



APBIONET NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18 | DEC 2024

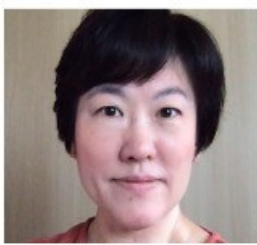
Advancing Bioinformatics and Allied Disciplines in the Asia-Pacific Region

ELECTION 2024: CONGRATULATIONS TO ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected candidates (2024 – 2026)



Mohammad Asif Khan,
Qatar



Kiyoko F. Kinoshita,
Japan



Latha Narayanan,
India



Harpreet Singh,
India



Esra Büşra Işık,
Turkey



Yun Zheng,
China



Ragothaman
Yennamalli, India



Sarinder Kaur,
Malaysia



Shuhaila Mat
Sharani, Malaysia



Xavier Wezen Chee,
Singapore

We are excited to announce the results of the recent Executive Committee Election for the 2024–2026 term! The election results were presented by Prof. Shoba Ranganathan at the Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference 2024 (APBJC 2024) in Okinawa, Japan.

This election cycle attracted a robust pool of 14 nominations from across the region, with members participating in a one-month virtual voting period to select their representatives. The election outcome was communicated directly to the candidates upon the completion of the event.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the candidates for their dedication and participation. Congratulations to the elected members, and we wish them a productive and impactful term from 2024 to 2026!



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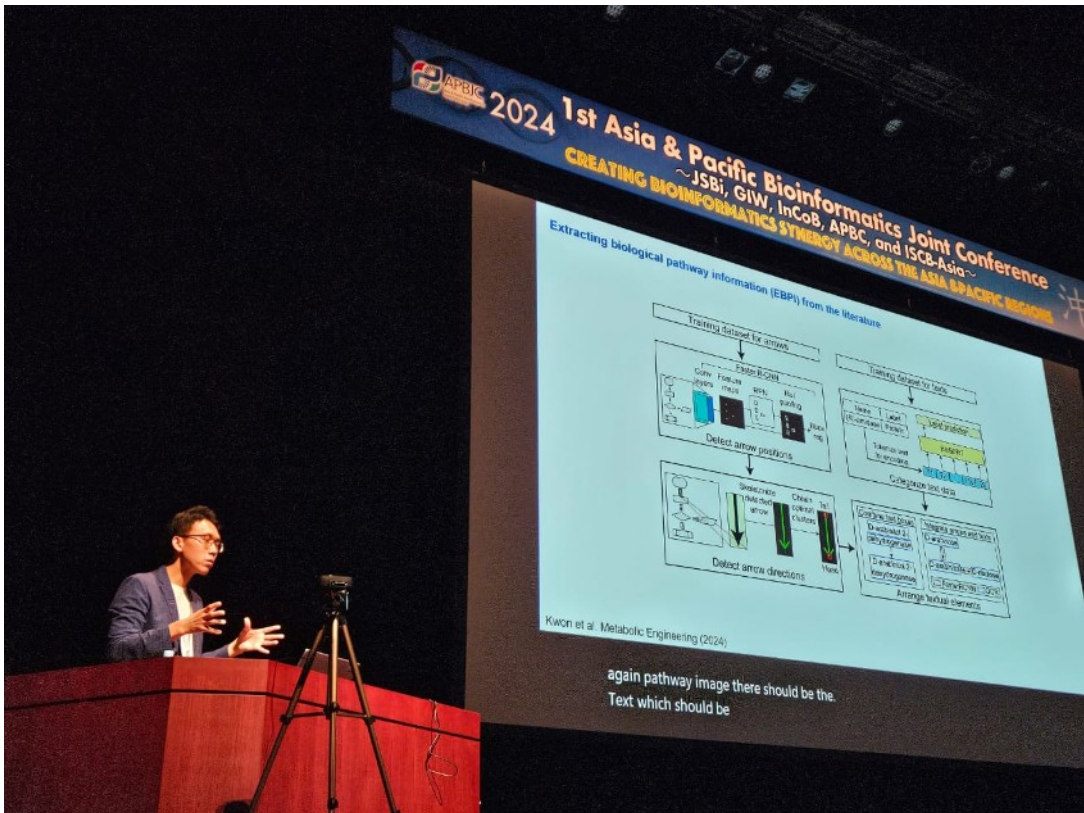
Chairman Report: 1st Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference (APBJC 2024), Okinawa, Japan


Highlights from APBJC 2024: A Successful Gathering of Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Experts


We are thrilled to share the highlights from the Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference 2024 (APBJC 2024), held in beautiful Okinawa, Japan! This year's conference brought together leading bioinformatics researchers, professionals, and students from across the Asia-Pacific region to exchange insights, foster collaborations, and explore cutting-edge advancements in bioinformatics and computational biology.

Inspiring Keynotes and Innovative Research Presentations

The conference featured a lineup of inspiring keynote speakers who shared their expertise on critical topics, including AI-driven genomics, precision medicine, and data integration challenges in bioinformatics. Participants were also treated to a series of thought-provoking research presentations, workshops, and poster sessions, showcasing innovative solutions and emerging trends in bioinformatics.



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1st Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference (APBJC 2024), Okinawa, Japan

Celebrating Diversity in Research and Collaboration

APBJC 2024 welcomed participants from diverse backgrounds, creating an inclusive space for researchers from academia, industry, and government institutions to connect and collaborate. The conference emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing global health challenges and driving the next generation of bioinformatics research.

Looking Ahead to a Promising Future

The conference closed with a forward-looking panel discussion on the future of bioinformatics in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting the need for continued investment in research, education, and data-sharing initiatives. As the bioinformatics community continues to grow, APBJC remains a key event for networking, learning, and sparking impactful collaborations. We thank all speakers, presenters, and participants for making APBJC 2024 a success, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at APBJC 2025! For more details about this year's conference and to stay updated on future events, please visit our website at APBJC Asia.



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International Society for Computational Biology and APBioNET Partner to Advance Computational Biology in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNET) is thrilled to announce a transformative partnership with the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB), formalized during the inaugural Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference (APBJC2024). This collaboration represents a major step forward in uniting the strengths of APBioNET and ISCB to accelerate progress in computational biology and bioinformatics research, education, and infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific region. Through this partnership, APBioNET and ISCB are dedicated to creating new opportunities for scientific growth and professional development, fostering an inclusive environment for bioinformatics practitioners throughout the region. This alliance highlights a shared commitment to supporting the Asia-Pacific bioinformatics community and building a sustainable future for computational biology worldwide.



Mohammad Asif Khan, President of APBioNET and Diane Kovats, ISCB Chief Executive Officer during the signing of MoU



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Driving Joint Initiatives to Advance Bioinformatics Education and Research

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both organizations, ISCB and APBioNet will collaborate on multiple fronts to support the field's growth, including:

- **Organizing Conferences and Workshops:** Joint events will provide a platform for knowledge exchange and professional development for computational biologists across the region.
- **Student and Researcher Exchange Programs:** Opportunities for early-career researchers and students to engage in cross-regional exchange programs aim to foster the next generation of bioinformaticians and computational biologists.
- **Shared Resources and Infrastructure:** By pooling expertise and resources, ISCB and APBioNET aim to build stronger research networks and infrastructure that support innovation and collaboration.
- **Promotional and Outreach Efforts:** Both organizations will promote each other's activities, publications, and initiatives to extend their reach within the global computational biology community.

The MoU also explores opportunities for joint membership outreach and combined membership options, further strengthening ties and offering broader benefits to bioinformatics professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.

Empowering the Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Community

With this partnership, ISCB and APBioNET aim to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the Asia-Pacific bioinformatics community. By working together to facilitate training, research, and collaboration, both organizations are committed to nurturing a community that embodies diversity, inclusion, and academic excellence.



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APBioNET Awards Honor Excellence and Vision in Bioinformatics at APBJC2024

At the Asia & Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference 2024 (APBJC2024) in Okinawa, Japan, the Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNET) proudly celebrated two outstanding leaders in bioinformatics with its prestigious APBioNET Awards. These awards recognize remarkable achievements and visionary contributions that have propelled the field of bioinformatics forward in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Prof. Kenta Nakai Receives the APBioNET Research Innovation Award (RIA)

Prof. Kenta Nakai, from the University of Tokyo, was honored with the APBioNET Research Innovation Award (RIA) for the Senior Category. Prof. Nakai has an impressive body of work, evidenced by his high citation metrics. His Google Scholar profile highlights over 28,000 citations, an h-index of 62, and an i10-index of 200, demonstrating the impact and influence of his research, particularly in the area of protein localization prediction—an area where he has pioneered tools like PSORT and WoLF PSORT. His contributions have been fundamental to understanding cellular protein sorting, a cornerstone in computational biology research.



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Prof. Tan Tin Wee Honored with the APBioNET Outstanding Visionary Leadership Award (OVLA)

At the APBJC2024, APBioNET honored Prof. Tan Tin Wee with the Outstanding Visionary Leadership Award (OVLA). Prof. Tan, a pioneering bioinformatician, played a pivotal role in developing Singapore's internet infrastructure. He led the creation of TechNet, Singapore's first nationwide research network, and founded the first functional multilingual domain name system, which later contributed to international internet standards. His groundbreaking work has earned him global recognition, including induction into the Internet Hall of Fame. Prof. Tan's vision and contributions continue to shape the bioinformatics and internet landscape across Asia. The award was given out by Prof. Shoba Ranganathan, former APBioNET President from 2008 – 2014 and APBioNET Ltd Chairperson.

Upon conclusion of the ceremony, Prof Tan conveyed his message of gratitude that goes:



“Thank you Shoba. Thank you Asif, thank you Lim Soon Kenta, Diane, Bruno, and all the organisers from Japan, volunteers and our students. Fellow colleagues, old friends, here and watching online, what a wonderful pleasure it is to be here. With more than a dozen international conferences and organisations joining hands to meet together, in this first Asia and Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference, it is a truly amazing journey. For decades we have evolved and now our paths have converged and merged in Okinawa. I have been fortunate to live in these dramatic times and to contribute to the growth of bioinformatics, to the building the internet and advanced networks and promoting high performance and supercomputing in our region. 30 years ago, we had a dream that one day we can access, share and exchange data and information and knowledge, and to compute them seamlessly. Today It has happened, and with the new AI revolution happening right before our eyes, another wave of progress will be upon us. All of us can play a part in this as I have in a small part in the past. Thank you for this recognition. What an honour and privilege it has been to be of service to all of you. To everyone, may you live long, live well, contribute your best and prosper in whatever you do. Thank you.



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"Bridging Ideas, Building Futures"

2024 STUDENT COUNCIL

Call for Participation

- **Advocate and Innovate:**
 - Serve as the leading voice for students in bioinformatics, driving initiatives that cater to their needs and aspirations
- **Network and Collaborate:**
 - Forge meaningful connections with peers, academicians, and industry leaders in the field of bioinformatics, opening doors to new learning and career opportunities
- **Expand Horizons:**
 - Engage with other bioinformatics societies and foster collaborative projects



More info: <https://www.apbionet.org/student-council>

APBioNETTalks

Discover and Share Bioinformatics



CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Benefits:

- Increasing awareness of state-of-the-art research
- Certificate

Open for students, academics, professionals, and anyone passionate about sharing bioinformatics-related research, expertise, and skills with the community.



Apply Now!

<https://bit.ly/APBioNetTalksSpeakerForm>

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