The Rice Genome at 20: the Past, the Present & the Future

In November 2004 the 10-nation International Rice Genome Sequencing Project (IRGSP) announced the completion of a “finished” high-quality assembly of the *O. sativa* v.g. Xian/Japonica cv. Nipponbare nuclear genome at the ISRFG2004 meeting. This was the first high-quality genome of any crop plant which laid the foundation for a new era in both applied and basic plant biology research. In my talk I will touch on the past, present and future aspects of how rice genome biology can be used to drive discovery and sustainable and nutritious crop production for generations to come. The future is in our hands, and we must work together so we can feed our world without destroying our planet.