

MICROBIAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NETWORK OF MICROBIAL CULTURE COLLECTIONS (PNMCC)

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Abstract:

The preservation of microbial resources in the Philippines is being spearheaded by the Philippine Network of Microbial Culture Collections, Inc. (PNMCC). The PNMCC was established in 1996 through the initiative of the Philippine National Collection of Microorganisms (PNCM) which is based at the National Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (BIOTECH), University of the Philippines Los Baños. Starting with four culture collections as charter members, the PNMCC now has eight affiliate culture collections and 204 individual members from all over the country. The PNCM serves as the permanent headquarters of the PNMCC. To date, the PNMCC affiliate Culture Collections has a total culture holding of around 8,000 accessions, most of them bacteria, fungi and a few algae. Some 1500 strains are still to be identified. More than 1,000 cultures have been distributed by the PNMCC affiliate Culture Collections in 2009, to students, researchers and private companies. The PNMCC functions to :

- 1). To provide a permanent secretariat for all culture collections in the country and a central contact point for Philippine scientists and institutions seeking advice and information on microbiological materials and culture-collection related matters;
- 2). Establish an effective liaison between persons and organizations concerned with culture collections and among users of the cultures;
- 3). Collect information on the strains and services offered by the different culture collections;
- 4). Publicize the resources within the culture collections in terms of materials and scientific expertise by preparing printed and visual materials for distribution as well as producing informative literature for scientifically and industrially oriented publications;
- 5). Encourage the study of procedures for isolation, culture, characterization, conservation and distribution of microorganisms and to make known the most recommendable methods through the conduct of training programs;
- 6). Promote the training of personnel for the operation of culture collections; and
- 7). Promote the establishment of a national data service concerned with the location of, and information about microorganisms maintained in culture collections and to publish a Philippine Directory of Culture Collections.

Key words: Microbial, Culture, Collection, Philippine, Network