Congress Key Words

Unlike most conferences, thoughts and discussions at the 2015 BGCI Education Congress will be conceptualized around key words and not themes/tracks. In particular, this Congress has been designed to rally around common areas of interest, with the intent of enabling cross-over learning, innovative idea sharing and generation, and renewed energy and cohesion around shared purpose. The following key words reflect universal priorities botanic garden educators share, regardless of a garden’s size, resources, or geographic location:

- TL = Teaching & Learning
- SC = Science Communication
- TE = Technologies for Engagement & Learning
- SV = Strategy & Future Vision for Greater Impact & Change
- CE = Social Inclusion & Community Engagement
- RE = Research & Evaluation
- PD = Professional Development

Sessions should focus on two key words. These will be used to classify sessions. Find more information on how to submit your session proposal at [http://www.mobot.org/bgci](http://www.mobot.org/bgci).

The key-words illustrate major issues we will be discussing in the congress and are pertinent to education in botanic gardens in a variety of ways:

**Teaching techniques and learning experiences (TL)** in botanic gardens varies greatly, from highly structured experiences for school groups to adult and family self-guided activities facilitated by the garden interpretation.

Different types of **science communication (SC)** showcases the value of plant science to society, enables the public to interact with the scientists and aims to inspire the next generation of botanists.

Fast pace advancements in **technologies (TE)** enables new ways for gardens to engage with the public on-site and allows them to reach a wider, online community.

Botanic gardens develop **new strategies and future vision (SV)** and build new partnerships that aim to bring change at a large scale.

**Community engagement and addressing issues of social inclusion (CE)** and equality are crucial if botanic gardens aspire to stay relevant to the whole spectrum of modern society.

Different methods of **research and evaluation (RE)** provide evidence of the impact of botanic gardens’ education work and inform practice to better meet people’s needs and expectations.

Educators, whether well-established or in the early days of their careers, need **professional development (PD)**. Attending courses, becoming part of a professional learning community, participating in conferences and networking events all contribute to improving practice.