As everyone can see, museums, be it foreign, domestic, public, or private, come in various sizes and with missions nowadays. Many organizations consider themselves “museums” by their own definitions so museums seem to be rich in variety. However, in the field of museology, it is commonly agreed that collection, research, exhibit, and education are the four major missions of a museum. Among these missions, “collection” and “research” are the foundation and prerequisite of exhibit and education.

If exhibit and education are the bones and flesh of a museum, collection and research are the heart and soul of a museum. Undoubtedly, collection and research constitute the “core” of a museum. Practically speaking, the significance of a museum lies in its collection instead of its architecture. Without collection and knowledge, the museum does not exist (Timothy Ambrose, 1993).

The “collection” of a museum can further bring out the significance of its collection and research for knowledge development. The collection itself symbolizes “knowledge.” A museum preserves the collection in order to study and distribute its valuable knowledge. Therefore, exhibit and education are another two sensible and necessary functions of a museum. The contribution that a museum makes lies in the accumulation and development of the knowledge of its collection.

Lately, people have realized that the sustainable development of the living environment and the value of life are based on biodiversity. The life and death of all creatures on earth are correlated. Human beings, as part of the ecological system on earth, have to rely on the use of natural resources in all aspects of their life, including eating, dressing, living, moving, economics and culture. Currently, the “Green National Income” highly stresses green consumption, ecological balance, biodiversity, and landscape values. The web of life weaved by Mother Nature plays an even more crucial role in cultural, social, and natural aspects.

In the light of the significance of biodiversity and the urgency of knowledge development, the Museum has raised the objectives for its collection. Since 2004, it has become a policy of the Museum to increase more than 60,000 specimens every year. It is expected that the Museum’s collection will exceed 1.2 million within 10 years. In 2003, for example, the Museum owned 34,847 specimens. An enormous increase was witnessed in 2004 when the total collections reached 68,651 pieces (please refer to the following tables). The rapid expansion of the collection symbolizes both the importance of biodiversity and the rapid improvement of the Museum’s core capacity for knowledge dedicated to social contribution. If the Museum has enjoyed any minor achievement, it is jointly made by the staff of the collection and research departments. While the cultural education has to be implemented step by step, we are confident that the great improvement of our core abilities will certainly yield fruitful results in the future!