



ABSTRACT

“BGI and Genomics in China - “Life Sciences for all” in the 21st Century”

Huanming Yang, Ph.D.

Professor & President

BGI (Beijing Genomics Institute)-Shenzhen, China

The recent progresses in biotechnology, such as iPS and stem cell research, animal cloning and bio-plants, synthetic biology and many others, have made it even more obvious that life sciences would have significant impact on every respect of our life and society in the 21st Century.

It is also widely accepted that reading and decoding genome sequences of an organism is the basis and beginning for any biological studies on it. Based on its persistent belief that “life is of sequence” and “life is digital”, BGI, a flagship in genomics in China for the decade, has built its powerful capacity in sequencing and bio-computing with its young and innovative teams, and greatly contributed to the global genomics and to the future development of biotechnology as one of the biggest and most influential genomics centers in the world.

As a later comer in the modern life sciences, the growth of BGI is deeply rooted in the Chinese tradition and Culture, for example:

- 1) Foresight: “Success could not be made without foresight, failure from no prediction”.
- 2) Persistence: “Winners are only those with persistence”.
- 3) Learning: “Among those three passing by, at least one is qualified to be your teacher”.
- 4) Confidence: “The later comers always do a better job because of the pioneers ahead”.
- 5) Collaboration: “Nobody could be a hero without three partners”.
- 6) Appreciation: “When you drink sweet water, never forget those helped dig the well”.

As an institute in the developing part of the world, BGI has been raising the banner of both science and humanity, and actively participating in the discussion on HELSOC issues (Humanitarian, Ethical, Legal, SOcial, and Cultural issues) that are essential to “life science for all” in the 21st century.