



Dear Colleagues and Friends of the ANSO family,

I hope this letter finds you all and your families in good health. The worldwide outbreak of COVID-19, which poses a tremendous challenge to global public health, has made us all realized more than ever before the importance and necessity of solidarity and collaboration across the world in coping and addressing our common challenges.

As president of ANSO, I so much appreciate the prompt actions and hard efforts made by our ANSO member organizations in the containment and cure of COVID-19, our common enemy. In the past few months, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has also mobilized the academy-wide resources and has worked in partnerships with our international partners in the research and development of various innovative approaches to the addressing of this terrible pandemic. I know the ANSO Secretariat has circulated some of this information to you by newsletters and the ANSO website. Here I would like to share two COVID-19 databases that the CAS scientists have developed that are open to the world.

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus Resource. Developed by the China National Center for Bioinformatics, the Beijing Institute of Genomics, CAS, it is the first database dedicated to COVID-19 launched this early January. It provides comprehensive information, analysis, and visualized graphics of genomic variations. To date, this database has documented more than 2,500 non-redundant novel coronavirus genome sequences uploaded by researchers from all over the world, providing over 5 million downloads from over 150 countries.

<https://bigd.big.ac.cn/ncov?lang=en>

The Novel Coronavirus National Science and Technology Resource Service System. Developed by the National Microbiology Data Center, the Institute of Microbiology, CAS, this platform released the first image of the COVID-19 strain extracted from a patient and the first crystal structure of the S protein of the coronavirus. To date, these images have received millions of downloads worldwide.

<http://nmdc.cn/nCov/en>

For more information about China's experiences and actions in response to COVID-19, you may wish to refer to the China National Health Commission's online column, which gives updates in real-time.

<https://covid19.21wecan.com/covid19en/index.shtml>

I hope you and your colleagues will find the above databases and information helpful. At this challenging time for humankind, I believe that the sharing of data and expertise is pivotal to address the unprecedented crisis we all face today jointly. I have also asked the ANSO Secretariat to promote the related information sharing within the ANSO family and with the rest of the world.

With my kindest regards and I wish you all an excellent health and wellness.

Sincerely,

Prof. Chunli Bai



President

Alliance of International Science Organizations

Chinese Academy of Sciences