

Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources

BACKGROUND

Launched in 1989, the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources, or the University Consortium (UC) for short, is a commitment made among five leading Southeast Asian higher education institutions to share academic expertise and resources.

Initiated by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), the University Consortium was seen as a viable approach to pursuing agricultural human resource development in Southeast Asia by linking top agricultural universities in the region to facilitate free exchange of information, facilities, and expertise.

Today, the University Consortium is an effective network linking strong universities in Southeast Asia, Canada, Germany, and Japan.

MEMBERS

The founding members of the UC are Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) and Universitas Gadjadara (UGM) both in Indonesia, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand.

Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan is an associate member, while the University of British Columbia in Canada, Georg-August University of Göttingen in Germany, and Universitas Brawijaya (UB) in Indonesia serve as affiliate members.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide highly trained personnel in agriculture, environment, and natural resources for the development of the Southeast Asian region;
- Promote mutually beneficial cooperation among UC members by optimizing the utilization of scarce resources and expertise; and
- Develop strong and dynamic linkages among UC members through collaborative research projects as well as faculty and student exchange programs.



ABOUT SEARCA

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 24 regional centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). Founded on 27 November 1966, SEARCA is mandated to strengthen institutional capacities in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia through graduate scholarship, research and development, and knowledge management. It serves 11 SEAMEO member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. SEARCA is hosted by the Government of the Philippines on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, Philippines. It is supported by donations from SEAMEO member and associate member states, other governments, and various international donor agencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website:
<http://uc.searca.org>

or contact us through the

UC Secretariat at
mcnc@searca.org,
geidd@searca.org
Phone: +63-49-536-2290
Fax: +63-49-536-7097

KEY FEATURES

The UC provides the following grants to students and faculty members to support their studies or research.

- Faculty Travel Grant for Conference/Seminar, Research, and Visiting Professor Program for Teaching Purposes
- Student Travel Grant for Credit and Research
- Student Thesis Grant
- Tokyo NODAI-UC Scholarships for Dissertation Doctorate Program

The UC also conducts the following activities annually: (1) the UC Summer School, (2) the UC Graduate Forum, and (3) the UC Executive Board Meeting.

The Summer School is a credit-earning course conducted for two weeks to one month. It is designed to enhance the understanding of students and other professionals in rural studies, agriculture, and natural resource management on the importance of the interdisciplinary approach in tackling the issue of food and nutrition security in Southeast Asia for sustainable development.

The Graduate Forum aims to provide an opportunity for graduate students from UC members to share new knowledge, research ideas, and experiences in an open platform.

The Executive Board Meeting gathers UC Executive Officers and Coordinators from the UC members to discuss updates regarding the consortium and plan the activities for the succeeding year.

The UC also engages in collaborative researches under the Umbrella Program on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia. Further information about the umbrella program and the specific projects may be viewed at <http://searca.org/ucweb/projects/food-and-nutrition-security>

UPDATES

In 2017, the UC received funding from the European Commission's ERASMUS+ Capacity Building for Higher Education to establish the Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change. For more information, visit www.msfsc.org.

At the 30th Executive Board Meeting, it was agreed that UPM will host the 2018 Summer School, while UB will host the Graduate Forum, and UGM will host the 31st Executive Board Meeting.