

8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

Botanic Gardens – People and Plants for a Sustainable Future



6th – 9th August 2024,
Suntec Convention Singapore



Botanic Gardens – People and Plants for a Sustainable Future

Key messages

- **Human dependence on plants** for survival and well-being is total and absolute
- **Climate change and biodiversity loss** elevate the role of botanic gardens in connecting people and plants for a sustainable future
- Botanic gardens can **learn much from each other** in areas such as research and conservation, education and outreach, and horticulture
- Botanic gardens can achieve more through **collaborations** among themselves and with their stakeholders

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4 themes
900 delegates,
of which 250 were online
across 73 countries

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Main take-home messages

collaboration enabling resilient urban landscapes

plants are good for our health

communicate it data driven decisions

share ideas and materials responsibly

engage with others

take action

step outside of the gardens



Green and Sustainable Cities



Plant Diversity and Conservation



Gardens For The Future



Engaging Communities

Green and Sustainable Cities

Summary

- We need to enable resilience in urban landscapes
 - This includes resilience in the species chosen – Climbers etc.
 - Always consider climate change – especially if including trees in landscapes
- Encourage sharing of skills between experts and local communities
- It is imperative to connect inside and outside the garden, go out to the communities
- Embrace native plants in urban landscape

Gardens for the future

Summary

- We need the future generation of horticulturalists – support is needed for career progression, mentorship and professional training
- Diversify who gardens work with; include landscape architects and designers! Master plan is a key to success
- Collaboration at the heart of all activities and success
- Botanic gardens hold knowledge that needs to be shared with nursery industry
 - Gardens are bridges between science and society
- Practitioner knowledge is crucial
- Detailed specimen data and AI models for seed characteristics are needed
- Challenges: combining garden functions with research
- Clear collection policies and prioritisations are essential
- Data driven decision making requires almost continual updating of database functions

Engaging communities

Summary

- More plants go extinct than animals due to illegal trade
- People are motivated in preserving local biodiversity, but they need training how best to do this
- We need storytelling to create behavioural change
- Volunteer programme
 - Tap into retired scientists!
 - Reframe volunteer programmes: “ I volunteer at the Herbarium” to I contribute to conservation
- Witness trees have power, hope and remembrance. Trees can be an anchor, especially in places that are unstable.
- Inclusion is having a sense of belonging and the freedom to be oneself

Plant Diversity & Conservation

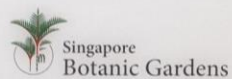
Summary

- Data is needed for implementing and developing botanic gardens
- Botanic gardens need to cooperate with communities, engage collaborate further
- We need data driven strategies with full botanical understanding, and public involvement for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation
- Propagation, translocation, reintroductions
- Managing genetic diversity in *ex situ* collections
- Pollen banking and metacollections are solutions already being developed
- Seed banking is not only for long term storage but for ecosystem, restoration and research
- Share your protocols! Conservation horticulture is key
- Don't just generate, data use it and share it

5 - 10 August 2024
Suntec Singapore

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Singapore, 2024



Setting the scene – Opening ceremony



Opening Ceremony

Opening Remarks by Co-organisers

Paul Smith

General, Botanic Garden Conservation International, UK



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**8th Global Botanic
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Panel Discussion 1:
Heritage value and conservation
- a panel discussion with three UNESCO World Heritage Gardens

Convened by:
Tan Puay Yok (Singapore Botanic Gardens)
Richard Deverell (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)
Livio Trainotti (University of Padua)

Moderated by:
Thereis Choo (Singapore Botanic Gardens)

The Palm House - 1848
 Kew



7 Plenaries and panel discussions

175 Talks in concurrent sessions



21 Workshops



Amazing food, collaborations and poster sessions



Inviting new friends into the community



How do you make a difference in people that just want to survive?

Gala dinner and announcement of 9GBGC



The International Advisory Council meeting



Tours around Singapore



Credit: rashid.afzal



Credit: c.willis



Closing ceremony and awards



Organising team – Singapore Botanic Gardens



Organising team - BGCI

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What's next?

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Closing Ceremony

9th August 2024

Suntec
SINGAPORE

The 11th
INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS ON
EDUCATION
11-15 OCTOBER 2025
11-15 OCTOBER 2025
IN BOTANIC
GARDENS

The 11th
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11th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens 2025



9GBGC will be held in Chicago (US) in 2027

Plant Conservation Action – Click to Join



ERA

Ecological Restoration
Alliance of Botanic Gardens



GCC

Global Conservation
Consortia



GLOBAL TREES

Action for all tree species



GTA

Global Tree
Assessment



Acer



Cycads



Conifers



Dipterocarps



Erica



Nothofagus



Magnolia



Oak



Rhododendron



IPSN

International Plant
Sentinel Network



BGCI

Tree Conservation Fund



GSCC

Global Seed
Conservation Challenge

Explore, Collaborate and Share

Click to explore



Update your garden profile

Add your plant/seed collections

Exchange plant material

Check level of threat of a taxon

Find distribution of a tree

Send known conservation actions on trees

Climate Assessment Tool

Check suitability of trees in predicted future climate scenarios

Index Seminum

Annual exchange of seeds between organisations

Other available resources



Sponsors – Thank you



Korea Forest Service
Korea National Arboretum

Rosslyn Leong



THE
CHAMPION
of TREES



Tan Jiew Hoe

