

Fossil Web Won World Summit Award

A science popularization web site “Fossil web” (www.uua.cn) built by Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) won the 2009 World Summit Award (WSA) in the e-Science category in the contest held in India recently. This web site was supported by the Special Fund for Popular Science “Transforming popular science about achievements of paleontology in China based on Fossil Web”(40820005), and the National Fund for Fostering Talents in Basic Science under the subject of “Paleontology and Stratigraphy”(J0630967), which are all set up by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

In the framework of the United Nations’ World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), WSA is the global initiative only sponsored by UN to select and promote the world’s best e-content and innovative Information and Communications Technology (ICT) applications. Its activities include national contests and selections of best practice, and a global contest held every 2 years. The winners are distributed over 8 categories. Five out of each category are selected as winners. More than 5,000 websites entered the competition in 2009 and 545 from 157 nations were selected for the final contest.

Fossil web won for its scientific popularization content, interactivity, knowledge pull & push, and virtual community construction. It was the sole candidate in China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) for the final competition in the e-Science category.

Supported by the Special Fund for Popular Science set up by NSFC, the program emphasizes the continuity and interactivity in the popular science exhibition. Taking advantages of the popularity and interactivity of the internet and using the biological evolution as the backbone, Fossil web provides a comprehensive, systemic and scientific introduction on the achievements of decadal research work on paleontology that are funded by NSFC. It has been an instructive network platform for the public to understand the progress of research on paleontology and the knowledge on biological evolution, playing a very important role in transforming public understandable knowledge for people about important achievements on paleontology and developing scientific qualities of the public and especially of the youth.