MBAI
Marine Biological Association of India

Date: 22/04/2026

CIRCULAR

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The Marine Biological Association of India is proud to announce a **Science Lecture** on the topic "**A Tale of 2 Oceans: Crabs in the Indian and Pacific Oceans – patterns, connections and vicariance**" by Professor Peter Ng former Head, Singapore, Lee Kong Chain Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) on **Wednesday, 29th April, 2026 at 11 am,** in **Dr E. G. Silas Conference Hall (Room No. 201)** 2nd floor, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.

Professor Peter Ng Kee Lin is a renowned Singaporean carcinologist and ichthyologist who was instrumental in founding the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) at the National University of Singapore. Prof. Peter Ng has contributed extensively to the study of crustaceans. He strongly advocates for the importance to taxonomy and the preservation of natural history collections.

All members of MBAI are invited to attend the talk and participate in the discussions.

The Abstract of the talk is attached.

The online link for the Webex Meeting for MBAI members and other participants who are unable to attend in person is given below.

Hosted by ICAR-CMFRI

https://icar-cmfri.webex.com/icar-cmfri/j.php?MTID=m1c3125fee76a3f1fee7ab884db6b3400
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 11:00 AM | 2 hours 30 minutes | (UTC+05:30) Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi
Meeting number: 2516 414 3309
Password: kZhJ9PkGc29 (59459754 when dialing from a video system)

Join by video system
Dial 25164143309@icar-cmfri.webex.com
You can also dial 210.4.202.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone
+65-6703-6949 Singapore Toll

Access code: 251 641 43309

Sd/-

(Rekha J. Nair)
Secretary, MBAI

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Abstract of the talk

Of the some 6599 known species of marine crabs, many have a supposedly wide distribution, as most are believed to have planktotrophic larvae which drift with the currents and as such, are well dispersed. Looking at the Indo-West Pacific crab fauna, which has over 75% of all the known species, this presumption is not exactly accurate. Many species in fact, have more restricted ranges than previously thought. As more detailed collections are made, more specimens examined and new morphological and genetic characters analysed; the emerging pattern is that vicariance is more rampant in these crabs than previously believed. In addition, crab larvae are also very diverse in form and habits - they are almost a different "life form" with their own selection pressures. This "schizophrenic" lifestyle has led to extensive speciation - and of course, offers many opportunities for marine research scientists and regional collaborations.