

## *The Inaugural Conference of the Asian Chapter of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation*

In July 2006, an **Asian Chapter** was established for the **Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation** (ATBC) at its annual conference, in Kunming, China. The Association for Tropical Biology (ATB) was founded in 1963 to promote research and to foster the exchange of ideas among biologists working in tropical environments. Today, most tropical biologists recognize that human interactions in the tropics are a critical element of biological research. This recognition now includes efforts to link together scientists concerned with issues of science, conservation, development, and public policy in the tropics, and to enhance our understanding of human-environment interactions. Thus, in 2002, the membership of ATB overwhelmingly voted to expand its mission and changed its name to the **Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation**.

The purpose of the ATBC and its regional chapters is to develop a much needed **network of biologists** working on biology and conservation in the tropics.

Tropical Asian forests are among the most fabulous treasure-houses of biodiversity in the world, but massive deforestation and other types of degradation are severely endangering these ecosystems. The protection of the priceless surviving forests will depend on effective conservation strategies developed through well-coordinated efforts by biologists, policy makers and forest managers.



### Papers are Invited!

The first conference of the Asian chapter of the **ATBC** will to be held at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai (formerly known as Madras), India from 6-8 March 2007.

Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage site which hosts nearly 400 monuments, and which features exquisite rock carvings and ancient temples dating back nearly two millennia to the dynasty of the southern-Indian Pallava King, Narasimha Varman.

The conference will be held at the Temple Bay Hotel, which oversees wave-sculpted temples built on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The venue is about 60 km from Chennai International Airport and 100 km from Pondicherry.

This Conference has a **strong conservation focus** with the central theme:

### *'Averting biodiversity meltdown in the Asian tropics'*

Specific themes will be:

- Botanical gardens for Plant Conservation
- The Western Ghats/Sri Lanka Biodiversity hotspot
- Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes
- Endangered Ecosystem Services
- Ecosystem and Species Dynamics
- Findings from a network of Ecological Dynamics plots across Asia

***Dr. Peter Ashton will be the chief guest and will deliver the keynote address***

***Dr. William F. Laurance will deliver the valedictory address***

Please send **Abstracts** not exceeding 300 words, with Titles, Speaker names and institution/affiliations to [atbc\\_asia@yahoo.com](mailto:atbc_asia@yahoo.com) and [atbcasia@gmail.com](mailto:atbcasia@gmail.com)

Please send the symposia proposals to [atbc\\_asia@yahoo.com](mailto:atbc_asia@yahoo.com)

### Registration fees

		USD	INR
Developed countries	ATBC member	150	6900
	Non member	200	9200
Students*	ATBC member	50	2300
	Non member	80	3680
Developing countries	ATBC member	100	4600
	Non member	150	6900
Students*	ATBC member	40	1840
	Non member	60	2760

Details on the mode of payment and conference accommodation, field trips are given in the registration form, which can be downloaded on the ATBC website ([www.atbio.org](http://www.atbio.org))

### IMPORTANT DATES

1 October 2006: Registration opens  
15 November 2006: Symposia proposals DUE  
15 December 2006: Abstracts for Oral/poster presentations DUE  
31 December 2006: Last day for early registration  
15 January 2007: Notification of acceptance

Completed registration form can be sent the convenor by post or via email to [atbcasia@gmail.com](mailto:atbcasia@gmail.com) Please write "ATBC Asia Registration" in the subject line of an email submission.

### For more information please contact:

Dr. Priya Davidar [pdavidar@gmail.com](mailto:pdavidar@gmail.com)

Ms. K.Geetha Nayak [nayakkg@gmail.com](mailto:nayakkg@gmail.com)

### **Best abstracts from students for oral/poster presentations will be given financial aid**

\*\*Students MUST provide proof of student status, e.g. copy of their student identification, with the registration form.

**JOIN ATBC TODAY!!** [www.atbio.org](http://www.atbio.org)

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## ATBC-ASIA Conference

### Dr. Priya Davidar

Convenor

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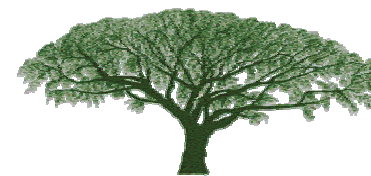
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**The Association  
for Tropical  
Biology and  
Conservation**

## Asian Chapter Conference

*"Averting Biodiversity Meltdown in the  
Asian Tropics"*

sponsored by



**French Institute of Pondicherry India**

**March 6-8<sup>th</sup> 2007**

GRT Temple Bay Hotel  
Mahabalipuram  
Tamilnadu, India

### Contact Details

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