

Academia Sinica to hold Open House on October 31- Biotechnology, Ecology, Environment

Since 1998, every fall, Academia Sinica throws open its doors for its “Open House” day. This year the festival will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 9 am to 4 pm. To celebrate the opening of the National Biotechnology Research Park next year, the theme of this year’s open house is “Biotechnology, Ecology, Environment” highlighting the concept of the balance between the development of biotechnology and the conservation of environmental ecology. The Academy facilities will host over 240 activities suitable for all ages including a range of popular science lectures, visits to core research facilities, hands-on do-it-yourself activities and film presentations. Members of the public as well as groups and the media are welcome to join in the fun.

An exhibition entitled “Live and Prosper Together: Grow Via Sustainable Ways” will be held in the left hallway of the Genomics Research Center from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. President Chi-Huey Wong will give welcome remarks during an opening ceremony at 9:30 am in the same venue. Professor of the Department of Life Science, National Tsing Hua University, Editor-in-Chief of the of Scientific American (Chinese Edition) Dr. Chia-Wei Li will deliver a speech between 10:30 am and 12:00 pm in the International Conference Hall, 3F, Humanities and Social Sciences Building, entitled “We the Killers and Guardians of the Earth” to call attention to our inescapable duty to protect the precious Earth environment. Taiwan Biobank, an important national-scale project run by Academia Sinica focusing on causes and treatments for chronic diseases prevalent in Taiwan, will present their three-year achievement in the exhibition entitled “The Ways toward Personalized Medicine”. Taiwan Biobank is expected to gather bio-information about 200,000 Taiwanese people within 10 years.

A well-known performance team “Judy’s Harmonica Ensemble”, the World Champions of the World Harmonica Festival in 2013 is scheduled to play classic, folk and jazz songs on their rare harmonicas at 2 pm in the Auditorium of the Center of Academic Activities.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Ethnology. To celebrate the event, the Institute is hosting a special exhibition entitled “Unfaded Splendor—Contemporary Development and Multiple Representations of Myanmar/Burmese Classical Music”. In addition, the newly renovated Biodiversity Research Museum is presenting an exhibition of birds, insects, crustaceans and cephalopods, specimens, and herbarium exhibits. As usual, guided tours of the Walking Area of the Ecological Pond and the Ecological Research Park will be conducted by enthusiastic ecological volunteers who will present hand-painted seed pendants to visitors as souvenirs.

Forty popular science lectures will be held around the campus during the day to attract high school teachers and students. Titles include “Fighting an Organized Crime Network between Tumor and Its Microenvironment – Challenges and Opportunities in Anticancer Drug Discovery”, “The World at Nanometer Scale”, “Does Life Origin from Outer Space?”, “Weather is Always on my

Mind”, “Is Pluto a Planet?”, “Understanding Disasters from Social Perspectives”, “Free Speech or Cyberbullying?”, “Economic Forecast for Dummies”, “Stories about Desserts for Tea Times”, “Nature, Landscape and Art: Thinking through Zhuangzi (莊子)” and many more.

Academia Sinica advanced core research facilities will also be open to visit, such as Ultra High Throughput Screening, Mass Spectrometer, X-ray Diffractometer, Laser Spectroscopy Laboratory, Nanobioscience Laboratory, Solar Panel, ASGC Data Center, and CATI Laboratory.

The activities organized especially for children over 6 years old include “Preparing a Warm Nest for Mice”, “Hands-on Earthquake Observation”, “God of Gambling: War of Probability”, “Observing Sunspots”, “Dance with Coca Cola: Interesting Chemistry Experiments”, “Searching for National Treasures”, and “Han Wishes”. Visitors who collect stamps from the activities they visit on a computer-based “worksheet” distributed at reception centers on the day will receive a limited number of prizes.

(Visitors to Academia Sinica Open Day are reminded to take public transportation systems whenever possible, to avoid traffic congestion.)

Detailed information about activities is available in Chinese and English at the Open House website: <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/openhouse/2015/>