

IMCAS-BRC, Toward better management and more efficient exploitation of microbial resources

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Abstract:

Biological resource centers (BRCs) are an essential part of the infrastructure dedicated to the investigation of the structure, functions, and applications of biological systems by developing cooperative activities for sharing validated biological material and data among government agencies, industry, academia, and the public. Some attempts have been made since 1980 for improving culture collection management in China including establishment of CCCC, CTCCAS and NFSNR. China General Microbiological Culture Collection Center (CGMCC), founded in 1952, is affiliated with the Institute of Microbiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMCAS), which is a leading microbiological research institution in China. The CGMCC became a member of the CCCC, CTCCAS and World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) and acquired the status of an International Depository Authority (IDA) under the Budapest Treaty. Biological Resources Center, Institute of Microbiology Chinese Academy of Sciences (IMCAS-BRC) has been set up by integrating the China General Culture Collection Center (CGMCC), the Information Center and the newly developed high throughput evaluation platform of microbial metabolites in July, 2009. The mission of IMCAS-BRC is to serve as an integrated public infrastructure of culture collection, research and utilization of microorganisms, in order to sustain biotechnology innovation. IMCAS-BRC not only provides universities, institutions, and industries of microbial strains, metabolites and gene resources and services, but also welcomes joint research and development projects. In 2010, the quality management system of CGMCC was audited and issued compliant with ISO 9001:2008 requirements and OECD standard for BRC. In the future, CGMCC will continue to provide high quality microbial resources, information and techniques to support and promote the development of bio-industry in china.

Key words: CGMCC, IMCAS-BRC, microbial resources, quality management