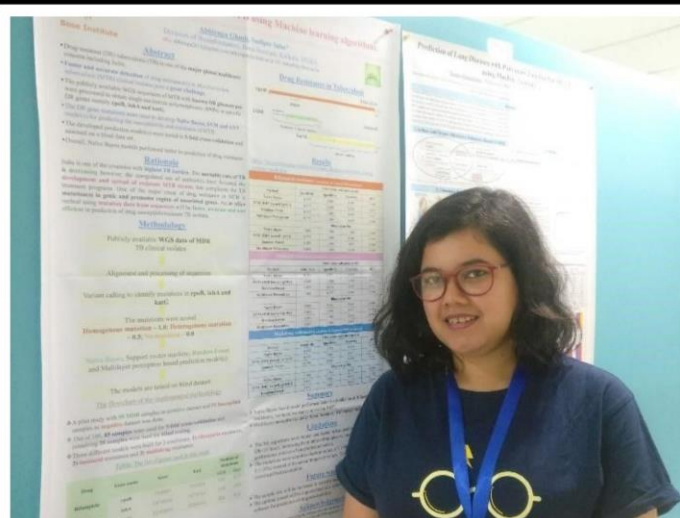


## INCOB 2019: From My Eyes (Travel Fellowship Report)

by: Abhirupa Ghosh, Bose Institute, India



I would take the opportunity to thank APBioNet for providing me the Travel Fellowship to attend InCoB2019 held at Universitas Yarsi, Jakarta, Indonesia which helped cover part of my expenses. InCoB2019 gave me the chance to meet and interact with computational scientists and students from various institutes of Asia-Pacific region.

This year InCoB's theme was "Bioinformatics for Precision Medicine", which included excellent keynote and plenary lectures by eminent scientists from around the world. The talks were quite engaging and interesting. The oral presentations were divided into parallel sessions on the basis of themes. I was happy to find that a large number of oral presentations were on "machine learning approaches and their applications in biology" as they helped me in designing my further research work. However, as compared to oral presentation sessions, the poster presentation had lesser crowd. I was one of the participants and presented a poster entitled "Prediction of drug resistance in MTB using Machine learning algorithms", which represented a prediction method for drug-resistant tuberculosis from sequences using a machine learning model. I also got valuable feedback and suggestions to improve the work. InCoB2019 had interesting workshops, software demo and breakout session as well. The breakout session by Galaxy Community was a notable event. I am a galaxy user and was happy to learn that a regional Galaxy platform is coming up for India very soon. I attended the workshop on "Google Cloud Engine" instructed by Dr. Shandar Ahmad. The workshop was very interesting as cloud computing is a new technology for computation and storage of big data.

InCoB2019 was very happening since APBioNet turned 20 this year. Other than the scientific sessions, there were many interesting events and interactive sessions also. I attended the APBioNet AGM where the president of APBioNet, Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan and other members discussed about the goals and upcoming events. It was heartwarming to see the students of the Yarsi University performing a beautiful Kalimantan folk dance and an Impromptu musical performance by Dr. Shandar Ahmed and Dr. Harpreet Singh. The host university, the locals of Jakarta and their food were wonderful.

At the end of the conference I was very delighted to get three awards; the Travel Fellowship, Bronze award for poster presentation and "Most liked Social Media Post" award. Thanks and congratulations to APBioNet and Universitas Yarsi for organizing this successful and fruitful conference for Asia-Pacific region. I am definitely looking forward to attending InCoB2020 and win more awards



# APBIONET MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL PROMOTION



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For more information, you can contact our secretariat at : [sec@apbionet.org](mailto:sec@apbionet.org)

visit [www.apbionet.org/membership](http://www.apbionet.org/membership) to learn more

# INCOB 2019: From My Eyes (Travel Fellowship Report)

by: Li Chuin Chong, Perdana University, Malaysia

I am truly grateful for the travel fellowship received from the APBioNet Malaysian Trust Fund to recently participate in the 18th International Conference of Bioinformatics (InCoB 2019) in Jakarta, Indonesia. This was an historic occasion where it was the first time located in Indonesia after 17 years and for the first time InCoB2019 was co-located with the Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training (GOBLET) Annual General Meeting, SEAPharm meeting, and the Genomic Medicine Conference (GMC 2019).

This 3-day conference hosted a wide range of research sharing sessions and workshops to create an ambience of scientific discussion between researchers, medical practitioners and industry partners. With the theme of “Bioinformatics for Precision Medicine”, this event was particularly of interest to my own research in relation to precision medicine and vaccinology. The talk from Professor Adrian Hill was inspiring. He explained the importance of human leukocyte antigen (HLA), immunoglobulin gene and other immunogenetic loci to determine the vaccine potency, efficacy and durability. The variation in human gene affects greatly the impact of vaccination. The findings presented in his talk provided insights into the selective pressures that infectious pathogens have exerted on our genetic make-up. Besides that, the talk by Dr. Denis Bauer on machine learning and big data had enlightened me. She shared on how the cloud-based and artificial intelligent development had transformed bioinformatics research, specifically using amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) as use case. She explained how we find disease genes from ALS using VariantSpark, which is a custom machine learning implementation, capable of dealing with Whole Genome Sequencing data of 80 million common and rare variants.



Memories from InCoB2019, with the opportunity to meet colleagues from different regions of the world with the similar research interests.



Other than the interesting keynote talks, this conference gave me an invaluable experience to present my research work on “Identification of Highly Conserved, Serotype-specific Dengue Virus Sequences: Implications for Vaccine Design” in front of bioinformatics experts, including researchers, educationists, professors and field representatives. My work focused on a large-scale systematic study to map and characterise highly conserved, serotype-specific (HCSS) sequences in the DENV proteome, as candidates for vaccine target selection. During the presentation, I received useful comments and suggestions that led to a stimulating discussion with the experts in the field. This opportunity enabled a knowledge exchange and generation of new ideas for my project.

Besides InCoB, I also got a chance to join the GMC conference. A lot of discussions were centred on the integration of genomic medicine into clinical care in order to empower clinicians with the genomic information into medical practice. In addition, I also attended the workshop given by Dr. Eija Korpelainen on detecting differentially expressed genes with RNA-seq. She introduced the Chipster's client software, which uses Java Web Start to install itself automatically and connects to computing servers for RNA-seq analysis. The user-friendliness of this application had impressed me, and I will definitely explore more in the future. Apart from the talks and workshop sessions, I had the opportunity to interact with some fellow researchers from Taiwan, China, Indonesia and Australia. We shared some of our research experiences, which could potentially help advance my future career.

Lastly, I am very grateful to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan for supporting my attendance at this conference, and I thank the Malaysian Trust Fund for awarding me a travel fellowship to cover most of my travel expenses.



# INCOB2020 IS COMING TO: KUNMING, CHINA (OCT 5-7, 2020)



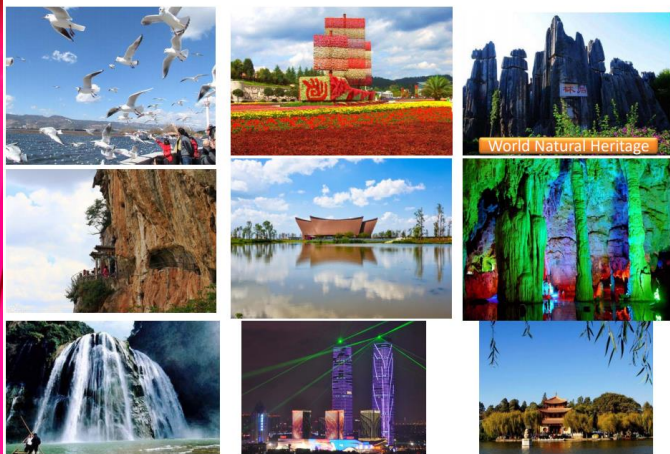
Conference venue: International  
Academic Conference Center @ KMUST



- 1 main conference hall: maximal 290 persons;
- 2 conference room: maximal 60 persons;
- Beside a 4-star hotel



## Attractions in Kunming



## Attractions near Kunming



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# Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning, Education & Training Annual General Meeting (GOBLET AGM) 2019

by: Yam Wai Keat, Perdana University, Malaysia

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Global Organisation for Bioinformatics Learning Education and Training (GOBLET) was held from 9th to 11th of September in Jakarta, Indonesia. This AGM was the seventh edition following GOBLET's establishment in 2012. The meeting was co-located with the International Conference on Bioinformatics 2019 (InCoB 2019). A total of 22 GOBLET members and observers representing various organisations and institutions were present at the meeting. Three representatives from APBioNet namely Dr. Mohammad Asif Khan, Dr. Shoba Ranganathan, Dr. Bruno Gaeta, Dr. Christian Schoenbach, and myself attended this meeting. The AGM started with the roll call of members by Dr. Celia van Gelder, followed by discussion of matters arising from 2018 AGM, financial report and reports from various committees. Matters regarding Technical, Fundraising, Learning Education and Training (LET), Public Relations (PR) committee were discussed. Day 1 ended with voting of AGM 2020's host and the majority voted for Finland.



Day 2 of the event included reports from Bioinformatics Education Summit meeting, GOBLET membership management and growth, action plan for GOBLET's future, planning of GOBLET AGM 2020 and election voting for the Executive Board of GOBLET. Dr Mohammad Asif Khan presented various strategies in getting involvement from Asia Pacific bioinformatics community. On day 3, two training workshops (Detecting differentially expressed genes with RNA-seq by Dr. Eija Korpelainen; and Train the Trainers by Dr. Annette McGrath) were conducted and were attended by both GOBLET and InCoB participants.

As a Gold member, APBioNet has the potential to shape the future of GOBLET and to leverage its collective expertise in bioinformatics training to further APBioNet's mission, in particular in Asia Pacific. GOBLET's coming to Asia for the first time in 2019 is a major step forward in this direction. In this meeting, a number of APBioNet members were observers and some had expressed interest to be involved in GOBLET as well. This would provide a great environment for bioinformatics trainers and educators to network, share expertise and support each other's efforts.



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