The Institute of Hydrobiology (IHB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is located at the foot of Luojia Hill and beside the beautiful Donghu Lake in the City of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It was founded in 1930 as the Natural History Museum of Academia Sinica, and renamed as the Institute of Zoology and Botany of Academia Sinica in 1934. In 1944, it was divided into two institutes: The Institute of Zoology and Institute of Botany. In 1950, the main part of the Institute of Zoology, the sections of phycology in the Institute of Botany, and some members from other institutes and universities were merged into the Institute of Hydrobiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai. The institute was moved from Shanghai to Wuhan in 1954.

At present, there are 276 scientists and staff members. Among them, 191 are scientists and technical staff, including 5 academicians of CAS, 31 doctoral advisers, 37 professors, 50 associate professors and senior engineers. In addition, 400 postgraduate students are studying for their doctor and master degrees, and about 20 postdoctoral researchers are being trained for scientific research in the institute.

The institute has been mainly devoted to the studies on the life phenomena of aquatic organisms in correlation with their water environments. Four research orientations, including freshwater ecology, aquatic biodiversity and resource conservation, fishery biotechnology and water environment engineering have been advanced. The aims of all these studies are to enhance the quality of water environment, and to promote sustainable development of fisheries. The institute is trying to make fundamental, strategic and pioneering contributions for water environment protection, aquaculture model optimization and sustainable utilization of aquatic resources.

There are four research centers in the institute, i.e. 'Center for Aquatic Biodiversity and Resource Conservation', 'Center for Freshwater Ecology', 'Center for Fishery Biotechnology' and 'Center for Water Environment Engineering'. Another new research center named 'Center for Water Environment and Human Health' is being organized. Moreover, a national key laboratory named the 'State Key Laboratory of Freshwater Ecology and Biotechnology', a national ecosystem station called 'Donghu Lake Ecosystem Experimental Station', and a national engineering center called 'National Center for Engineering and Technology of Freshwater Aquaculture', supported by the Chinese government, have been affiliated to the institute. There are four disciplines for doctor’s education, i.e. hydrobiology, genetics, environmental science and marine biology, and four disciplines for master’s education, i.e. zoology, hydrobiology, genetics and environmental science. And, the Institute has been approved by the government as a national postdoctoral training station in biology. The institute is also qualified to accept postgraduate students and post-doctors from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and foreign countries.

The institute has a nice environment and adequate facilities for scientific research. Main facilities include the largest Museum of Freshwater Fishes in Asia, the largest Freshwater Algae Culture Collection in China, one modernized Baiji dolphinarium, and one breeding station for fish and other aquatic organisms.