

Prof. Dr. Tianzhen Zhang

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Tianzhen Zhang received his B.S. Degree (1982) from the Zhejiang Agricultural University, and M.S. Degree (1986) and PhD degree (1991) from Nanjing Agricultural University in Genetics and Crop Breeding. As a leading scientist in cotton genetics and genomics, Prof. Zhang have published more than 150 papers in genetics, genomics and molecular breeding in *Nature Biotechnol*, *Nature Commun*, *Genome Biol.*, etc. He lead and co-lead to sequence and assemble the genome genomes of *Gossypium hirsutum* and *G. barbadense*. This high-quality genome sequences have been released to cotton community and extensively used in genetic, genomics and molecular breeding to meet the growing demand for renewable fiber. Several important genes such as glandless Gl_2^c , fuzzy seed N_1 and industrially important lint fiber development gene (Li_3) etc. have been map-based isolated. Dr. Tianzhen Zhang of Nanjing Agricultural University and Dr. Z. Jeff Chen of the University of Texas were selected as recipients of the **2016 Cotton Biotechnology Award** for their outstanding research in developing a draft upland cotton genome sequence.

What is the roles of ICGI after the genome sequencing? I have always believed that ICGI can make more contributions to the global cotton production. I would like to continue serving the global cotton research community through ICGI as we did before. As local organizer, I organized the Third ICGI Workshop in Nanjing in June 3-6th, 2002. 159 participants from 17 countries have actively participated in this workshop. This successful workshop greatly enhances the development of ICGI and the biannual ICGI Research Conference is thereafter fixed by ICGI. I am an active member who served as the first elected co-Chair of ICGI Structural Genomics Workgroup (2003-2005) and Chair (2005-2007), followed by serving as the elected Co-Chair (2011-2013) and the Chair of ICGI (2013-2015).