



Foreword

We are honoured and privileged to organize the 9th International Symposium on Reproductive Physiology of Fish (ISRPF) in Kochi, India from August 9-14, 2011. We thank the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the 8th ISRPF, 2007, St. Malo, France for accepting our proposal and entrusting us with the responsibility of organizing the 9th ISRPF in Kochi. We also express our appreciation gratitude to the IAC members and other scientists for their active support, advice and suggestions in planning and preparing the scientific program. The program includes 8 symposium sessions, covering both platform and poster presentations. The scientific sessions cover areas of contemporary interests in fish reproductive physiology such as Reproductive Neuroendocrinology, Sex determination and gonad differentiation, Reproductive cycles, behavior and migration, Spermatogenesis, Folliculogenesis, Spawning, fertilization and early embryogenesis, Endocrine disruptors and reproductive toxicology, and Fish biotechnology and aquaculture. The detailed program is appended *inter alia*. The session on Spawning, fertilization and early Embryogenesis has been introduced with the object of focusing research in this direction. 190 abstracts were accepted for presentation, which include a keynote lecture, 8 plenary lectures, 49 platform presentations and 133 poster presentations. It is regretted that due to time constraints, the scientific committee could not include as many abstracts as it desired in the platform presentation category, without parallel sessions which has not been the convention in the ISRPF meetings. Consequent upon the decision of the National Organizing Committee (NOC) in consultation with the IAC, the abstracts are published as short papers in the form of the Symposium Proceedings. It is also intended to publish selected abstracts in a Special Issue of Fish Physiology and Biochemistry, Springer for which an agreement has been signed with the Publisher.

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to all the participants at the symposium and to India. The symposium venue Lulu International Convention Centre and Garden Hotels, Thrissur, in the erstwhile Kochi Kingdom and now a district of Kerala, is enchanting. We hope you will enjoy the stay and the excursion tour in and around Kochi.

We thank the members of the NOC and Local Organizing Committee for their untiring efforts for the smooth conduct of the symposium. We are grateful to The Principal and Board of Directors of the Madras Christian College for institutional facility and support of Head & faculty members of Zoology Department. We owe to the Government agencies of UGC, CSIR, MoEF, MoES, DBT, DST and ICAR and private agencies for financial support, which made us to subsidize the expenses. The timely printing and publishing of the Symposium Proceedings by the Indian Society for Education and Environment, Chennai is gratefully acknowledged. The enthusiasm and energetic service of the students and research scholars at Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University (Tapan Chourasia, Geeta Gautam, Rahul Singh, Arup Acharjee, Putul Banerji) and Department of Zoology, Madras Christian College (Nirmal Magdalenal, Gokulakrishnan, Madhu Magesh, Saravanan, Ramachandra Prabhu, Lynda Keren, Rose Gregoria, Prakash) are admirable and acknowledged.

Kochi
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Editors