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## **The 5th Symposium of the Benthological Society of Asia: future perspectives and new official name of the Society**

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**Abstract.** A brief history of the Benthological Society of Asia, beginning in 1998 with the Aquatic Entomological Societies in East Asia, is presented. The work of the 5th BSA Symposium and the results of the two latest meetings of the Executive Board of the society are covered.

From January 1, 2023 the official name of the BSA became the Asian Society for Hydrobiology. Prof. Y. J. Bae was elected as the 6th President of the society until December 31, 2024. The expected date for the 6th Symposium of Asian Society for Hydrobiology is July 2–5, 2024. Changes in the structure and nominations, the publication of an international journal, the preparation of a new homepage and other measures to renew the society were proposed.

**Key words:** Benthological Society of Asia, Asian Society of Hydrobiology, BSA Symposium, benthology, aquatic entomology.

## **5-й симпозиум Бентологического общества Азии: перспективы на будущее и новое официальное название общества**

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**Аннотация.** Представлена краткая история Бентологического общества Азии, начавшаяся в 1998 г. с Водных энтомологических обществ Восточной Азии. Освещены ход работы 5-го симпозиума Бентологического общества Азии и результаты двух последних заседаний правления общества.

С 1 января 2023 г. официальное название Бентологического общества Азии изменилось на Азиатское гидробиологическое общество. Профессор Ё. Дж. Бэ избран шестым президентом общества на период до 31-го декабря 2024 г. Предполагаемые даты 6-го симпозиума Азиатского гидробиологического общества – 2–5 июля 2024 г. Предложены изменения в структуре и номинациях, публикация международного журнала, подготовка новой домашней страницы (сайта) и другие меры для обновления общества.

**Ключевые слова:** Бентологическое общество Азии, Азиатское гидробиологическое общество, BSA Symposium, бентология, водная энтомология.

The Benthological Society of Asia (BSA) was established in 1998, initially as the Aquatic Entomological Societies in East Asia (AESEA), bringing together scientists from Japan and Korea. In 1999 members of the Chinese Society of Aquatic Entomology joined AESEA. The 1st EASEA Symposium was held in 2000 in Korea, the 2nd Symposium in 2002 in Japan, and the 3rd in 2005 in China (<http://benthosasia.org/>).

In 2009 during the 4th AESEA Symposium in Thailand AESEA expanded and removed to the BSA covering a wider scope in benthological scientists in Asia. The first president of the BSA was Prof. Kazumi Tanida from Osaka Prefecture University and the first General Secretary was Prof. Yeon Jae Bae from Korea University. The main tasks of

the BSA are to lead development of benthological sciences academically and to contribute to conservation and sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems in Asian countries and to promote information exchange among members through regular and irregular meetings and communications.

In the period 2012–2018 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th BSA Symposia took place in Japan, Korea, Russia and China. The 3rd Symposium in Vladivostok, Russia, prepared by the 3rd President of the BSA Academician, Prof. Viktor Bogatov became the most attended meeting in all of the BSA history. August 24–27 2016, and August 27–31, 2016 in the frame of the First International Youth Freshwater Ecology School more than 300 scientists and students from 17 countries attended the Symposium and presented 281 oral and poster reports (3rd International Symposium... 2016).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the next BSA Symposium was postponed, and Pradya Somboon's presidency approved during the 4th BSA Symposium, was extended. The 5th BSA Symposium was held four years later. During 26–29 December 2022 the Symposium successfully took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Participants of the 5st BSA Symposium, 26 December 2022, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Рис. 1.** Участники Пятого симпозиума Бентологического общества Азии, 26 декабря 2022 г., Чиангмай, Таиланд.

The main focus of the symposium was on the topic «Sustaining freshwater biodiversity and water security in Asia». All reports were divided into six sessions: 1) freshwater biomonitoring and bioassessment; 2) benthos biodiversity and conservation; 3) impact on community structure, function, and ecology; 4) taxonomy, systematics, and evolution; 5) freshwater science: method, perspectives and challenges, and other general topics; 6) benthology for human health (<https://bsa2022.science.cmu.ac.th/>).

A total of 112 scientists from 9 countries registered as symposium participants: Thailand (52), South Korea (38), Philippines (7), Japan (6), Russia (2), Taiwan (2), Mongolia (2), Nepal (2), China (1). Scientists presented 2 plenary lectures, 6 keynote lectures, 36 oral and 32 poster reports. Symposium events were overviewed on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7J-xHgbVKs>).

The Executive Board Meeting held in the beginning of the Symposium on December 26 (fig. 2) became an important event for organizing the activities of the society as well as



**Fig. 2.** The BSA Executive Board Meeting, 26 December 2022, Chiang Mai, Thailand. From left to right: K. An, O. Yadamsuren, Y. J. Bae, J.-K. Park, U. Kim, K. Tojo, P. Somboon, C. Phalaraksh, B. Boonsoong.

**Рис. 2.** Заседание правления Бентологического общества Азии, 26 декабря 2022 г., Чиангмай, Таиланд.

its renewal. The Initiative group of the Executive Board presented a roadmap for the future of the BSA, including continued agenda items from past meetings. A change in the name of society has been proposed due to the recently expanded scope of the society. Asian Society for Freshwater and Marine Biology (ASFMB or FMB) and Asian Society for Hydrobiology (ASH) were discussed as the candidates for the name of society. Urgent need for an international journal for the society, and various strategies including the appointment of a chief editor and editorial boards, as well as fundraising efforts were considered. Diverse efforts to improve society systems were discussed. It was concluded that the development of by-laws and other regulations, the adoption of a vice-president system, new nomination «John Morse Young Benthologist Award», and the implementation of online meetings for better communication should be included in the life of society.

Finally, the Executive Board unanimously decided to nominate Prof. Yeon Jae Bae as the 6th BSA President (term: 1 January 2023–31 December 2024). Prof. Bae, a famous aquatic entomologist, is one of the founders of the society and has been its secretary since 1998. That is why on the last day of the symposium, December 29, he was elected as the 6th president of the society, nominated by the executive board and approved by the general meeting. General Secretary of the BSA became Prof. Ji Hyoun Kang from Korean Entomological Institute, Korea University, Seoul.

After the Symposium the BSA 2022 Executive Board Meeting Report, General Meeting Report, as well as Inaugural Address of the 6<sup>th</sup> BSA President was sent to the BSA members.



On 22 February 2023 the next Executive Board Meeting was held via zoom. All attending board executives approved major agenda including new name of BSA, new structure and nominations of positions. ASH was approved as the official name of the Society from January 1, 2023. Following the tradition of BSA, Prof. Bae will be the 6th President of ASH, and the next international symposium, scheduled for 2–5 July 2024, will be called the 6th International Symposium of ASH. Revised structure of organization was proposed by ASH President Prof. Yeon Jae Bae and approved by all attending delegates. Main ASH positions will be as follows: vice-presidents, delegates, and secretaries. Nominations for certain positions (such as editorial board positions) will be further discussed.

The agenda for the next Executive Board meeting on June 14, 2023 was also discussed. The following topics were the most important: 1) nominations of committee members; 2) preparation of society constitution and by-laws; 3) publication of international journal and newsletter; 4) preparation for the new homepage and official logo; 5) cooperation with other academic societies and institutions; 6) the 6th international symposium. The local organizing committee for the 6th International Symposium of ASH will be organized by President Prof. Yeon Jae Bae. Strategies and plans for the future ASH international journal will be prepared by the Editor-in-chief of the Editorial board Dr. Joong-Ki Park from Ewha Women's University, Seoul. All the details for the meeting were included in the minute of meeting and sent to all members by General Secretary Prof. Ji Hyoun Kang.

From my point of view as an ordinary member of ASH (former BSA) and the Russian Hydrobiological Society (RHS), such development of the society can only be welcomed. The decisions of the Executive Board are relevant and timely (especially plans for ASH journal and the implementation of online meetings for better communication), and therefore will serve to strengthen the society and increase its international prestige.

Although we, Russian hydrobiologists, could not personally take part in these elections, we are deeply satisfied with their results. Academician Prof. Viktor Bogatov, chairman of the Primorsky Branch of the RHS, member of the Presidium of the RHS and the 3rd BSA President (term: 1 January 2015–31 December 2016), sent warm greetings to the newly elected President Prof. Bae and General Secretary Prof. Kang on our behalf (V. Bogatov, pers. comm.). I am sure that all members of the ASH share the confidence of Academician Viktor Bogatov that the Society has received a new boost for its development in the interests of not only hydrobiologists, but also the peoples of the Asian continent.

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