

Presentation format: Oral

Foundation to future: The story of orchid hybridisation and naming in the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Rachel X. E. Tan¹

¹ Singapore Botanic Gardens, National Parks Board, Singapore

From its humble beginnings in Holttum Hall in 1928, the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Orchid Hybridisation Programme has flourished over the past century, having named more than 600 orchid hybrids from over 50 genera to date. As an embodiment of the Gardens' spirit of innovation and pursuit of scientific and horticultural excellence, it is no surprise that orchid hybridisation has been a mainstay of the Gardens to this day. Beyond that, the Gardens' creation and naming of new orchid hybrids has also come to represent Singapore on the global stage as a symbol of Singapore's diplomatic ties with the world, with over 260 hybrids having been named after foreign dignitaries and VIPs. This presentation will tell the story of interesting and important VIP orchid hybrids created by the Gardens over the years, as well as uncover the trends and advances in orchid breeding undertaken by the Gardens through the decades.

Keywords: orchid hybridisation, orchid diplomacy, orchid naming, Singapore Botanic Gardens