

News: ICBC2 goes 100% virtual

The COVID-19 situation is unrelenting and very dynamic, and the vaccination campaigns worldwide will require significant time. This requires a decision on how to proceed with the 2nd International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC2). At the end of January 2021, the IOBC and CABI, as the organizers of this congress, concluded that a hybrid meeting is no longer feasible and therefore ICBC2 will go 100% virtual!

Despite the obvious disadvantages of not having a face-to-face scientific meeting in Davos, Switzerland, there are a number of obvious advantages, such as saving on travel, food and accommodation costs and not having to deal with visa issues. We could discuss arguments back and forth on what kind of format is best but it is also clear that such a virtual format increases accessibility and inclusion by reducing barriers to participation around the globe.

As ICBC2 is a truly international meeting, the different time zones remain a challenge but we feel that we have developed a concept which will satisfy a large number of participants. It will enable contributors and observers to attend the virtual scientific session (posters and talks) and panel discussions in real time when they are live-streamed. All scientific sessions and panels will be recorded too, so that everyone will have the opportunity to pick and choose as they like.

We are truly thankful to you all in terms of your ongoing interest, support and commitment to make ICBC2 a success through the encouraging number of early registrations and the submission of papers and posters. We have now closed the submission process and have analyzed the final submission results. We can already say that the final submission results look great as it will enable us to compile a strong scientific programme with approximately 22 scientific sessions and a number of very interesting panel discussions.

It is foreseeable that the registration fee will be in the range of approximately CHF 350. Please check out further developments under www.IOBC-ICBC.com or send an e-mail to info@IOBC-ICBC.com

We are looking forward to arranging a stimulating ICBC2 with your strong support and active participation!

Stay safe and best wishes,

Ulli Kuhlmann, Martin Hill & George Heimpel