

2023 InterRidge Report for SCOR

After 3 years of lockdown under COVID-19, things are starting to look up in early 2023. On February 28, 2023, an online Steering Committee Meeting was held. China expressed interest in hosting the InterRidge office for the next 3 years in Shenzhen. However, many young scientists expressed that reform of InterRidge is needed before seeking to solicit applications for the next InterRidge office. 'Reform first' was agreed upon by most members of the Steering Committee. An extension was given to the InterRidge Office in Korea until the end of the year (December 31, 2023). It was also agreed that a face-to-face meeting was needed for the Steering Committee members. As a result, the first offline meeting since the global pandemic will be held at Seoul National University in Korea from September 25-27.

Some of the items that will be discussed during the September Steering Committee meeting include (1) reforming the governance of InterRidge (in particular, whether to separate the science and operation of InterRidge or not), (2) codifying InterRidge regulations into written text, (3) making a regular InterRidge Conference every 2 years, (4) drafting of The Next Decadal Plan (2024-2033), and other eminent issues.

On June 8-9, a workshop on the Indian Ocean was held in Shenzhen, China, hosted by Jian Lin. On August 14-18, The 7th International Symposium on Chemosynthesis-Based Ecosystems (CBE7) will be held in San Paulo, Brazil.

Sang-Mook Lee

Chair of InterRidge