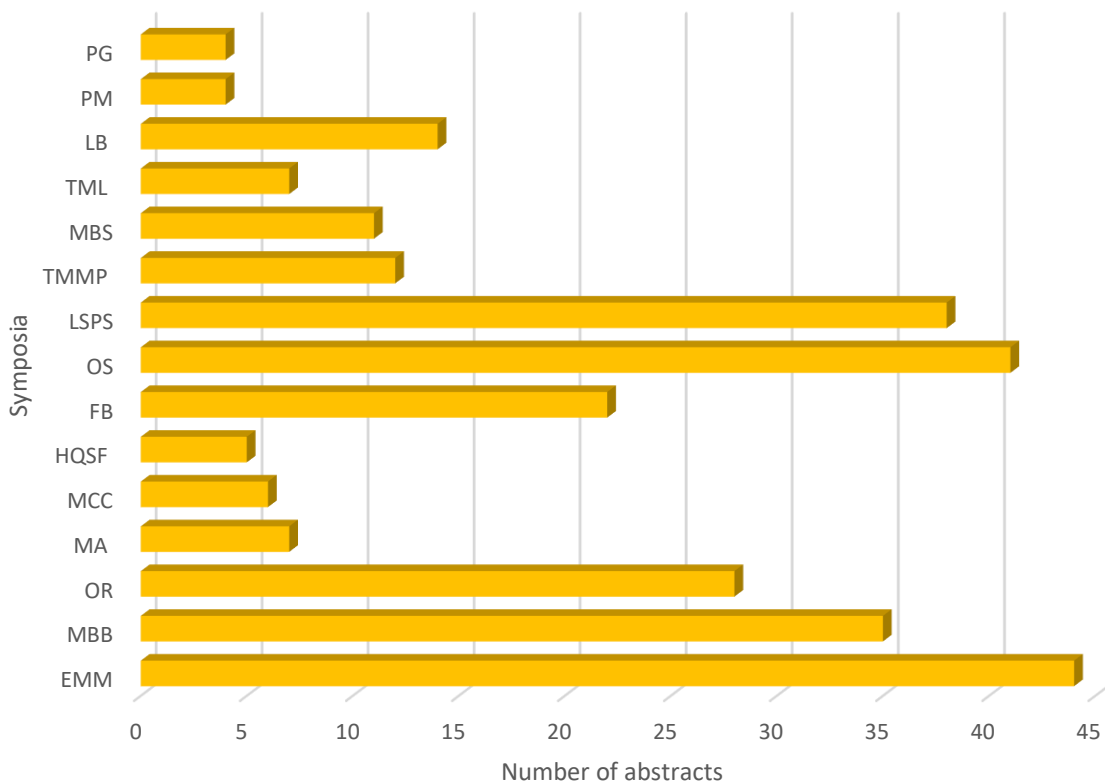
 <p>a</p>	<p>20th July 2016</p> <p>Kathe R. Jensen <i>Natural History Museum, Denmark</i></p> <p>Title: "Review of the Sacoglossa: No longer Opisthobranchia, not quite Pulmonata"</p>
<p>21st July 2016</p> <p>Fred E. Wells <i>Enzer Marine Environmental Consulting, Australia</i></p> <p>Title: "Invasive marine species: A hidden problem in Southeast Asia"</p>	 <p>b</p>
 <p>c</p> <p>Takahiro Asami Shinshu University</p>	<p>21st July 2016</p> <p>Fred E. Wells <i>Enzer Marine Environmental Consulting, Australia</i></p> <p>Title: "Invasive marine species: A hidden problem in Southeast Asia"</p>
<p>24th July 2016</p> <p>Tony Whitten <i>Flora & Fauna International, United Kingdom</i></p> <p>Title: "Lessons learned from engaging with cement companies for snail conservation: Failures and Successes"</p>	 <p>d</p> <p>1903</p>

Figure 7. Keynote speakers

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

Breakdown of abstracts by symposia



Legend	Symposia name
EMM	Ecology of Marine Molluscs
MBB	Molluscan Biodiversity and Biogeography in the Indo-West Pacific
OR	Integrating Molecules, Morphology, Biology and Biogeography in "Opisthobranch" Research
MA	Molluscan Aquaculture in a Changing Climate
MCC	Molluscs in Climate Change Research: New Uses of an Old Group
HQSF	"How to Quantify Shell Form?"
FB	Freshwater Bivalves of the World: Diversity, Distribution, Evolution and Ecology
OS	Open Session
LSPS	Integrative Research on Molluscan Phylogenetics: A Tribute to the Late Professor Salvini-Plawen
TMMP	Tropical Marine Molluscs Programme: Past and Present
MBS	Morphology Based Systematics in Action
TML	Tsunami and Marine Life in Asia
LB	Limestone Biodiversity and Conservation Issue
PM	Predators of Molluscs
PG	Planktic Gastropods

Figure 8. Presented abstracts by symposia (oral and poster)

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia
Full Report

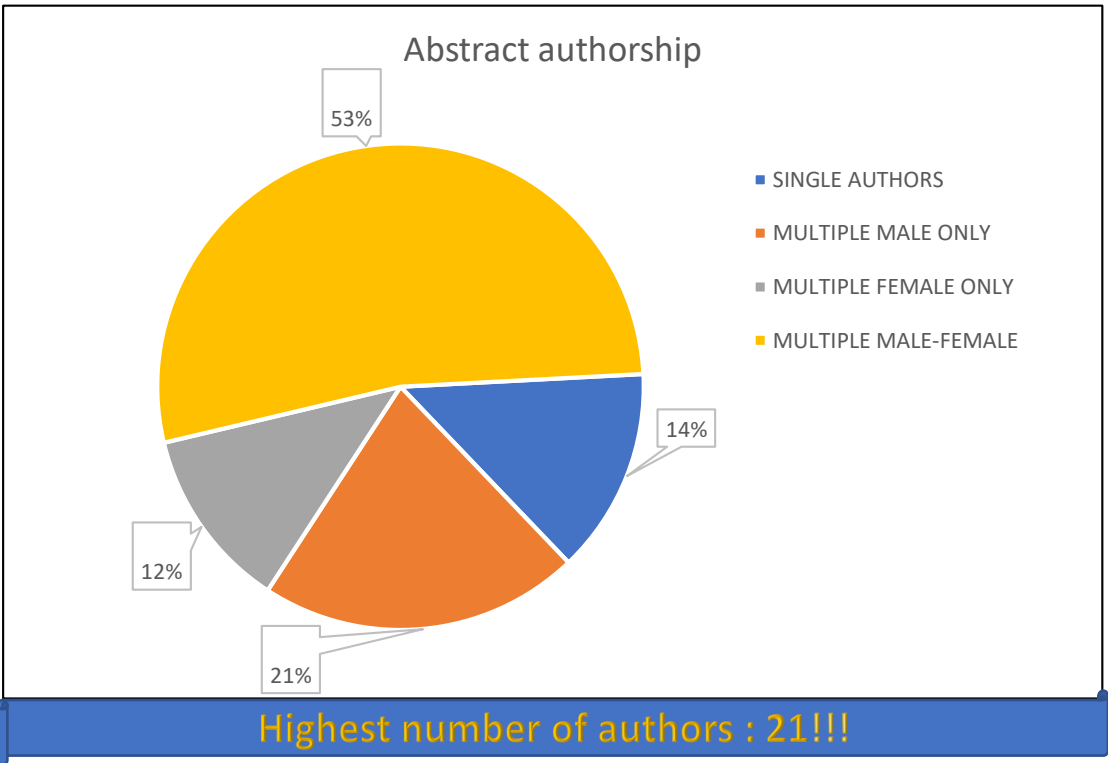


Figure 9. Summary of abstract authorship

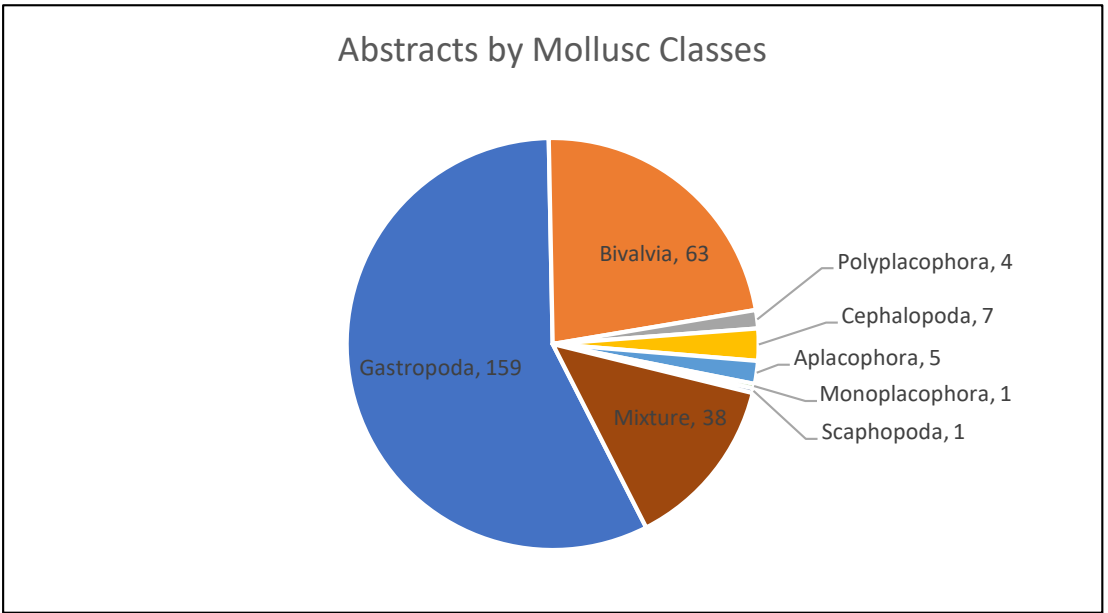


Figure 10. Number of abstracts by Mollusc Classes

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

To aid students and young scientists in attending WCM 2016, a total of 7 entities sponsored various travel grants. A total of 41 participants are awarded by UNITAS MALACOLOGICA, 4 by the Malacological Society of London, 5 by the Malacological Society of Japan, 1 by the Malacological Society of Australasia and 1 each by 3 of the local and international sponsors.

A total of 10 student awards were awarded during the Farewell Dinner on 24th July 2016. They were from Unitas Malacologica (3 Best Oral Presentations, 3 Best Poster Presentations), Malacological Society of Spain (1 Best Oral Presentation, 1 Best Poster Presentation) and the Malacological Society of London (1 Best Oral Presentation, 1 Best Poster Presentation). The awards varied in value and journal subscriptions.



Figure 11. Some of the awardees being presented their awards at the Farewell Dinner

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

Throughout the congress, a fund-raising 'Silent Auction' was carried out. Malacology was the theme for the items which are donated by participants from near and far, some participants went as far as to handmade the items! Proceeds from this auction goes to the UM Endowment Funds. A total of 41 items were auctioned off. As you can see in the photo, the auction was really silent! No haggling of organizers allowed and stacks of bid forms are left on the table if bidders thought their bids are threatened and can renew their bids as many times as they see fit, to ensure they are the highest bidder.



Figure 12. Silent Auction corner with clearly labelled items



Figure 13. Items auctioned off to the highest bidder during the Farewell Dinner

The 41 items managed to auction for a total of RM 2610.50 (about 537 Euros), which will go towards the UM Endowment Fund. The Silent Auction organizers would like to thank all the donors and bidders for their tremendous support in making this inaugural event a success and we sincerely hope that there will be more Silent Auctions to come.

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report

The Farewell Dinner was a social activity meant to showcase Malaysia to the participants, in case they did not have enough time to explore and experience the diverse cultures we have here. Several participants were sporting to bring along their national costumes and even joined in the fun for the finale cultural dance.



Figure 14. Wonderful costumes and participation from our delegates



Figure 15. Part of the organizing committee's 'Cultural Fashion Show'

Surprisingly, the ratio of organizing committee to participants is 1:10! This shows that you only need a small team of highly dedicated individuals to realize a successful conference! *There was a surplus in this event, albeit a small sum in Euros, RM 10,000.00 has been donated to Unitas Malacologica.* Alas, it is time to wrap things up for WCM 2016. A new UM logo plaque constructed in pewter was exchanged between UM's Outgoing President, Prof. Dr. Aileen Tan Shau-Hwai and Incoming President, Dr. Terry Gosliner, marking the end and beginning of the new term 2016-2019. It is hoped that the logo will be passed on to future presidents, serving as a reminder of their obligations in the continuation of the malacological field.

World Congress of Malacology 2016, Penang, Malaysia

Full Report



Figure 16. Presidents' exchange

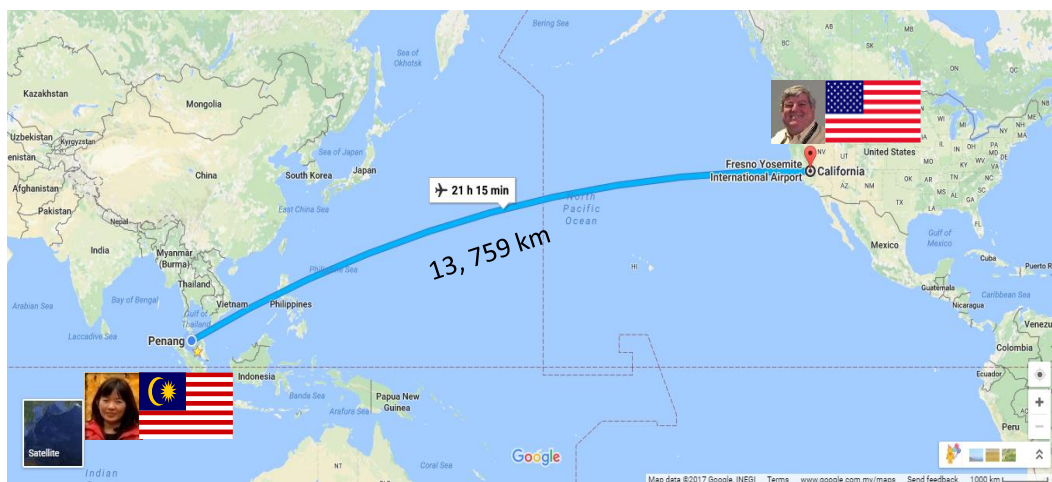
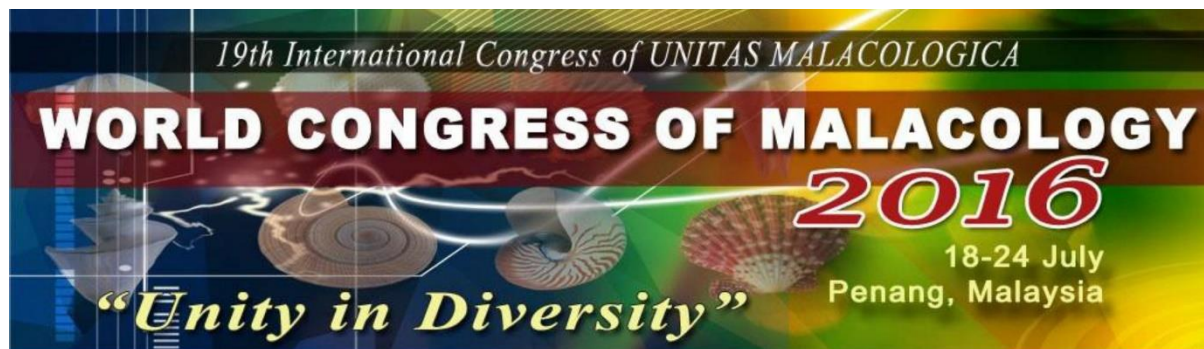


Figure 17. WCM 2019 will be held in California, USA

Until then, the organizers would like to express their sincere appreciation towards all the participants and we would like you all to know that this was a wonderful experience for us to learn from the best. Your constructive feedback has been received and we will take the responses and suggestions in mind for our future events. We hoped you had a blast at WCM 2016 in Penang, Malaysia.

p/s A corrected online version of the abstract book can be found here:
<http://bit.ly/2v0PWuv>

Annex I – Feedback Form



FEEDBACK SURVEY

Dear participant, in order to improve our efficiency for future events, we kindly ask your collaboration to give feedback about WCM 2016, by completing the following survey.

Please drop this off at the Registration Desk at any time by 24th July 2016.

1. Information dissemination

a) *How did you know about this congress?*

- ☐ Newsletter ☐ Friends/co-workers ☐ Webpage /internet ☐ Mailing list ☐ Others

2. Pre-Congress Correspondence

a) *How was the email feedback content?*

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

b) *How was the time lapse to obtain feedback?*

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

c) *What do you think about the webpage contents?*

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

d) *How was the webpage navigation and use?*

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

3. Payment System

a) *How would you review the online payment system portal?*

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

b) *How can we improve on the online payment system portal?*



4. Reception and assistance during the event

a) *How was the delegate reception?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

b) *How was the assistance by staff?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

c) *The information provided was:*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

5. Overall Services

a) *How were the delegate bag contents?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

b) *How were the venue facilities?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

c) *How was the Audio-Visual system at the venue?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

d) *How was the food and beverage selection at the venue?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

6. Presentations, contents and program

a) *How was the time schedule?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

b) *How was the scientific content/quality?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

c) *How was the scientific content of oral presentations?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

d) *How was the scientific content of poster presentations?*

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

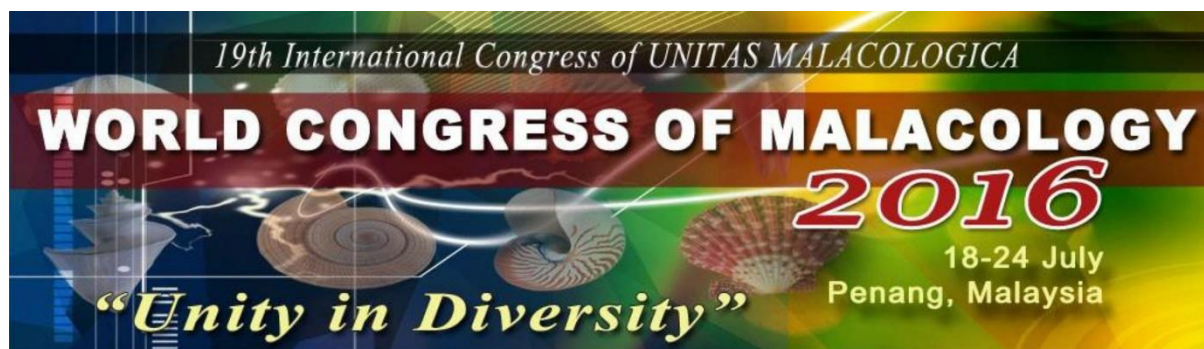


e) *Most appreciated Symposium:*

- ☐ Ecology of Marine Molluscs
- ☐ Freshwater Bivalves of the World: Diversity, Distribution, Evolution & Ecology
- ☐ "How to Quantify Shell Form?"
- ☐ Integrating Molecules, Morphology, Biology & Biogeography in "Opisthobranch" Research
- ☐ Integrative Research on Molluscan Phylogenetics: A Tribute to Late Professor Salvini-Plawen
- ☐ Limestone Biodiversity & Conservation Issue
- ☐ Molluscan Aquaculture in A Change Climate
- ☐ Molluscan Biodiversity & Biogeography in the Indo-West Pacific
- ☐ Mollusks in Climate Change Research: New uses of an old group
- ☐ Morphology Based Systematics in Action
- ☐ Planktic Gastropods
- ☐ Predators of Molluscs
- ☐ Tropical Marine Mollusc Programme (TMMP): Past & Present
- ☐ Tsunami & Marine Life in Asia
- ☐ Open Sessions

f) *Symposium that has contributed most to your personal and professional growth:*

- ☐ Ecology of Marine Molluscs
- ☐ Freshwater Bivalves of the World: Diversity, Distribution, Evolution & Ecology
- ☐ "How to Quantify Shell Form?"
- ☐ Integrating Molecules, Morphology, Biology & Biogeography in "Opisthobranch" Research
- ☐ Integrative Research on Molluscan Phylogenetics: A Tribute to Late Professor Salvini-Plawen
- ☐ Limestone Biodiversity & Conservation Issue
- ☐ Molluscan Aquaculture in A Change Climate
- ☐ Molluscan Biodiversity & Biogeography in the Indo-West Pacific
- ☐ Mollusks in Climate Change Research: New uses of an old group
- ☐ Morphology Based Systematics in Action
- ☐ Planktic Gastropods
- ☐ Predators of Molluscs
- ☐ Tropical Marine Mollusc Programme (TMMP): Past & Present
- ☐ Tsunami & Marine Life in Asia
- ☐ Open Sessions



7. Level of general satisfaction

a) *How did the event meet your expectations?*

☐ Surpassed ☐ Mostly ☐ Some ☐ None

b) *How was the overall organization?*

☐ Surpassed ☐ Mostly ☐ Some ☐ None

c) *General evaluation*

☐ Surpassed ☐ Mostly ☐ Some ☐ None

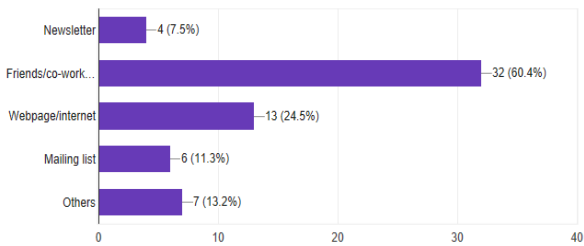
8. Others

Suggestions/comments

Thank you for your feedback.

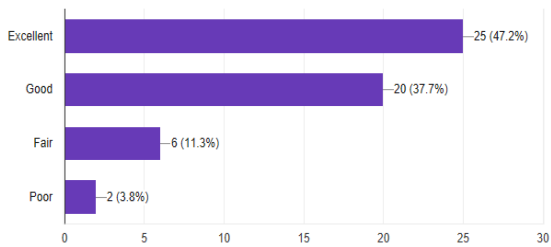
1. Information dissemination (How did you know about this congress?)

53 responses



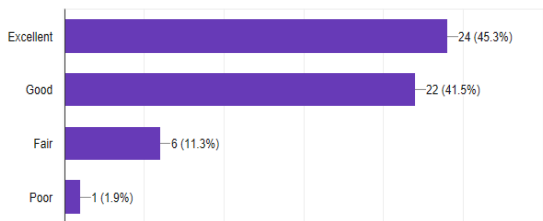
2. Pre-Congress Correspondence (a) How was the email feedback content?

53 responses



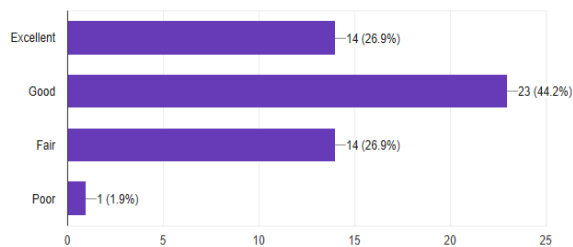
2. Pre-Congress Correspondence (b) How was the time lapse to obtain feedback?

53 responses



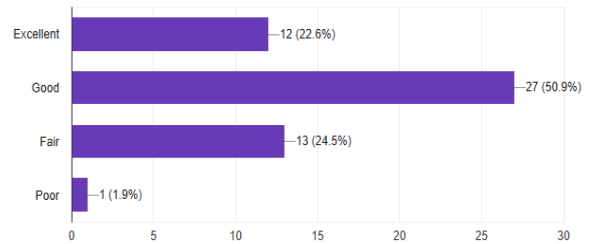
2. Pre-Congress Correspondence (c) What do you think about the webpage contents?

52 responses



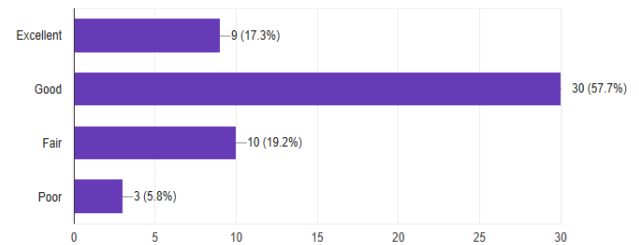
2. Pre-Congress Correspondence (d) How was the webpage navigation and use?

53 responses



3. Payment system (a)How would you review the online payment system portal?

52 responses



3. Payment system (b)How can we improve on the online payment system portal?

16 responses

Possibility to pay by bank transfer not only by credit card

It should be possible to pay by bank account and not only by VISA card

The portal became unavailable after 11pm (I think) Penang time. This was inconvenient because I live (2 time zones away). Also, requiring a passport number was a bit inconvenient because I tried to send the payment at work and I don't usually carry my passport. I should have planned ahead though, I was making payment on the deadline

option for paypal as well

For me, it was very good!

had no major problems in this aspect

Maybe just the registration page. I have a problem registering with my account. And you told us that the end of registration (early bird) at March 15th. But suddenly it change at 31st March and you told us at 30th March. If you told us earlier, maybe we can prepare for early bird registration. But overall that's payment system is okay.

More alternative payment method for non-credit card holders

please use internet banking options

Should be: get account, login, payment, be smooth

More direct, more information, greater transparency

use credit card/debit card

the payment system was good but I think it would be better to include the abstract submission to this portal so that attendees wouldn't have to visit multiple (or different) systems to pay, register & submit abstracts

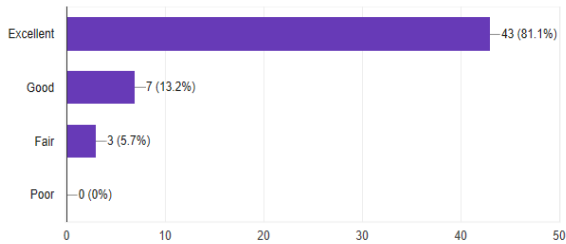
24 hour access to the system because of the different times across the world

24 hours availability

Making more straightforward and visible all the stages involved in the process

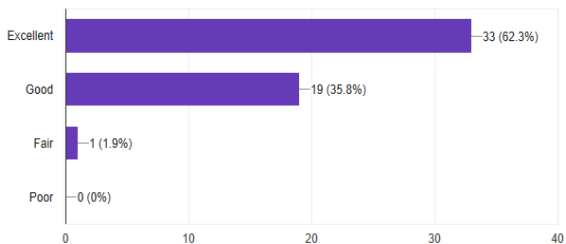
4. Reception and assistance during the event (a)How was the delegate reception?

53 responses



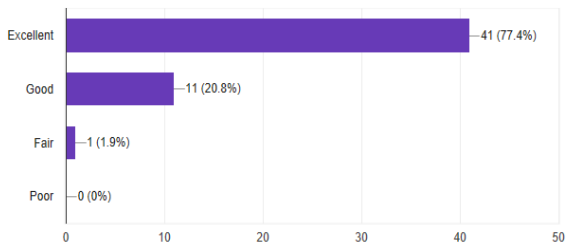
5. Overall Services (b) How were the venue facilities?

53 responses



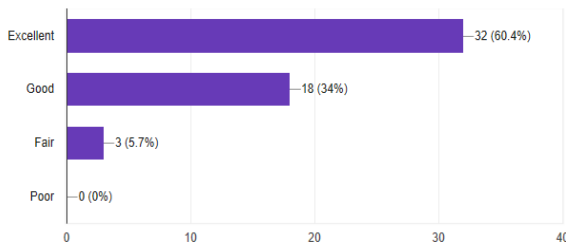
4. Reception and assistance during the event (b)How was the assistance by staff?

53 responses



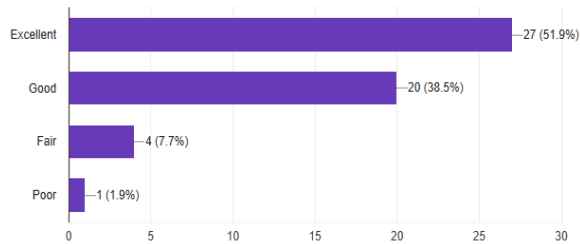
5. Overall Services (c) How was the audio-visual system at the venue?

53 responses



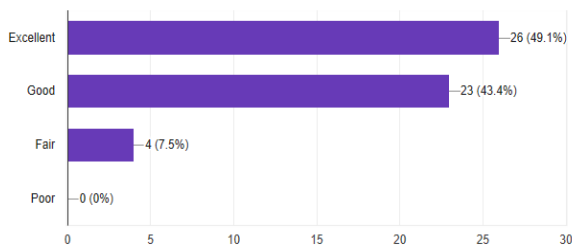
4. Reception and assistance during the event (c)The information provided was:

52 responses



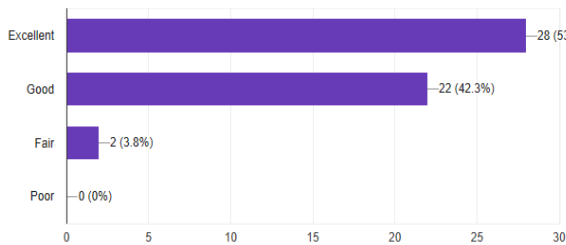
5. Overall Services (d) How was the food and beverage selection at the venue?

53 responses



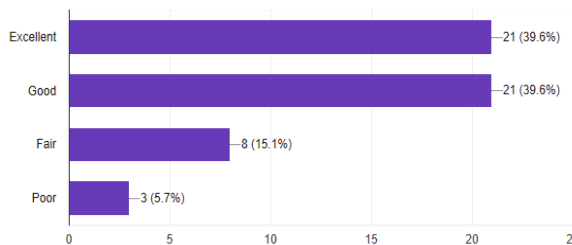
5. Overall Services (a) How were the delegate bag contents?

52 responses



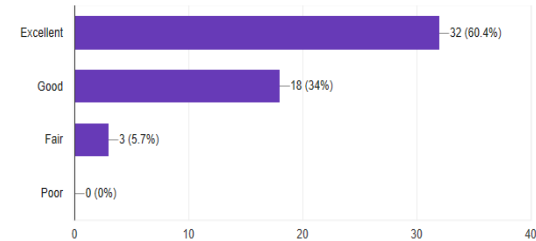
6. Presentations, contents and program (a) How was the time schedule?

53 responses



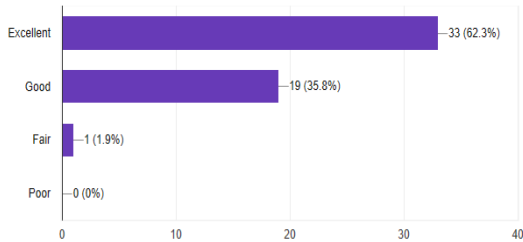
6. Presentations, contents and program (b) How was the scientific content/quality?

53 responses



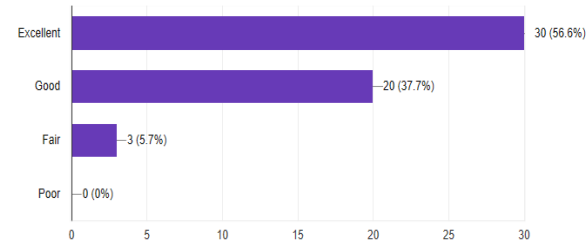
6. Presentations, contents and program (c) How was the scientific content of oral presentations?

53 responses



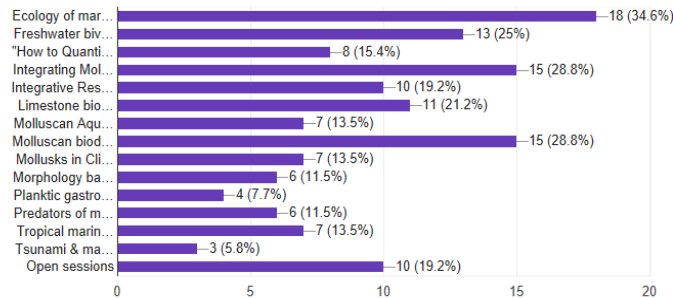
6. Presentations, contents and program (d) How was the scientific content of poster presentations?

53 responses



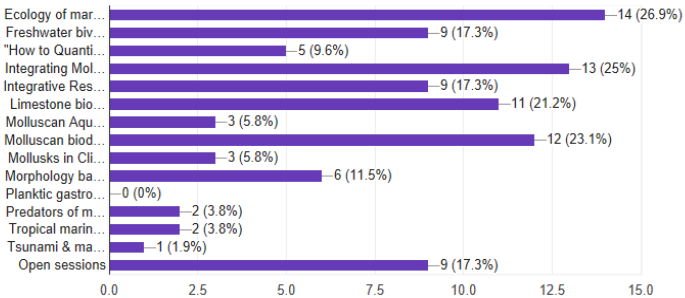
6. Presentations, contents and program (e) Most appreciated symposium:

52 responses



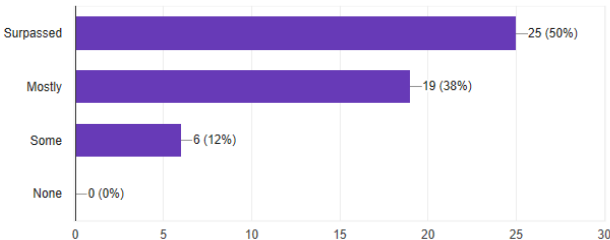
6. Presentations, contents and program (f) symposium that has contributed most to your personal and professional growth:

52 responses



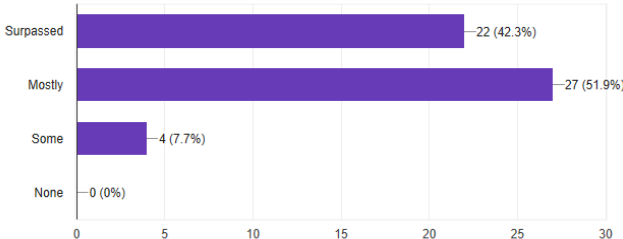
7. Level of general satisfaction (a) How did the event meet your expectations?

50 responses



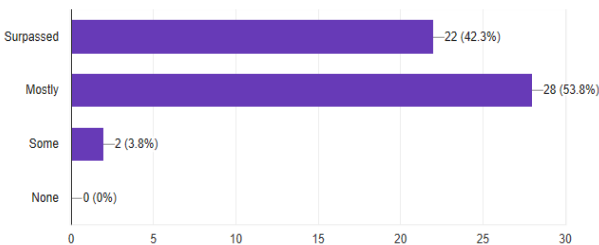
7. Level of general satisfaction (b) How was the overall organization?

52 responses



7. Level of general satisfaction (c) General evaluation

52 responses



8. Others : Suggestions/comments

30 responses

This is a world congress, possibility to speak 3 or 4 languages and use the system of translate

Quicker correspondence from the organising committee would have been good

I think that you should revise your participation conditions such as accompanying persons and family member, it is not adequate that accompanying person payed all participation. I think that you could change this

Fees for accompanying person isn't justified full fees. Never seen during worldwide meeting.

It has been the most enjoyable meeting I have attended. The secretariat has been gracious and accommodating. It was nice to see the symposium schedule before the congress. I wish there was an email announcement about its availability though

Better scheduling of program severely needed. Bad session overlap that could have easily been avoided. Symposia topics were half as good as they should have been. Many colleagues felt not represented.

1. In the certificate of participation please put the title of the oral of communication or poster with the other?

2. About the picture taken a long the congress we hope to have our pictures as email

Re-evaluate the scientific content of oral presentations from local universities (need to add more data). Excellent staffs (thank you for all the assistance during the congress). Thank you!

Some of the session talks could have been plenary. There could have been at least 2 plenary talks on general topics, which would have benefited more participants, soft copies of proceedings might have been given in pendrive

Website had problems accepting people's adresses in various international formats.

The air conditioner was bad. It is always cold, I even got sick :(But everything else was perfect!

Some of the presentations did not stick to the time schedule, ie: started 20 min before scheduled, so resulting in missing interesting talks. Overlapping talks was also a shame. The opening dinner should have been on Monday. Otherwise, thumbs up! For my first international congress, I had a great experience.

Why is dinner starting only at 8.30 pm? People have early departures the next morning

Bravo!

Abstracts and titles were not available online for easy viewing. It would be good to have the schedules available online for planning flights. The registration time was not announced early enough. I noted a lot of printed papers including new schedules and other miscellaneous notes. is it possible to reduce use of paper in future conference? could create an app to help participants navigate the conference as it can be altered real time. overall, the symposia were well-run. enjoyable conference

It was too cold in most rooms of the hotel especially in the conference rooms. The actual presentation time was not clear to me until I saw the schedule. The website should have stated whether discussions are in or excluded in/from the 15 min

Better organisation on the schedule.

This is the first time for me to attend WCM but it is very perfect. Well organized and joyful, but serious. Congratulation for all organizers!

This is the most interesting and the best conference for me. I hope I can join in 2019. Thanks for every opportunity for us to meet other malacologist from all over the world. I'm so honored to get this opportunity.

1. Separate abstract book and programme conference
2. There is no section on freshwater gastropods
3. Very cool in rooms from air conditioning
4. No alcoholic beverages at welcoming dinner and poster session

1. Separate program of the conference (book of abstract is very huge).
2. Very cold in the room 4. Organisation, foods, facilities were very good. Thank you!

I found the talks on Opisthobranchs fascinating, especially Kathe Jensen's talk

1. please organise the symposia according to topical interest especially for terrestrial mollusca (which was separated into multiple symposia occurring simultaneously, causing some of the delegates including me to miss either one of the terrestrial mollusca talks, thereby lessening the overall experience and satisfaction.

2. please send alert emails to everyone at least 2 weeks before the conference to inform about the symposia & talks scehdule so that people can plan ahead to attend which talk

3. Please provide a pdf/electronic copy of the conference schedule & abstract book to the participant at the start of the conference, besides the physical copy, lugging around a 1 kg conference book is unnecessary.

4. please explore the following trending & useful new conference styles - speed talks (3min thesis style) - for poster and/or undergrad presentations, mentor (established researchers) team up with mentees (students) to build capacity building

Welcome party & farewell party should be standing buffet party. The purpose of that party is exchanging information with many people. So welcome party was disappointed.

Two presentations that treat same theme ' opisthobranch' hold on the same time. So i could not read only one presentation, on the 23rd afternoon.

Presentation schedule was wrong. one was very quickly, another was not end over the 20 minutes.

Rooms were too cold- AC on high at start
Breaks were well placed & food diversity was great
some of the presentation rooms were off time. I suggest that if you end early, to wait for the next person to present at the stated time so people who are coming from another session can still attend. Otherwise, timing going over was not a problem

Thanks to all of you! wonderful organization, all people have been really helpful.

The registration, abstract submission and hotel accommodation was misleading and confusing. Those were my only issues. Everything else was absolutely fantastic! :) Thank you so much!

I have been in ca. 25 congresses from Biology to Entomology and this has been by far, the best organised congress I have attended to.

Everything was nearly perfect, I would suggest if it's possible to upload the final program a little bit earlier next time, otherwise it gets difficult to book appropriate flights.

Only water was available during the reception dinner. Availability of other drinks, either refreshments, so even beer/wine (direct payment) should have been envisaged and appreciated by (many) participants

Annex II – Silent Auction Items



Items ranged from items with local cultural references, toys, books, handmade goods, food and jewellery. Items can only be bid with this form



**UM Endowment Fund
Silent Auction Bid**

Name: _____

Interested in Item No: _____

Bidding price for item: RM _____

世界軟體動物學協會 18日起辦研討會

（檳城4日讯）世界軟體動物學協會（Unitas Malacobiolgia）将从本月18日至24日，在乔治市今旅酒店，举办第18届世界軟體動物學研討會。

该协会主席，也是理大海产生物学教授的陈思德，她也是该会自1962年成立以来，首个女性主席。

研究替代蛋白質來源

她说，有关研讨会旨在探讨如何确保軟體動物，可以作为人类蛋白质的替代来源。

“全球暖化、气候改变，我们要怎么确保軟體

動物可以继续生长？”

陈思德今日召开记者会，如此指出。

陈思德说，軟體動物一直以来未获得太关注，但其实，軟體動物在人们食用的海产类中，占了60%。

“人们知道鱼、虾，但对軟體動物，如贝壳类却没兴趣；渔夫也宁愿选择捕捉、饲养鱼虾类。”

她也希望，更多年轻科学家对軟體動物展开研究；她也呼吁，科学家或有兴趣者，积极参与上述研讨会。

“这是研讨会第二次在亚洲国家举办，之前都在欧美地区举办，亚洲



■阿末索菲曼（坐者）与耶瑟（站者左起）、朱莉亚、齐藤宽及陈思德召开记者会，披露世界軟體動物學研討會详情。

一代的科学家，要捉紧机会。”

她说，有兴趣者，可游览网址<http://wcm2016.usm.my>，并在网上登记出席。

出席记者会者，包括理大生活及科学研究系统主任阿末索菲曼、该协会秘书耶瑟、会员朱莉亚及齐藤宽等人。

First Press conference in Local Chinese Newspaper (June 2015)

(<http://news.usm.my>)

English News

04
JUN

WCM2016: MALACOLOGISTS OF THE WORLD TO CONVENE IN MALAYSIA



PENANG, 4 June 2015 - World renowned scientists in the field of malacology (the study of snails and shellfish) will gather in Malaysia to discuss issues on conservation of molluscs (shell-covered organisms) that are increasingly threatened with extinction.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) lecturer, Associate Professor Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai stated that it is necessary for all parties to be involved in the conservation and preservation of these endangered species.

She said that there was a marked decrease in the number of shellfish in waters around the world, including in this country as a result of various factors including climate change which has led to a decline in their breeding.



Although shellfish is generally not as popular as other forms of sea-life including fish and prawns, it nevertheless contributes 60 percent to the country's fishery resources, she added.

"This is worth noting, since it is critically important to raise awareness of the need to preserve this alternative source of protein in view of the current threats to biodiversity.

"We hope that with a network of international co-operation, scientists in this country can seek out the best measures to ensure that breeding grounds for these shelled organisms are conserved as a source of income generation for the country's economy," she said.

Aileen, who has created history by becoming the first woman scientist elected as the President of the world renowned UNITAS Malacology (UM) since its inception in 1962, revealed the above facts in a press conference called to publicise Malaysia's hosting of the 19th World Congress of Malacology 2016 (WCM2016) in Penang next year, from 18-24 July 2016.

Formerly based in Europe, UM has attracted global attention through its study of molluscs and also for its worldwide championing of issues related to preservation, conservation and biodiversity of such species.

The congress which hopes to attract some 400 participants from more than 40 countries will present an opportunity for local scientists to establish networking linkages with other researchers from around the world specialising in malacology, and to collaborate in high-impact research.

It will also serve as a platform to showcase the potential of young researchers from all over the world for the development and advancement of research in molluscs.



"UM would like to urge young scientists in the field of malacology to seize the opportunity to take part in the congress and join in the discussion," she said, adding that interested scientists from around the world, especially from the Asian region can obtain further information from the WCM2016 website <http://wcm2016.usm.my> (<http://wcm2016.usm.my>).

The congress website was officially launched today by the Dean of the School of Biological Sciences, USM, Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Sofiman Othman. Also present today were members of the UM Council Members (2013-2016) namely Jesus Souza Troncoso (Spain), Julia Sigwart (Ireland) and Hiroshi Saito (Japan). - Translation: Dr Nurul Farhana Low Abdullah/Text: Marziana Mohamed Alias/Photos: Mohd. Fairus Md. Isa

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Laman Web Rasmi / Official Website : [Universiti Sains Malaysia \(http://www.usm.my\)](http://www.usm.my)

[Client Feedback / Comments \(http://web.usm.my/smbp/maklumbalas.asp\)](http://web.usm.my/smbp/maklumbalas.asp) | [USM News Portal](http://www.usm.my). Hakcipta Terpelihara USM 2015

Annex V- Main communication blasting channels



Official WCM 2016 website: www.wcm2016.usm.my



Official WCM 2016 Facebook page

Annex VI – Press conference during WCM 2016



UM Council members with Deputy Minister of Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Malaysia and representatives from Universiti Sains Malaysia

(<http://news.usm.my>)

Berita Mutakhir

19 JUL WCM 2016: MOSTI MINAT TAWAR GERAN, DUNIA IKTIRAF SAINTIS NEGARA

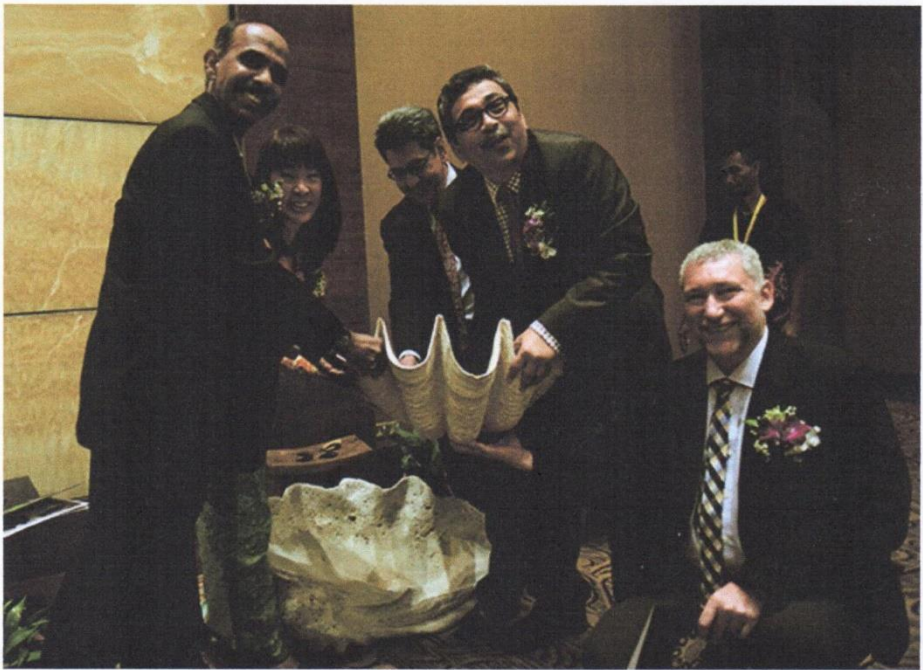


PULAU PINANG, 19 Julai 2016 – Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) Malaysia menzahirkan minat untuk membantu Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) mengembangkan pemindahan teknologi penyelidikannya yang memberi impak besar kepada komuniti tempatan.

Timbalan Menteri MOSTI, Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, MOSTI mempunyai geran khusus yang dikenali sebagai MOSTI Social Innovation (MSI) yang boleh dipohon oleh penyelidik untuk pengkomersialan produk penyelidikan mereka yang memberi kesan langsung kepada komuniti.

MSI memperuntukkan jumlah maksimum sehingga RM500,000 kepada setiap penyelidik di negara ini yang berpotensi menjayakan program pemindahan ilmu atau pelaksanaan idea sama ada yang berbentuk produk, perkhidmatan atau model bagi memenuhi keperluan sosial.

Katanya, dalam konteks ini pihaknya tertarik dengan usaha penyelidik USM yang menjayakan pemindahan teknologi penternakan tiram hasil dari penyelidikan makmal kepada penduduk di Merbuk, Kedah yang berjaya meningkatkan tahap sosio-ekonomi nelayan di kawasan itu.



Projek yang telah empat tahun dibangunkan itu memperlihatkan usaha penyelidikan USM yang pakar dalam kajian haiwan lembut bercengkerang khususnya tiram, Profesor Madya Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai berjaya memberi pulangan kepada penternak tiram sehingga berupaya memperoleh pendapatan mencecah RM5,000 ke RM10,000 sebulan.

"Kita menggalakkan usaha seumpama ini yang dapat meningkatkan sumber pendapatan komuniti. MOSTI komited untuk membantu kerana geran MSI diwujudkan secara eksklusif dan fokusnya adalah untuk penyelidik melakukan pemindahan teknologi kepada masyarakat.

"Penternakan tiram ini sangat unik kerana ia bukan sekadar memberi pulangan lumayan kepada penternak, malah mudah untuk diusahakan tanpa memerlukan modal yang besar kerana yang diperlukan hanya persekitaran yang sesuai dan kaedah yang betul untuk menjaganya," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang media selepas merasmikan World Congress of Malacology (WCM) 2016 yang menghimpunkan para saintis bidang malacology (kajian kerang-kerangan dan siput) yang berdiskusi membincangkan isu pemeliharaan organisma bercengkerang yang semakin diancam kepupusan, di sini hari ini.



Bukan sekadar mencipta sejarah menjadi negara Asia kedua sebagai tuan rumah pada edisi ke-19 penganjurannya, kepakaran Aileen turut diiktiraf dunia dan beliau diangkat menjadi Presiden wanita pertama UNITAS Malacology (UM), sebuah pertubuhan terkemuka dunia yang berpusat di Eropah dan ditubuhkan sejak 1962.

UM telah meraih perhatian global khususnya dalam kajian-kajian haiwan lembut bercengkerang di samping meningkatkan kesedaran umum berkenaan isu-isu pemeliharaan, pemuliharaan dan biodiversiti spesis itu di seluruh dunia.

Penganjuran kongres yang disertai lebih 300 peserta dari lebih 40 negara itu membolehkan saintis tempatan meraih peluang menjalin rangkaian penyelidikan berimpak tinggi bersama-sama barisan penyelidik dunia dalam bidang malacology.

Teks: Marziana Mohamed Alias / Foto: Mohd Fairus Md. Isa



Thank You