

ICGI Advisory Committee Report
–September 2006–

The Advisory Committee (AC) respectfully and unanimously presents the following report in conjunction with the *ICGI Research Conference*, Brazil 18-20 September 2006.

- The AC would like to express sincere appreciation to the ICGI Conference Committee and the Brazil Local Committee for the time and effort put into hosting this Conference. The venue, arrangements, and details of the meeting were handled in a very professional manner.
- This ICGI Conference attracted a broad and diverse audience from the private and public research sectors. The number of last-minute “no-shows” was disheartening and frustrating. This should not reflect on the efforts of the organizing committees mentioned above. There are a host of reasons for this that may be unavoidable in an international forum. That being said, the AC expresses grave concern with the lack of participation by some members of the ICGI-Steering Committees. Clearly, very legitimate reasons exist for difficulty in participating or traveling by some individuals. However, it is inexcusable to not send another representative or at least to send a report or information to contribute to the ICGI Conference or discussions at the conference. The AC is left to assume that some members of the ICGI-SC have little respect for the organization or its utility. In the future, SC officers should be selected that are passionate, committed and willing to participate in the formal activities of ICGI!
- It is the opinion of the ICGI-AC that much time and effort was wasted this last year debating minutia of the Constitution and By-Laws (CBL). The AC hopes that the CBL now in place will permit focus on scientific issues in a timely manner. There is little patience for continued use of CBL to explicitly block many activities of the ICGI and ultimately paralyze the ICGI.
- The AC was encouraged by the lively discussion regarding cotton genome sequencing. The AC strongly endorses the idea of composing a “Cotton Genome Sequencing White Paper” that expresses the diverse views and ongoing research efforts of the cotton scientific community in this critical area. This should not be a “consensus paper” but a forum for future courses that agencies and countries can begin to embrace as a community effort. This would be a great accomplishment for ICGI. The private sector AC can also compose a section in the white paper to begin the dialogue on the expectations and role of the private sector in cotton genome sequencing efforts.
- The AC is united in the belief that private sector scientists should have full participation in ICGI, such as voting and serving on the working groups or committees. Several scientists of the private sector are very active in cotton genome research and can significantly contribute to the functioning of working groups or committees. Moreover, many of them participate in ICGI meetings without fail and present their work. One of the goals of ICGI is to foster cooperation of public and private scientists where appropriate. That will best be facilitated by full integration of the private sector into ICGI.
- Continued financial support of the private sector for ICGI is critical to success. To that end, the AC recommends to ICGI that the leadership submit a brief “financial report” following the Brazil meeting to the entire membership, of course, including sponsors. This is not a detailed audit but a general accounting (single page or so) of how funds were used and any carryover. This will ensure confidence in ICGI and assist with future fund raising efforts.