

## President Elect Candidate: Jian-Min Zhou

### Priorities:

I have been a proud member of IS-MPMI since 1996, and the Society has provided an irreplaceable platform for my career development through two continents, North America and Asia. As a candidate for the presidency of IS-MPMI, I embrace the mission and vision of the Society with a deep commitment to advancing our understanding of plant-microbe interactions. The mission of IS-MPMI is to support and promote membership achievement by providing platforms for communication, fostering global professional networking, creating channels for outreach to the public and policymakers, and offering resources for educating and mentoring young scientists. My dedication is to ensure the continued progress of our field through these avenues, facilitating the exchange of new discoveries and opportunities for researchers worldwide.

The vision of IS-MPMI, to embody a diverse, engaged, international community of scientists, educators, and stakeholders, resonates strongly with me. Asia-pacific now accounts for at least half of the MPMI research activities in terms of community size and research productivity. My professional activities have been rooted in Asia for the last twenty years, which provides me with a unique perspective and resources to engage local communities. I envision a society that not only creates but also actively shares foundational knowledge in plant-microbe interactions. If elected, I am committed to fostering an inclusive environment that encourages collaboration and embraces the diversity of perspectives within our scientific community. This is particularly important at a time when the world is challenged by geopolitical issues. In leading IS-MPMI, I am committed to highlighting and leveraging the rich contributions of Asian scholars in our field.

The purposes of IS-MPMI, including advancing interdisciplinary science related to molecular interactions of plants with various microbes, align with my belief in the importance of diverse research approaches to tackle complex challenges. My own research involves multi-disciplinary collaborations from scientists in the USA, China, United Kingdoms, Switzerland, Korea, and France. I am prepared to take the lead in the society by actively supporting the organization of international congresses, facilitating the recognition of exceptional achievements in the field, and encouraging affiliations with national and regional organizations with a goal to enhance our global impact.

### Commitment to principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion:

Diversity and inclusion are core values of our community. I fully support the existing tradition of IS-MPMI that engages scientists from underrepresented regions and groups and will work towards fostering an inclusive environment within our community. Recognizing Asia as a key contributor to science in MPMI, I am committed to increasing diversity and facilitating positive change on a global scale. If elected, my priorities for the Society include strengthening international collaboration, promoting diversity in research, and enhancing educational initiatives for young scientists. My commitment to principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion stems from a belief in the power of varied perspectives to drive innovation and excellence in our field.

**Region(s) of the world I am representing:**

Representing the region(s) of the world I come from, I bring unique experiences and insights that will contribute to the richness of discussions within the community.

**Short Bio: Jian-Min Zhou**

Chief Scientist at the Yazhouwan National Laboratory, Sanya, China

**Jian-Min** grew up in Chengdu, China and received PhD at Purdue University in the USA. Throughout the career, he has served on the faculty as an Assistant Professor and Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University, USA, Senior Principal Investigator of National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, Principal of Investigator and Director of Academic Committee of the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences before joining Yazhouwan National Laboratory. He has served on the Board of Directors of International Society of Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, scientific advisory boards of State Key Laboratory of Plant Genomics and State Key Laboratory of Chromosome Engineering, and scientific advisory or editorial boards of international journals including Cell Host Microbe, EMBO Journal, Molecular Plant, Science China Life Sciences, eLife, PLoS Pathogens, Journal of Integrative Plant Biology, Journal of Genetics and Genomics, and Stress Biology. He was a co-organizer of Plant Immunity Symposium, International Symposium of Plant Receptor Kinases, and International Congress of Plant Biotic Interactions. He is broadly interested in plant-microbe interactions with a focus on plant immune signaling. His research has uncovered how phytopathogenic bacteria subvert host immunity during infection, discovered plant resistosome and the underlying signaling mechanisms. Much of his recent research is centered on mechanisms underlying immune receptor-mediated signaling and application of disease resistance genes for sustainable agriculture.