

TALENT TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

Graduate Education



Graduation ceremony 2008

As an academic institution, XTBG been engaged in graduate training and has offered Master and Doctoral degrees since 1986. Currently, there are 172 graduate students studying in the garden, 60 of them are doctoral candidates including 2 foreign students. 37 senior researchers are qualified to supervise graduate studies in the fields of botany (17) and ecology (20). In July 2008, 59 students accomplished their study and graduated with 41 MSc degrees and 18 PhD degrees.



Joint MSc Program with USTC

In 2008, XTBG is going to have joint MSc Program with University of Science & Technology of China (USTC). Four M.S. candidates are to be under joint supervision of teachers from both XTBG and USTC. During a visit to USTC to interview Master candidates, Prof. LI Qingjun delivered a lecture entitled "Plant-animal interactions in the process of pollination" to USTC students on March 29. XTBG and USTC signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement in 2005. Many kinds of collaboration activities have been carried out smoothly since then.

Prof. XU Zaifu receives GUCAS Outstanding Teacher Award

At the 30th anniversary of the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS), some senior teachers received recognition for their excellence in supervising graduate students. Prof. XU Zaifu, former director of XTBG, was honored with the GUCAS Outstanding Teacher Award. Engaged in the development of XTBG for more than 40 years, Prof. XU Zaifu has been an expert in conservation biology. In addition to expertise in scientific research, he is skilled in motivating and inspiring students.



A PhD candidate receives BHP Billiton Scholarship

Mr. HAO Guangyou, a PhD candidate with XTBG was awarded as the GUCAS-BHPB Scholarship 2008. His supervisor, Prof. CAO Kunfang, also receives teacher scientific research prize. Based in Melbourne, BHP Billiton is the world's largest diversified resources company and is a major supplier of mineral and energy resources to China.





Talent Training

Personnel training base for tropical horticulture

A total of 56 college students from Simao Normal College improved their knowledge and practical skills on tropical horticulture and technique in the year 2008.

XTBG and SMTTC have been keeping on good ties with each other for many years. The two sides had jointly established a "Personnel Training Base for Tropical Horticulture" in XTBG since 2001.



Training course on gardening and horticulture

XTBG sponsored 2 training courses on gardening and horticulture for local technicians in Yunnan province. A total of 80 participants from Xishuangbanna prefecture and Simao prefecture accomplished the training, of which 75 received certifications.

The Department of Labor and Social Security of Yunnan Province designated XTBG as the No. 68 Institute of Yunnan Provincial Professional and Technical Ability Appraisal on Horticulture in 1997. Since then, XTBG has hosted training course on gardening and horticulture each year, making full use of its advantages in landscape planning and designing, horticultural cultivation, seed storage, plant protection, forest science.

University student internships

XTBG is an internship base for many universities. Many university students have worked as interns here, which make it a peak period in this summer. After a one-week internship program by students from University of Science & Technology of China, students from other 11 universities as Yunnan University, Beijing University begin their internship projects at XTBG. The students are enabled to get hands-on experiences in both laboratory research and field research.

XTBG Internship Program offers undergraduate students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the fields of botany, ecology, biology and zoology. The program enables students to work on specific projects under the direction of teachers of their own universities and XTBG's professional staff. Thanks to its unique location among ethnic villages, the students have chances to know more about ethnic cultures and religious beliefs of Dai nationalities at the neighboring villages, in addition to accomplishing their study tasks.

Team Building

Favorable policies and unique research location have been encouraging young scientists from domestic and overseas to join XTBG. In 2008, there are 15 new staff members from domestic and overseas work in the garden, of whom 6 have PhD degrees, 8 have master degrees, 3 from overseas.

At present 305 fulltime staff members work for XTBG, 65 of them are senior professionals, 46 have PhD degrees, 8 are international staff members.

Adjunct professorship

As one of the leading botanical gardens in China, XTBG aims to expand the knowledge of tropical ecology and plant diversity and to promote the conservation and sustainable development in humid tropical and subtropical areas in China, on the basis of its 50 years experience of tropical plant sciences.

To further develop along this direction and to enhance XTBG's contribution to the science of tropical ecology and relevant disciplines, we invite world-leading scientists as consultants to XTBG, in the hope that more international collaboration and exchange will be enabled.

Adjunct professors of XTBG will be expected to help with the policy-making of institution's scientific activities, developing international collaboration, and co-training graduate students. Furthermore, they will bring the latest outline and prospect of the development of applicable subjects to XTBG staff.

The term of adjunct professor is for two years and can be extended once.

In 2008, Dr. Nicholas J. GOTELLI with the University of Vermont, USA was conferred as adjunct professor for his internationally well-known excellence and reputation in community ecology.

CAS 100 talents program

Talented people are the key to success and development. To attract qualified overseas professionals are an important aspect of XTBG efforts for building an innovative research team. In 2008, 2 scientists with XTBG gained the support from CAS 100 talents program, each granted 2 million Yuan RMB for his research project. The grantees are:

Name	Research field
Prof. XU Zengfu	Functional genomics and genetic engineering of the biodiesel plant
Prof. FANG Zhen	Biomass energy
Prof. LIU Aizhong	Molecular genetics and plant breeding



Dr. Nicholas J. GOTELLI, with the University of Vermont, USA



Postdoctoral fellows

In 2008, XTBG offered 3 postdoctoral positions to researchers from China and overseas.

At present, there are 6 postdoctoral researchers work in the garden.

The 3 successful candidates and their supervisors are:

Name	Nationality	Research field	Supervisor
WANG Weibin	China	Ecology	FENG Yulong
Mani SHANMUGAM	India	Ecology	CAO Min
Matthew William WARREN	USA	Ecology	CHEN Jin

Preparation of the 50th Anniversary

The day of January 1, 2009 marks the 50th Year Anniversary of XTBG. A series of events are planned for the grand celebration and gathering. Special activities include:

- 🌳 Organize sport games participated by all members;
- 🌳 Release of a documentary DVD: XTBG-A Blossoming *Tropical Botanical Garden*;
- 🌳 Publish a series of historic album and books in memorial of the growing XTBG;
- 🌳 A performance and firework show in the evening of December 31, 2008;
- 🌳 Host an official ceremony to celebrate the 50th anniversary on January 1, 2009;
- 🌳 Convene the 2nd Xishuangbanna International Symposium on "Biodiversity Conservation: Research Imperatives for Scientific Institutions" during January 1-2, 2009;
- 🌳 Conduct an International Consultation with noted experts from all parts of the world on January 3, 2009;
- 🌳 Convene the 5th International Symposium on the family Zingiberaceae during July 6-9, 2009.



A historic album "XTBG-50 Years' Growth and Future Perspectives"