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PREFACE

This volume is the permanent record of more than three hundred poster presentations submitted to the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists (FAOB) which took place in Singapore from 30 November to 5 December, 1986.

The Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists was formed in 1972 and is the grouping of Biochemical Societies of Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hawaii, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The FAOB is an Associated Organization of the International Union of Biochemistry (IUB) from which it receives substantial financial support that enables it to hold the triennial FAOB Congress as well as annual symposia of a more specialized nature.

The Fourth FAOB Congress was organized and hosted by the Singapore Biochemical Society with additional support from the Science Council of Singapore, the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Turf Club.

The ICSU Short Report format was started in 1984 and is intended to prolong the useful life of poster presentations which are now a regular feature of scientific meetings. Posters can be very informative and current but are usually displayed for only a few hours during which they may not be seen by all interested participants. The use of the Short Report format is new to many scientists working in the Asia-Pacific region. It is hoped that the extra trouble involved in preparing these Short Reports is justified by having a durable, informative and retrievable record of the many scientific contributions that were presented.

This volume, in a paperback version, was included in the registration package for Congress participants while the hardback version was simultaneously placed on open sale by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the ICSU Press.

THE ICSU PRESS

The ICSU Press, the publishing house of the International Council of Scientific Unions, was founded in 1983 to serve the publishing needs of ICSU and the ICSU family. Many of these family members are already heavily engaged in publishing, but the need was felt for a central service within ICSU to carry out the following functions:

Undertaking publication projects for any ICSU family member, initiating interdisciplinary projects on behalf of a group of ICSU members; advising on publication activities both for technical and contractual matters and providing written recommendations and guidelines for these purposes; acting as an expert negotiator on behalf of ICSU members; producing service publications for them and studying new communications technologies.

Since it began publishing in 1984, the ICSU Press has published seven symposia. It has launched two journals, BioEssays and the Journal of Tropical Ecology. It has initiated a new rapid-communication format embodied already in four volumes of "Short Reports". Educational texts, monographs and semi-popular expositions of the work of the ICSU family are in preparation.

ICSU Press activities are made known in its Newsletter, distributed twice yearly to the ICSU family and cooperating bodies. Further information about the ICSU Press may be had from the office of the Chairman at P.O. Box 016129, Miami, Florida 33101, U.S.A.



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