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08) Conference preparations

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Topic URL: http://www.isslr.org/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=280

Printed on: 03 Sep 2014

Topic:

Topic author: aoren

Subject: 08) Conference preparations

Posted on: 16 Jan 2014 21:26:33

Message:

Welcome to the board meeting, Fanjing. We are looking forward to your updates about the upcoming symposium.

Replies:

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 17 Jan 2014 00:19:43

Message:

Dear Prof.Dr. A.OREN and all.

We have very short money in Russian Academy of Sciences. You know that I could not be with all of you in Argentina and probably I could not be with you in China this year. All my money I am spending for my laboratory and field work in Aral, Balkhash and Caspian Lakes. I am very sorry that I could not invest money for my visits to our meetings. I am very glad that our Organization that was made by Prof.Dr.W.WILLIAMS still working hard. It is a pity that in my nice country we have less and less money for visiting our meetings.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 22 Jan 2014 20:53:06

Message:

Three days ago I corresponded with Fanjing and requested him to update us so that we can get started discussing the most important agenda point. He promised to do so quickly, but no further information was given yet. I stressed that efficient communication with the board is essential, and I hope that things will improve soon.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 19:01:18

Message:

On behalf of Organize committee, I post here the Progresses in the preparation of the 12th International Conference on Salt Lake Research

1. More than ten staffs have been involved in the arrangement of conference details including meeting rooms, places for meals, shuttles for picking up participants, etc. and the progress is good.

2. A lot of money has been deposited in a special bank account set up for the conference, and plenty of money will be collected in the near future. 3. We are setting up the name list for people who need support to attend this conference based on the emails. We will decide the people to be supported by us on the basis of the amount of money collected and their expected contribution to the conference.

3. We have discussed with several journals related to the topics of this conference, and at least

two journals are welcome to us for publishing conference papers in their journal (Chinese Science Bulletin→ Chinese Journal of oceanology and limnology)→ Chinese Journal of oceanology and limnology i→

4. The website of our conference works well now, and there is a technician specially in charge of the update of the website.

5. The second round announcement of this conference is ready, and will be sent by email soon. Any suggestion and advice are welcome from all of you.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 21:20:17

Message:

Dear Fanjing,

Thanks for the good work. In an number of replies I will comment on the progress. I want to start with the awards. I see that the web site mentions that the amount of each Bill Williams award will be \$ 800. We had discussed the topic in Beijing in September; as the organizers kindly provide two Salinology awards of \$ 500 each, it is important that the Bill Williams awards, the most prestigious prize, will be higher. \$ 800 is fine for me, but we need the formal approval from the board. I herewith request the board to approve this sum.

In addition we now have an additional prize (\$ 600) from the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki (see the earlier information I posted on the board meeting forum). You may well add this information to the conference web site as well.

On the conference web site there is a link - not yet active - for Calls for Abstracts/Awards. What do you mean with "Calls for Awards"? The Bill Williams Awards and the other prizes are awarded by a panel of judges to be appointed by the board (Bill Williams Prize) and by the local organizers (Salinology awards); I was asked by the Greek sponsors to coordinate the JBRT prize. Meeting participants do not apply for awards. Or was the intention travel awards? For the Argentina meeting the ISSLR had a number of travel awards for young scientists from outside Argentina, and I don't see any reason why the society will not do the same this time. In fact, not all the money allocated to these travel awards last time was used as there were only few eligible applicants.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 21:26:40

Message:

A question about the conference fees: The fees, as stated in the web site, are very reasonable indeed. Do these fees include the triennial dues to the ISSLR (if I remember well, \$ 20 per year = \$ 60 for senior scientists, a one-year fee of \$ 20 for the young generation. Bob, correct me if I am wrong)? I assume that these are not included, so the information on the web site may need to be adjusted. I don't remember whether in the past those who were already members (i.e. paid their triennial membership dues in Argentina) enjoyed a somewhat reduced registration fee. I recommend the organizers to be in contact with Bob Jellison (directly or even better, on this forum, and then adjust the information on the conference web site as may be necessary.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 21:31:47

Message:

Regarding the program: I want to remind the organizers to schedule a Business Meeting of the ISSLR (all the members, which means all participants who paid their membership fee with the registration). I recommend to have this Business Meeting relatively early in the conference week, as there is some important business to be discussed (see Bob Jellison's earlier message), and further discussions and new ad hoc meetings of the board and possibly of the entire membership may be needed.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 21:33:30
Message:

Regarding the Sponsors page in the web site (still empty) and later in the program book: please don't forget to list the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 24 Jan 2014 21:47:11
Message:

Payments of fees for the symposium - I see in the web site that all fees will have to be paid on the site, and that there is no registration payment in advance (credit card or bank transfer). This is convenient and nice, and I understood that technically it may be difficult for the organizers to arrange a reliable system for payment in advance, but there may be a major problem here. I predict that there will be lots of abstract submissions from many countries in the world from scientists/students who will not turn up at the symposium and who from the beginning had no intention to travel to China; all they want is to show in their CV that they had made a presentation and had an abstract printed in the conference book. I have seen many cases like this in the past, and some countries are notorious for using this practice. The result will be lots of empty poster boards, and - even worse - scheduled speakers who do not show up, so that lecture schedules will have to be revised on the last minute. Enabling abstract submission, or at least inclusion of the abstract in the conference book, only to those who had paid their registration fee in advance is not an absolute guarantee that the presenter will indeed show up but it will greatly reduce the number of fake submissions. I had brought this point up also during my discussions with Fanjing in China last September, and I am looking forward to hearing suggestions from the organizers and from the board how to deal with this potential (but according to my experience very real) problem; I have seen too many cases of this phenomenon already!

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 25 Jan 2014 00:27:41
Message:

Fanning, what currency will we need to bring to China to pay the fees? You will need to specify on the web site, if you want, for example, American dollars, as you did last time.

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 25 Jan 2014 00:27:48
Message:

Fanning, what currency will we need to bring to China to pay the fees? You will need to specify on the web site, if you want, for example, American dollars, as you did last time.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 20:29:51
Message:

I wonder why nobody, five days after I posted my comments relating to the board meeting, has reacted to the points raised.

Another issue for this topic: in previous years the ISSLR has made a number of travel grants available for students and young scientists outside the host country. If I remember well we had 3 or 4 such grants of \$ 500 (?) each for the Argentina symposium. Not all this money was spent as there were not enough eligible applicants. How many such grants will the board make available this time? Let me make a proposal: 4 travel grant of \$ 750 for young scientists (no older than 35 at the time of the meeting) from outside China. If the board feels that we may have more such grants or increase the sum of each, that is fine for me. After we will reach a decision and determine a mechanism how to apply, the organizers can post the information on the symposium web site. I am prepared to coordinate this, so that applicants can send a letter of application,

short CV and list of publications (if any), and the abstract of the planned presentation directly to me until a certain deadline (e.g. April 30). I will then summarize the requests and consult the board to grade the application so that applicants can be notified no later than May 15. Does that look OK?

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 20:39:33
Message:

It looks OK. I did not respond to your comments as I expect Fanjing will react first. It looks that communication is not very fast. Probably we have to discuss and after you contact conference organisers directly via e-mail to be sure that they get remarks and suggestions

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 20:48:07
Message:

1. I agree to set Bill Williams awards at 800 (or may be 700 USD)
 2. The registration fee should include membership fee (if this is not the case now we have to adjust it)
 3. I do not know how to solve the problem of correct schedule. Probably the organizers can ask registered participants to confirm attendance by the detailed information on the arrival (e.g. not later than 2 weeks prior the conference) and not include into the program those who do not provide this information.
 4. I agree to support 4 travel grants of 750USD (or less if the person travels for example from Russia - probably we can cover only tickets - in this case grant will be sensitive to the distance the person traveled)
-

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 20:55:02
Message:

Happy to see anywhere up to \$1000 travel grant for young scientists/students

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 20:59:28
Message:

$750 * 4 = 3000$

let us decide that we support not more than 1000 per person and cover only tickets and support not more than 5 and the amount will be distributed based on the applications

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 21:00:55
Message:

Happy with Egor's suggestions - makes it easier for some of the distant students to make the journey

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 21:01:04
Message:

Happy with Egor's suggestions - makes it easier for some of the distant students to make the journey

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 21:03:40
Message:

in relation to the business meeting, I agree that early is better. The traditional end of sessions meeting is often poorly attended.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 22:25:05
Message:

Dear Aharon,
Thank you for your good suggestion. The registration fee do not include the membership fee of 60USD, so we can add such fee when participants register. Thanks the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki for its support and I will post it on the sponsor of webpage on conference website. On the travel grant, I agree with you. The applicants should send their application, short CV and list of publications), and the abstract of the planned presentation to you. The deadline for application may be April 30.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 22:56:38
Message:

Dear peri,
We try to provide the pathway of payment, not only by cash onsite conference, but also by credit cards or bank transfer. Considering the safety, payment online is not available. If you can pay fee for registration, hotel, food and post conference field trip by bank transfer, you may not bring too much currency.
The payment information for Bank transfer:
To: SWIFT ICBKCNBJBJM,
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Bai Wan Zhuang Banking Office No.15, San Li He Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China 100037.
Account number: 0200001409014457905.
Beneficiary: Research and Development Center for Saline Lake and Epithermal Deposit, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 23:02:32
Message:

Dear all,
The Chinese Traditional Spring Festival is coming. Happy the Spring Festival to you! The Holiday is one week from Jan 31 to Feb 6.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 28 Jan 2014 23:42:30
Message:

On the travel grant, we support not only the young students and scientists, but also the speakers. How many people should be aided depend on how much money we can collect. 4 young students and scientists are basic number, we may support international travel ticket and registration fee for them. Other speakers may support in different level, such as only registration fee, or travel fee, or accommodation, depend on their significance of their research, especially for the conference.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 29 Jan 2014 00:15:48
Message:

We have to separate the travel grants to young scientists / students, which are paid from the budget of the ISSLR and not from the congress budget, and any further support to speakers that may be supplied by the organizers from the budget they raise for the meeting (registration fees and sponsors). These are completely different things. On this forum we only have to discuss and decide about the travel grants to be paid from ISSLR money. Decisions about support for speakers can be made by the local organizers and no approval from the board is needed. If the local organizers have some money available to support travel of speakers from abroad, that is of course perfect. And some potential speakers do need support to enable them to come to China (for example, I know that Nick Aladin's financial situation is not too good). The organizers may of course update the board if they wish about such travel support, but they are fully autonomous here and their decisions do not have to be endorsed by the board.

I agree with Egor's suggestion to make \$ 3000 from the ISSLR available for student travel, and that the sum of each stipend will depend on the cost (distance travelled etc.). I will be happy to coordinate the topic, and receive applications.

The issue of membership fees to be included in the registration fee must be clearly stated in the web site. I suggest that Fanjing and colleagues should be in touch with Bob Jellison to make the arrangements and finalize the text to be posted.

It will be excellent if registration fees and other payments can be made by credit card and/or by bank transfer.

HAPPY SPRING HOLIDAY!

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 29 Jan 2014 00:33:28

Message:

Thanks, Aharon. I agree with you.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 29 Jan 2014 00:49:12

Message:

Dear Fanjing, thank you for updates, I am expect that the conference will be great!

I think it is important to have updates at the conference site as soon as possible regarding:

a) conference fee and membership fee.

It should be clearly stated that the conference fee is (amount that you have now + membership fee) and the fee includes membership in society. In case you will accept money by bank transfer. What will be the procedure to transfer the membership part to ISSLR account?

b) travel and conference awards.

It is necessary to specify that we have several conference awards (additional prize (\$ 600) from the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki should be added) and travel awards. The procedure to apply for travel awards should be described at the web site of the conference (e.g. - send an application in free format with estimated ticket price, CV, title of planned presentation or poster to organising committee and/or Dr. Oren))

c) If there is already opportunity to pay fee using the bank transfer please put this details on the web page of the conference.

Thank you very much for efforts to make good conference and
HAPPY SPRING HOLIDAY!

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 29 Jan 2014 05:13:07

Message:

thank Egor.I shall deal with the matter you mentioned

Reply author: NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 04 Feb 2014 00:08:26**Message:**

Dear all,

I was glad to read all your ideas. We need to give more priorities for visiting salt lakes and sampling in salt lakes during Pre-, Middle- and Post-conference excursions.

Reply author: NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 07 Feb 2014 00:22:15**Message:**

Dear all,

it is nice that we are talking a lot about young scientists and students, but we need to remember veterans of salt lakes studies.

Going forward we need to remember what was in the past.

I think that we must to take care about invitation those who still doing science after retirement.

I know such old salt lake experts in Central Asia, in Iran, in Turkey and Africa.

So let's try to find a good balance between young generation and old generation.

Let's try to write some historic notes.

Our past studies should be know for those who are doing modern studies.

Reply author: fkong**Replied on:** 07 Feb 2014 00:34:34**Message:**

Dear All,

Thank you for your good suggestion.we try to consider doing the matter.Dr Nicolai Shadrin, who comes from Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas,Ukraine,is a visiting scholar in China for one year.He join our organize committee and prepare the Conference.

Reply author: NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 07 Feb 2014 01:03:35**Message:**

Dear all,

see below URL

<http://www.ilec.or.jp/en/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/nl58e4.pdf>

Reply author: NikolayAladin**Replied on:** 07 Feb 2014 01:13:16**Message:**

Dear Fanjing,

I know that Dr.Nicolai SHADRIN is now working with you in China.

He wrote to me about this number of times.

I hope that he will help you to understand modern scientific demands both in UKRAINE and in Russian Federation.

Next week I am going to Iran and I shall invite people from Urmia Lake scientific committee to come to forthcoming meeting in your nice country.

May be, if my Academy will support me, I shall come again to China too.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 08 Feb 2014 00:51:56

Message:

Dear Nikolay,

If you may attend the conference, it's great! welcome to come back beijing 20 years late. The local organize committee plan to financially support the speakers in different level such as travel ticket, registration fee and accommodation. We also consider to found the i®Lifetime Achievement in Salt Science award for the researcher who has made numerous contributions in the salt related fields.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 08 Feb 2014 00:54:03

Message:

I post here profesor zheng's opinion

Dear ISSLR board members,

The following are some additional progresses for the conference preparation.

First, we are preparing a booklet for the conference participants. The booklet aims to collect information about important new literatures (papers, books etc.) published in the past decade in the field of salt lake research and other salt related fields. For each literature item, the information will include the title, authors, year and sources, in both English and Chinese (and in Russian for literatures originally in Russian). Now, more than then colleagues in our center are working on this. We wish you can server more information of literatures published by yourself in the past ten years, so we can include all your contributions in this booklet, and more Chinese researchers can benefit from your works.

Second, the editor office of Acta Geologica Sinica, an English SCI journal in China, has agreed to publish all accepted conference abstracts as a special issue. All the published abstracts can be cited in future papers, and the publication of the abstract is not conflict with future publication of the whole paper. We have several colleagues ready to organize the conference abstracts now, and we will finish the issue soon after the deadline of the abstract submission.

Third, we suggest adding two awards in the 12th conference. One is the i®Lifetime Achievement in Salt Science award for the researcher who has made numerous contributions in the salt related fields. The other is the i®Special Contributions to the Society award for those who have made important contributions to our society.

Last, the meeting of our committee members of the ISSLR is supposed to be hold during the 12th conference—and we will primarily discuss on how to improve the influence of our society. Bob, our old friends who has greatly helped our society to deal with financial problems and other issues in the past, cannot handle these issues any more due to personal reason. We suggest giving him the i®Special Contribution to Society award during this conference. Besides—Bob suggested our society to be affiliated to another research society in American, but the other committee members have different ideas. We suggest having a discussion on this and deciding the future of our society during the online committee meeting.

Mianping Zheng

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 08 Feb 2014 06:07:25

Message:

Dear Fanjing,

Thanks to you and to your colleagues for all these efforts and for the great work that is being done. I am sure we will have a great conference. If you need help with the selection and editing of abstracts and proceedings paper, I am always prepared to help.

One important issue is about the business meeting. Of course the committee members may (and should) have a meeting, but the important event to be scheduled is the general assembly of ALL members of the society (which means here all those who have paid their membership dues as part of the registration fee). The important decisions must be taken (according to the bylaws) by the members's assembly, not by the board that was elected by the members three years ago.

About the two new awards you propose: do you propose that these prizes will be awarded on behalf of the ISSLR or on behalf of the local organizers? This makes a big difference as in the first case the establishment of these awards must be discussed and approved by the board, and the prize money (if these awards are accompanied by a financial reward) must be budgeted (but a certificate as a token of appreciation is OK as well). We also need to decide about the way the awardees will be nominated and selected. In the second case the local organizers are autonomous to decide about these prizes.

About the booklet with literature information, I will send you (directly to your e-mail address) my list of publications, indicating which items relate to salt lakes and salt microbiology.

Reply author: NikolayAladin
Replied on: 10 Feb 2014 02:25:10
Message:

Dear all,
May be during conference preparation we need to send a SPECIAL invitation to our colleagues from Iran and to help them to SAVE URMIA LAKE.
Am I right?

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 10 Feb 2014 21:59:42
Message:

I am looking forward to further clarifications from Fanjing and Mianping about the proposed two new awards announced in an earlier posting on this forum: an award for Lifetime achievement in salt lake science and Special contribution to the society award. Is it the intention that these awards will be presented by the society or by the local organizers. The second proposed award mentions the society, to if such an award is to presented, we first need a final proposal on this board forum for the establishment of these awards, the way candidates can be nominated and the way the decision is made about the winners. The local organizers cannot decide such matters on behalf of the ISSLR. On the other hand, if the initiative to present more awards (whether consisting of a certificate only or also of a money prize) comes from the local organizers only, the local organizers are autonomous in their decision to whom to award such prizes, but they must be aware of the fact that the name of the society cannot be mentioned linked to these awards.

If the intention is that the ISSLR is to present these awards, I am looking forward to a formal proposal to be discussed and to be decided by the board now.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 11 Feb 2014 17:21:31
Message:

Dear Aharon,
The initiative to the Award for lifetime achievement in salt lake science and the special contribution to the society comes from the thinking about not only pay attention to the young scientist, bot also to the scientist who do research in the field long time.I believe that the awards should be on behalf of the society, not for the loc.SO, you may put forwards a formal proposal and to be discussed.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 11 Feb 2014 17:23:37
Message:

The loc can contribute the financial suport this time.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 11 Feb 2014 21:48:12

Message:

Dear Fanjing,

I will not submit such a proposal to the board as I will not support it myself. But you (and any of the other board members) can post a proposal for discussion and vote.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 12 Feb 2014 17:01:56

Message:

Dear Aharon,

I see. I think Zheng would do such things.

Reply author: Zhengmianping

Replied on: 16 Feb 2014 22:40:36

Message:

Dear All, the following is the proposal for the awards by Mianping Zheng

Proposal for the establishment of the i°Salinology Foundationi± and the proposed awards

General Provisions

Academician Mianping Zheng will personally denote his prize of the distinguished achievement award by CAGS and Macrolink Group (£×100,000, about \$16,500) to set up the Salinology Award for the ISSLR conferences, and further to help setting up a Foundation for awarding young scientists and outstanding scientists who have made great achievements and innovations in the field of salt lake research.

We hope this could be a start for the establishment of the i®Salinology Foundation, and we hope more people, company, and institutions will denote to the Salinology Foundation, and make this foundation more powerful.

The following are proposed regulations for the awards of this Foundation for discussion.

Criteria for awards

The foundation shall grant awards to individuals who are have achievements, progress and innovations of science and technology in salt lake research.

The foundation shall grant scientists in the field of salt lake research around the world.

Candidates for the awards of the foundation shall be recommended by nominators identified by the Selection Board, and nominators should be famous professors or scientists in the field of salt lake research.

Awards

The foundation sets three triennial awards:

1) Salinology Awards

For young scientists who make best presentations (oral and poster) during the ISSLR conferences.

There should be no more 4 awardees for the Salinology Award during each conference, and each winner will be awarded a certificate and the amount of prize of \$ 500 (two for best orals and two for best posters).

2) Award for Distinguished Achievement in Salt lake research

For those who have made important achievements and innovations of science and Technology in Salt lake research.

There should be no more than one awardee for the Awards for Distinguished achievement in salt lake research for each conference, and each winner will be awarded a certificate and the amount of prize will be determined based on the financial state of the foundation.

3) Award for Special Contributions to The ISSLR

For those who have made significant contributions to the ISSLR.

There should be no more than one awardee for Award for Specially Contributions to The ISSLR for each conference, and each winner will be awarded a certificate and the amount of prize will be determined based on the financial state of the foundation.

Selection Board

A selection Board shall be constituted under the foundation, consisting of scholars who are highly

respected in academic morality, with accomplishments in academic researches and devotion to the work of awards of science and technology prizes.

The total number of the Selection Board members should be no more than 12. Among them, there will be one chair, two vice chair and one secretary-general.

Winners of the awards of the foundation are evaluated and decided by the Selection Board.

The Selection Board shall work with the principles of i°Fairness, Justness and Opennessi± and i°One Member One Votei±. Decisions on winners of awards of the foundation are made in a way of anonymous ballot by the members of the Selection Board.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 17 Feb 2014 20:42:08

Message:

Dear Mianping,

Many thanks for this initiative and the very generous contribution that will support the goals of the ISSLR.

As the Salinology Foundation must be autonomous and independent from the ISSLR, there is no need for the ISSLR board to approve its establishment.

To my opinion it will be essential that none of the serving board members of the ISSLR will be a member of the board of the directors of the Foundation or a member of the Selection Board that will nominate potential awardees and decide about the awards, so that conflicts of interest can be avoided.

Comments from all board members are welcome.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 17 Feb 2014 23:26:51

Message:

Agree

Reply author: Zhengmianping

Replied on: 18 Feb 2014 01:11:03

Message:

Dear Oren and all colleagues,

I am very glad to see your reply.

Yes, this foundation has the same aim as the ISSLR, i.e. to promote studies and encourage scientists in the field of salt lake research. Therefore, the participation of board members of ISSLR in the foundation activities will definitely address its goals. The board members of ISSLR are all famous scientists around the world in the field of salt lake research, and we have never worried about the conflicts of interest. We sincerely invite the scientists of the ISSLR, especially the board members to participate in the selection of awardees supported by the foundation.

quote:

[i]Originally posted by aoren[/i]
[br]Dear Mianping,

Many thanks for this initiative and the very generous contribution that will support the goals of the ISSLR.

As the Salinology Foundation must be autonomous and independent from the ISSLR, there is no need for the ISSLR board to approve its establishment.

To my opinion it will be essential that none of the serving board members of the ISSLR will be a member of the board of the directors of the Foundation or a member of the Selection Board that will nominate potential awardees and decide about the awards, so that conflicts of interest can be avoided.

Comments from all board members are welcome.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 18 Feb 2014 02:42:48

Message:

I do worry about conflicts of interest. We are a small group of people, and most (or all?) of those senior scientists who are contributing to the science of salt lakes and are interested in advancing this branch of science are members of the board of the ISSLR. Therefore it almost inevitable that the awardees of the two proposed awards for senior scientists will be ISSLR board members. I object to the idea that members of the board will distribute these awards between themselves. But this my personal opinion; the other board members may think differently.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 18 Feb 2014 21:08:11

Message:

Dear all, we must admit that saline lake research is not the most active or top area of research. The number of scientists is not very big. Of course we want to support the area of research we like and we are trying to do it.

In general I am fine with the award "for Distinguished Achievement in Salt lake research". This award actually can be granted to any person depending on the scientific results but not on the age, affiliation with any society, any political or other preferences. This type of award, especially if granted to influential person outside the society, can strengthen the society.

I am not very happy with the "Award for Special Contributions to The ISSLR". Our society is small and, let us be frankly, is continuously at the stage of collapse but still alive. If we start to nominate the members of the society it will not make it (us) stronger. Of course there are several people that contribute a lot to society and we all know them and respect them. I don't think that 500 or 1000 USD award will be adequate compensation of our respect and appreciation of efforts those who established and run the society. It is great idea to distinguish those who contribute to society. We can make a gallery of distinguished members at the web-site of society, we can nominate them with honorary diploma or any other specific but not monetary award. I don't think that monetary award is the best way to distinguish those people.

I am sorry, this is of course my personal opinion.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 19 Feb 2014 00:33:59

Message:

Thank you Mianping Zheng, for such a generous offer. I support the student awards and the awards for distinguished contributions to the field of salt lake research. I agree with Egor that a "Hall of Fame" on the web site may be a more appropriate way to recognise those who have contributed much to our Society.

Reply author: mefarias

Replied on: 19 Feb 2014 15:55:37

Message:

Hi Everyone I joint the forum form today. I will not be able to assist to the Symposium for economical reasons. Argentine devaluated the peso and my project can not afford the travel expenses. I am so sorry for that. I can collaborate in any discussion or whatever

Reply author: mefarias

Replied on: 19 Feb 2014 15:56:13

Message:

Hi Everyone I joint the forum form today. I will not be able to assist to the Symposium for economical reasons. Argentine devaluated the peso and my project can not afford the travel expenses. I am so sorry for that. I can collaborate in any discussion or whatever

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 19 Feb 2014 21:40:12

Message:

Dear Maria, a pity that you cannot come. I am looking forward to your contributions to this forum as one of the board members.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 19 Feb 2014 21:46:42

Message:

I currently cannot access the conference web site csle.cags.ac.cn/2014icslr
Yesterday I contacted the congress office at islc2014@hotmail.com to inquire about the web site but no reply was received. Does anyone know what happened?

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 20 Feb 2014 14:32:19

Message:

The site appears to have been down for about 48 hours. I am being asked about it by friends in Indonesia who are interested in attending

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 20 Feb 2014 16:53:34

Message:

I got the e-mail from Fanjing:

Dear Egor,
Sorry, The website was invaded and damaged by hacker,it will be recovery soon.
Best Regards
Fanjing

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 23 Feb 2014 23:15:35

Message:

I was pleased to see that the website is back online. I just registered and uploaded my abstract.

I note that three other "abstracts" were uploaded, but these are not two-page abstracts as requested but full papers (5 pages, 9 pages and a pdf file of a published article). To my opinion abstracts that do not conform the required format must be deleted and the authors must be contacted with the request to submit a corrected abstract.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 23 Feb 2014 23:40:25

Message:

There are some problems with the abstract uploading system. The text on the screen is not identical to the text I type. Instead of Oren, Aharon the screen shows en, Aharon. I tried to correct this ("Abstract Management" option), but the result was the same.

Is it the intention of the congress organizers to have all the submitted abstract visible to all registered participants already now? - including those three "abstract" now shown that were not prepared according to the instructions?

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 24 Feb 2014 13:44:00

Message:

The conference website is online now. And the information was renewed. About the abstract problem Aharon mentioned, I will check it.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 04:11:57

Message:

I see that the three "abstracts" that were not presented in the proper format were deleted from the web site, and that only the entry of my abstract remained. The problem of missing letters (thous instead of thousand) and of formatting (now all lower case letters) remains.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 07:32:49

Message:

I still do not see the announcement of the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki award on the conference web site, I only find the Bill Williams and the Salinology awards. When will the announcement of the Greek award be visible on the web site?

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 14:36:58

Message:

Dear aharon ,thank you for your correct the some mistakes on the webpage. The journal award has been in second announcement. The contents on webpage are renewing, and not finished. I believe it will be on the webpage at once.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 16:02:32

Message:

Dear aharon ,thank you for your correct the some mistakes on the webpage. The journal award has been in second announcement. The contents on webpage are renewing, and not finished. I believe it will be on the webpage at once.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 17:10:26

Message:

Actually, the information about the Journal of Biological Research Thessaloniki award at least for the couple of days is on the web page - <http://csle.cags.ac.cn/2014icslr/view-105.aspx>

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 20:14:13
Message:

Dear Egor, thanks for showing me this. It may be nice to add the Greek award also under 'Awards' on the home page.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 25 Feb 2014 20:20:25
Message:

Thinking again about the publication of the abstracts on the conference web page: I am not sure that submitted abstracts should be visible to all at this stage. Normally abstracts are submitted to the organizers (whether or not through the web site), checked by the organizers for scientific content and format, returned to the authors in case they do not meet the standards, and made available to all participants only at the time of the meeting. It is of course the choice of the meeting organizers to decide on this, but comments on this forum would be welcome.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 26 Feb 2014 14:18:33
Message:

I believe this is nice

quote:

[i]Originally posted by aoren[/i]
[br]Thinking again about the publication of the abstracts on the conference web page: I am not sure that submitted abstracts should be visible to all at this stage. Normally abstracts are submitted to the organizers (whether or not through the web site), checked by the organizers for scientific content and format, returned to the authors in case they do not meet the standards, and made available to all participants only at the time of the meeting. It is of course the choice of the meeting organizers to decide on this, but comments on this forum would be welcome.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 26 Feb 2014 14:42:20
Message:

I believe it's a nice suggestion. LOC may discuss your proposal

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 27 Feb 2014 19:11:20
Message:

Dear Aharon, I have added the Greece Journal Award to Homepage. It's better that the abstract shall be reviewed and open at the conference time.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 27 Feb 2014 19:16:19
Message:

Dear all,
The preparation of the conference is going well and we try to attract more participants to attend the conference. Until now, only a few participants have registered. I worry about the number of attendees. I hope all of the members will help organize the participants.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 27 Feb 2014 20:51:04

Message:

Dear Fanjing,

With the deadline of April 30 for registration at a reduced rate and May 10 for submission of abstract, expect most of the registrations to come in in the last week of April. People always tend to postpone these things until the last moment.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 27 Feb 2014 23:46:23

Message:

Dear All,

I missed the point - where the information about travel awards is located. If there is no announcement about travel awards please add to this page

<http://csle.cags.ac.cn/2014icslr/view-105.aspx>

- Travel Awards

The ISSLR encourages students and researchers from around the world to attend the conferences. There is a budget for travel assistance. If such assistance would enable you to attend (whether you are a student or scientist), please send an application in free format with estimated ticket price, your CV, and the title of your planned presentation or poster to the organising committee of the upcoming conference (Dr. Fanjing Kong, kongfj@cags.ac.cn) or to the President of the ISSLR (Dr. Aharon Oren, aharon.oren@mail.huji.ac.il). The International Society of Salt Lake Research can support only travel expenses (up to 1000 USD per person). Travel awards will be distributed based on the scientific quality and financial needs of applicants.

Reply author: fkong

Replied on: 28 Feb 2014 05:31:13

Message:

Dear all,

About travel awards, shall we make vote to the proposal? If all the board members agree to it, I will release the travel awards on website.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 28 Feb 2014 21:35:41

Message:

Regarding travel grants - On 28 January I posted the following:

.. in previous years the ISSLR has made a number of travel grants available for students and young scientists outside the host country. If I remember well we had 3 or 4 such grants of \$ 500 (?) each for the Argentina symposium. Not all this money was spent as there were not enough eligible applicants. How many such grants will the board make available this time? Let me make a proposal: 4 travel grant of \$ 750 for young scientists (no older than 35 at the time of the meeting) from outside China. If the board feels that we may have more such grants or increase the sum of each, that is fine for me. After we will reach a decision and determine a mechanism how to apply, the organizers can post the information on the symposium web site. I am prepared to coordinate this, so that applicants can send a letter of application, short CV and list of publications (if any), and the abstract of the planned presentation directly to me until a certain deadline (e.g. April 30). I will then summarize the requests and consult the board to grade the application so that applicants can be notified no later than May 15. Does that look OK?

We can vote about this proposal (I am in favor) and as soon as this is approved you may post the information on the web site.

If there will be many applicants and we feel that we may spend more money on this, we can reconsider the sum later. Three years ago there were only few applicants and not all the money

reserved for the purpose was spent.

I prefer that all applications for ISSLR travel grants will be sent to me, so that I can coordinate this topic.

If the organizers have additional money available for travel of others who do not meet the above criteria (>35 years old, Chinese colleagues), here we do not need the approval of the board.

Reply author: pcoleman
Replied on: 28 Feb 2014 22:01:29
Message:

I agree

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 02 Mar 2014 23:21:31
Message:

I agree

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 02 Mar 2014 23:28:11
Message:

I agree

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 03 Mar 2014 17:05:14
Message:

if nobody donnot agree with the travel award,i will put it on website soon.

Reply author: rjellison
Replied on: 03 Mar 2014 18:32:21
Message:

I agree with the proposal for 4 travel awards of \$750 each.

Reply author: rjellison
Replied on: 03 Mar 2014 18:36:44
Message:

I agree with Aharon's perspective on the need to keep the Salinology Foundation awards separate from ISSLR's. I also concur that we should plan to award two William's Awards to outstanding young scientists at \$800 each (one oral and one poster). It would seem that Salinology awards should be decided by the local sponsors in their name and not the society's.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 03 Mar 2014 20:25:11
Message:

We now have a majority in favor of the ISSLR travel awards for young participants from outside China, so the organizers may post the information on the conference web site.

Reply author: fkong
Replied on: 04 Mar 2014 01:19:54

Message:

Dear all,
I shall release the information on website.
Travel Awards

The ISSLR encourages students and researchers from around the world to attend the conferences. There is a budget for travel assistance. If such assistance would enable you to attend (whether you are a student or scientist), please send an application in free format with estimated ticket price, your CV, and the title of your planned presentation or poster to the President of the ISSLR (Dr. Aharon Oren, aharon.oren@mail.huji.ac.il). The International Society of Salt Lake Research can support only travel expenses (4 travel awards of \$750 each). Travel awards will be distributed based on the scientific quality and financial needs of applicants. Do you have any modified?

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 04 Mar 2014 03:20:57

Message:

Yes, a modification is needed as one key word is missing: "young". So let's change this to: The ISSLR encourages students and young researchers from around the world to attend the conferences. There is a budget for travel assistance for students and researches up to the age of 35. If such assistance would enable you to attend ...

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 13 Apr 2014 00:41:45

Message:

For your information - thus far I have received only one request for financial support for students and young scientists. It came from Lucila Castro from Argentina, who was one of the helpers at the Mar Chiquita conference, and she submitted a nice abstract about flamingos in Mar Chiquita.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 19 Apr 2014 21:57:53

Message:

I have thus far received one application for a travel grant from the ISSLR only - from Lucila Castro (see my message of 13 April on this forum). I propose to approve this request, and if no further requests will be received by May 10 (the deadline for abstract submission) I propose to increase Lucila's travel grant to \$ 1500. Please let me know whether there are any objections. If you know about any other young participants from outside China who would like to receive financial assistance for travel to China, please encourage them to notify me as soon as possible.

Reply author: pcoleman

Replied on: 20 Apr 2014 21:20:17

Message:

I agee

Reply author: Egor Zadereev

Replied on: 21 Apr 2014 19:30:56

Message:

I sent the information about travel awards and the conference to all my colleagues and scientific contacts. I hope that at least Russia will be well represented at the conference.

About the travel awards. Let us wait until the abstract deadline that is May 10.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 22 Apr 2014 02:36:09

Message:

Egor, encourage your young Russian colleagues to apply for ISSLR travel grants as soon as possible. All I need is a letter with short CV and a copy of the abstract.

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 02 May 2014 23:10:37

Message:

(a message also sent by e-mail to all board members)

Dear friends,

As communication and exchange of information and ideas through the Board Forum has not been very efficient lately (understatement!), I want to update and consult you about the ISSRL travel grant applications. A reminder: we had allocated US \$ 3000 for this purpose to support travel of up to four young (no older than 35) scientists from countries outside China. The deadline for applications is May 5, and I would like to notify the winners of our decisions no later than May 10.

Thus far I have received three applications, and I attach the abstracts [attached to the e-mail message]. If anyone wants to see the applicants' CV as well, I will be pleased to send these to you.

Assuming that no further applications will be received in the coming two days, my recommendations and proposal for approval by the board are as follows:

Lucila Castro - This nice young lady was one of the student - helpers in the Mar Chiquita meeting, she is very enthusiastic but has no money. As the journey from Argentina is expensive, I propose to support her with a travel grant of \$ 1500.

Darin Fedor - The abstract is interesting, but curiously it does not mention the key word "salt" anywhere - except in "Results [sic] and Discussion". I propose to support Fedor with a grant of \$ 750, which is about the cost of his flight ticket to China.

Dulma Tsyrenova - I have a problem here. Based on the abstract I do not see any special scientific merit. Moreover, the CV states her English language proficiency as "beginner". I am hesitant to recommend a travel grant for Dulma based on this information. I know we have money left, but to my opinion we should not grant it to applicants whose scientific merit and possible contribution to the symposium is doubtful. Note that in Argentina we also did not use all the money allocated to the travel grants.

I am now looking forward to your comments. I will of course update you in case more applications will be received until May 5. Based on your comments (which you may send to be directly by e-mail and/or post on the board forum) I will post on May 8 a final recommendation for approval by the board, and if no objections will be received within two days I will notify the applicants on May 10. I will not wait for a majority of board members in favor on the Board Forum, as at the current level of participation in the Board Forum it will take weeks - months (if at all).

Please note that I will be out of my office in the period May 11-17; e-mail access will be very limited.

I will post this message on the Board Forum as well.

Best wishes,

Aharon

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 04 May 2014 20:28:02
Message:

No additional applications for ISSLR travel grants were received. I therefore request the approval by the board of the following proposal:

Lucila Castro - travel grant of \$ 1500.

Darin Fedor - a travel grant of \$ 750, which is about the cost of his flight ticket to China.

Dulma Tsyrenova - in view of the little contribution expected based on the quality of the abstract and other factors as well, I propose not to support her.

This means that we will use only \$ 2,250 out of the \$ 3000 allocated to the travel grants.

On May 10, just before I will leave for a trip abroad, I want to notify the winners of the grants. Therefore I am looking forward to your comments / approval / alternative options no later than May 9. On May 10 I will make the decision based on the replies received.

I will post this message also on the e-mail to each of the board members.

Reply author: Egor Zadereev
Replied on: 04 May 2014 21:26:21
Message:

I agree

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 06 May 2014 21:43:01
Message:

Based on the correspondence on the forum and also directly to my e-mail we now have a nice majority in favor of my proposal (Aharon - Bob - Egor - Peri - Nikolay - Maria - Diogenes). Today I will notify Lucila and Darin about their travel grants and I will write to Dulma and let her know our negative decision.

Reply author: aoren
Replied on: 27 Jul 2014 00:27:14
Message:

The conference is now over, and I greatly enjoyed the event. Thanks to the organizers and all participants!

I will now close this topic.

ISSLR Forums : <http://www.isslr.org/forums/>

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