

# PUBLIC EDUCATION





## New entrance to the garden

On August 6, the inaugural ceremony to celebrate the use of new entrance to the garden was held.

The completion of the new bridge and entrance has improved the accessibility for tourists to the garden. The new bridge and entrance unite architecture and horticulture and provide an elegant addition to the surrounding neighborhood.

The total area of western entrance is 10.38 ha, of which include visitor center, ticketing facilities, parking area, souvenir market.

The parking area is 26,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with the installation of a video surveillance system, designed for 500 coaches and cars.

The new visitor center houses a diorama of XTBG, a souvenir shop, an information desk, first aid, ATM, VIP rooms, meeting rooms, a mother-and-child room, a room for drivers and cicerones, and a refreshment bar. With the installation of air-conditions, elevator, TV sets, telephone, fax machine, and broad band network service, the new visitor center will help the garden meet the needs of its expanding audience.



The Luosuo river bridge & western entrance



## World botanic gardens exhibition in Beijing

The world botanic gardens exhibition about “Homes for plants, Gardens for humans”, co-organized by XTBG, BGCI, and Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Committee was displayed at the Science and Technology Park near the Olympic Village from 1st August 1 to September 8, 2008.

Mr. LIN Wenyi, vice chairman of National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and chairman of the 29<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games Science & Technology Committee, were present to the opening ceremony. Attendances to the ceremony include Prof. LI Jinghai, vice president of CAS, Mr. MA Lin, chairman of Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission, Mr. PAN Jiaofeng, director of Bureau of Planning & Strategy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. WANG Yu, deputy director of Department of Policy, Regulations and Reform, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China.

The goal of the exhibition is to open a window to Olympic Games participants and visitors from around the world through which they can see the beauty and the value of biodiversity and witness the ongoing efforts of botanic gardens to preserve our natural plant heritage. It also aims to show all visitors how gardens work locally and internationally to keep our planet green.

The exhibition contains 70 individual exhibition panels with 70 stories highlighting world botanic gardens, institutions and individuals involved in plant conservation and research. Other exhibits include two seed display cabinets, two leaf display cabinets, and an interactive plant scent station (where visitors can smell different oils and perfumes derived from fragrant plants). The main exhibition also includes interesting living plants; most of them are medicinal plants. XTBG had provided the photographs and text

used in the exhibition posters, as well as video, plant displays, and other publicity materials. In the plants display and exit area, there is a large (5.5m x 7.5m) LCD screen playing video provided by XTBG.



Exhibition entrance-The exhibition is located on the Science and Technology Park of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Olympic Village, Beijing



The big dry fruit of *Entada phaseoloides* attracts many visitors



## Exhibition in Shenzhen

The exhibition themed “Mysterious tropical rainforest and colorful ethnic cultures” was opened in Shenzhen on September 28. It was co-organized by XTBG, People’s Government of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and Shenzhen Fairy Botanical Garden. Dr. LI Yong, director of Shenzhen Fairy Botanical Garden, chaired the opening ceremony. Prof. CHEN Jin, director of XTBG, delivered a warm opening speech.

The exhibition is mainly shown by pictures and explanatory notes of tropical rainforest and indigenous people. Folk song and dance performances, ceramics showing, show of carving Buddhist scriptures on palm leaves, lectures by research professors are all available for the exhibition. An interaction activity named “Say a word for the rain forest” is also designed for visitors. The great Dai minority dance by beautiful Dai girls adds distinct regional and ethnic features for the exhibition.

Prof. CAO Kunfang of XTBG delivered a lecture to the participants on the opening day.



Opening ceremony

Many government officials, leaders, and research personnel were invited to the exhibition. It attracted more than 100,000 visitors during the National Day Holiday. The exhibition lasted for one month from September 28 to October 26.



XTBG’s commentator describing varied seeds from tropical rain forests



## Winter camp for youth

Co-organized by Beijing Teenager Science & Technology Club and XTBG, the popular scientific winter camp for youth entitled “Exploration of tropical rainforest” was opened on January 25 at XTBG. The camp is aimed to increase the youngsters’ understanding of tropical rainforest, to provide a platform for communication between scientists and middle school students, and to arouse the keenness on nature.

After having a general understanding about XTBG, the students from various key senior middle schools experienced scientific observations and experiments, which were elaborately designed by scientists with XTBG. A series of science popularization reports, such as “Importance of species conservation and phonological observation”, “Preservation and research of aroid plants at XTBG”, “Countermeasures of plants”, “Long-term ecological monitoring and research of tropical rainforest”, “Photosynthesis of plants in tropical rainforest”, “Dialogue between fig wasps and figs” and so on, were delivered to them.

“The winter camp brings us to the mysterious tropical rainforest. We enjoyed our journey and get interested in the rich biodiversity in the tropical rainforest. We also had a better understanding on the importance of protecting environment” said a camp member on the summary meeting of the camp on January 30.



Exploring the arcanum of *Alocasia* spathe spadix



Participants of winter camp





### **XTBG public education & tourism wins praise**

XTBG public education & tourism won praise from All-China Women's Federation and National Tourism Administration. The post of cicerones has been awarded as one of "Women Rendering Meritorious Service Posts".

Since early 1990s, XTBG has set up a team of public education cicerones. Up to now, over 80 cicerones with women of Dai ethnic group as the majority have contributed a lot to scientific popularization. They not only make progress and achievements on their own posts, but also spread knowledge to their families and neighbors in local villages.