SEARCA 8th FYP All Set for 2004

The stage is set for SEARCA’s Eighth Five-Year Plan to take effect this year, as the SEAMEO Council (SEAMEC), composed of the Education Ministers of the SEAMEO member-countries and the highest policymaking body of the Organization, finally confirmed the strategic plan. Late last year, the plan was approved by the SEARCA Governing Board (GB) and endorsed by the SEAMEO High Officials, for SEAMEC’s final confirmation.

The Five-Year Plan, set to be implemented starting July 2004, espouses two strategic focus areas, through which the Center sees itself contributing to the solution of the twin problems of food insecurity and poverty, which pervade Southeast Asia. These focus areas are Natural Resource Management and Rural Growth Promotion.

The confirmation was one of the high points of the recent 39th SEAMEC Conference held in Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam on 1-4 March 2004. SEARCA was represented in the Conference by Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan and SEARCA Management Services Unit (MSU) Head Miss Susan V. Fernandez.

Along with the confirmation of the Plan, another high point for SEARCA during the four-day conference was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Government of the Philippines (GOP) and SEAMEO as a renewal of their commitment to support the Center. The MOA sets forth the understanding for the funding support of SEARCA for the period 1 July 2004-30 June 2009, the period covered by the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

The MOA was signed by H.E. Edilberto C. de Jesus, Philippine Secretary of Education, on behalf of GOP, and Dr. Arief S. Sadiman, SEAMEO Secretariat Director, on behalf of SEAMEO, with H.E. Minh Hien, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam and H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz Umar, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam, as witnesses.

SEARCA was the first regional center established in 1966 by SEAMEO, primarily “to provide to the participating countries...”

HOMEFRONT NEWS

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SEARCA-HEP Postdoctoral Fellowship, Evaluated

Members of the SEARCA-High Education Program (HEP) Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Evaluation and Monitoring Team met at the University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia on 27-31 January 2004, to evaluate the program’s progress.

The team was composed of Dr. Dodi Nandika, Director for Research and Extension Development, Director-General for Higher Education, Jakarta; Dr. Soekartawi, Director of the SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Center (SEAMOLEC); and Dr. Djoko Suprapto, Deputy Director for Programs, SEARCA.

In general, the SEARCA-HEP Postdoctoral Fellowship Program was seen to be a good model in establishing and/or strengthening the networks between the universities involved in the program. Also, the international exposure gained by the fellows in the program has been observed to contribute to their professional and personal development. Thus, it was recommended that the program be continued and continuously improved.

The evaluation also identified needs and gaps, which will be areas for the improvement and enhancement of the program. Visa extension problems encountered by some fellows were discussed, as well as the re-scheduling of the start of the program, in relation to the academic year.

Others matters discussed included:
- Designing incentive schemes for advisers, for whom the task of supervising the postdoctoral fellows is extra workload with their postdoctoral study may be foreseen and resolved before the start of their program.
- Need to review the allocation of research funds for the fellows, since they have different requirements for their research activities. (WMAHVeolo)

Biodiversity, Plant Genetic Resources Workshop Done for Lao PDR

Lao PDR has come up with a new comprehensive National Agricultural Biodiversity Programme.

The development of the Programme was catalyzed and facilitated by a National Workshop on Biodiversity and Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in Lao PDR, on 23-26 March 2004. Six institutions played a key role in the conduct of the workshop, namely: the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) of Lao PDR, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme, International Rice Research Institute, and SEARCA.

As a result of the national workshop, the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has pledged to protect the country’s biodiversity as well as implemented a long-term strategy for implementing a coordinated approach to better assessing, conserving, and using agricultural biodiversity.

In his opening remarks, SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan said that considering the multi-faceted problems of poverty and food insecurity that pervade across Southeast Asia, natural resource management is a challenge that cannot be addressed by government alone, nor by non-government organizations only, nor by any single interest group. It is one that calls on all stakeholders to work together.

He also shared that SEARCA fully recognizes the need for and the challenges of natural resource management (NRM), especially its importance in the quest for food security and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia, and has identified it as a major strategic theme in its Eighth Five-Year Plan, which was recently approved by the Council of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO).

To provide a regional context for the discussion, Dr. Balisacan made a presentation on the Southeast Asian Agricultural Perspective. (LLTallafer)

SEARCA Does Operational Planning Course in Cambodia

A Training cum Workshop on Operational Planning was conducted by SEARCA at the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia on 26-30 January 2004. The training course was implemented under the Regional Volunteer Experts for Agricultural Modernization (REVEAM) Project, which is funded by ASEAN Foundation and managed by SEARCA.

Participants of the training course were 26 administrators and staff of RUA (16), Prek Leap National School of Agriculture (8), and Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture (2), all of whom are Cambodians.

The training course adopted the progressive action planning approach, which focused largely on the process of operational planning. Discussions of the operational planning steps were followed by small-group workshops. Using the logis - SEARCA Does / to page 6

SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan provides a regional context during the workshop in Lao PDR, while Dr. Leena M. Kirjavainen, Lao PDR Resident Representative of UN FAO; Mr. Bounthong Bouahom, Director-General of NAFRI; Dr. Percy E. Sajise, Regional Director for Asia, Pacific and Oceania of IPGRI; and Dr. Thillaphong Oudomsine of UNDP Lao PDR Office.
SEARCA Joins UK Study on Market Chain

The Research and Development Department (RDD) of SEARCA will soon be busy on a new global project entitled Regoverning Markets: Securing Small Producer Participation in Restructured National and Regional Agri-food Systems. The three-year multi-region collaborative research project seeks to describe the changing market structure of the agri-food market, and analyze their impacts to the smallholders and their livelihoods.

Southeast Asia is one of seven regions covered by this study initiated by the International Institute for Environment and Development based in the United Kingdom, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) of the Netherlands, and the Red de Informacion de Metodologia de Investigacion de Sistemas de Produccion (RIMISP) of Chile. The study is funded by the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. Other regions to be covered by the study are East and Southern Africa, South Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central and South America.

Dr. Nerlita M. Manalili, RDD Manager, was chosen by the Regoverning Market Program’s initiators as the regional coordinator for Southeast Asia, having previously done research in the region on supply chain management, small and medium enterprises (SME), among others. She also participated in the Regoverning Market’s Planning and Methodology Workshop held in London on 9-11 March 2004, where she and other project team members presented situations in their region. The 20 other workshop participants were from the seven regional study sites and from the World Bank.

According to Dr. Manalili, the program’s goal is to strengthen the resilience of rural economies in the light of changes in the marketing structure as a result of trends in global trade. It will identify and assess strategies of smaller-scale producers and SMEs in responding to agri-food restructuring and resultant stiff competition in the national and regional markets. The study centers on enterprises involved in food marketing and processing.

Dr. Manalili added that the first phase of the program is focused on getting an overview of the extent of agri-food restructuring. For Southeast Asia, the countries initially identified were Thailand and Vietnam, while she hopes the Philippines could also be included. Each country would have a selected country coordinator to do a country-scoping study on supply chain for two selected commodities. SEARCA will be identifying these country coordinators, with whom the Center will work closely.

The target completion date for the country studies is October 2004. Planning for the second phase, where the focus will be on detailed case studies per region and an empirical analysis across the case studies, shall commence in November 2004. (VTMLedesma)

SEARCA Partners with FAO on Hunger and Food Insecurity in Asia Workshop

The Policy Assistance Branch of UN FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAPO), in collaboration with SEARCA, organized a regional workshop on “Policy Issues and Investment Options to Avert Hunger and Food Insecurity in Asia” in Cha-am, Thailand, on 24-26 March 2004.

The workshop was participated in by the leading policy centers and institutions from the countries of the region, such as high income countries (Japan, Korea, Rep. China, and USA-Hawaii); middle income countries (Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia); low income countries (India and Nepal), that normally function as policy “think tank” and have influential role in shaping policies and programs in their countries. Most notably in attendance is H.E. Shin Sakurai MP, current chair of the Food Security Committee, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population Development (AFPPD), who delivered remarks on Japan’s cooperative activities.

The workshop featured a Keynote Paper presented by SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan. It reviewed the status of poverty and hunger vis-à-vis the millennium development goals (MDG) in Asia, assessed agricultural growth and rural performance in relation to poverty and food insecurity, and examined the implications of emerging (recurring) policy and institutional issues, including emerging development economics paradigm on agricultural organization, rural growth, and poverty and hunger reduction.

Three Thematic Papers on key development concerns in agriculture and rural development were also presented. Professor Huang Jikun, Director of the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP), presented the first thematic paper which focused on China’s agricultural research and development, and its implications to developing countries. Professor Wilfredo P. David, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), followed with his presentation on water resources and irrigation policy issues in Asia. Rural institutions, agricultural development, and pro-poor economic growth were the focus of the third thematic paper delivered by Professor James Roumasset from the University of Hawaii. The main aim of each paper was to synthesize the key policy and research issues critical to advancing agricultural development and food security in developing countries of Asia.

Speakers on the second day were the participating institutions whose current research agenda and area of priority focus on poverty and food security. Mr. Kyoung-soo Hong from the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF), Korea and Mr. Akio Yamamoto from JAZENCHU, Japan presented issues on Korean and Japanese agricultural cooperative development respectively. Dr. Donato Antiporta, Senior Policy Adviser, RAP, and Professor Tirso Paris from UPLB discussed the overview of the regional policy assistance on agricultural policy simulation work in Indonesia, Philippines, and China. Other leading policy centers in Asia also presented their current research works.

All the papers presented stimulated a healthy discussion of current and pressing issues in averting hunger and food insecurity in Asia. The workshop concluded successfully with a promise that the papers presented would come out in a Journal to be co-published by SEARCA and UN-FAO RAP. (MLVRavago)
Veggie Supply Chain, Assessed

A policy forum entitled “Towards a More Efficient Vegetable Supply Chain: A Research Forum,” was held in UP Mindanao on 3 February 2004, where areas for collective action were identified to solve setbacks in vegetable supply chain management. The forum was an echo of the one held in SEARCA last year, where a framework was established to enhance cooperation and collaboration in supply chain management, and where results of research on agribusiness supply chain and policy gaps were discussed.

Among the topics discussed in the forum were the status of the vegetable industry in Mindanao, the pluralistic methodology, quality misconceptions, the relationship in the supply chain, as well as linking farmers to markets, which was discussed by SEARCA Research and Development Department (RDD) Manager Dr. Nerlita M. Manalili.

Highlights of Dr. Manalili’s presentation were the identification of the existing functional vegetable chains catering to varying markets, and the requirements needed should farmers opt to efficiently service these markets. The role of cooperatives in these identified chains was likewise cited.

The forum also touched on the policy implications of the project “Improving the Efficiency of the Agribusiness Supply Chain and Quality Management for Small Agricultural Producers in Mindanao”.

A team meeting about an upcoming publication of the project, where Dr. Manalili serves as agribusiness specialist, was held afterwards.

The forum was participated in by non-government organizations (NGO), students and farmer groups. It was a joint collaboration between Curtin University of Australia, University of the Philippines Mindanao, and SEARCA. (RNAForonda)

SEARCA Partners with Universities for DevCom Book Translation

A workshop for the translation and co-publication of the textbook entitled “Introduction to Development Communication” was conducted by SEARCA in partnership with the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand, and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, on 19-20 February 2004.

The workshop, held at the UPOU headquarters in Los Banos, Laguna, was attended by Lily L. Tallafer, Interim Project Leader, and Felmer Emmanuel A. Cagampang, Knowledge Management Unit (KMU) Head, both from SEARCA; textbook author Dr. Alexander G. Flor and Emilie Amolozo, both from UPOU; Dr. Jumonongruk Udomsade from KU; and Dr. Djunara Lubis from IPB.

The original textbook, which was authored by Dr. Flor and the late Professor Ila Virginia C. Ongkiko, was intended for institutions in the Philippines offering courses in Development Communications at the graduate and undergraduate level. As there was no available textbook for teaching Development Communication, the publication received positive response in the Philippines, as well as from the region. Both Kasetsart University and Institut Pertanian Bogor conveyed their interest in having the textbook translated and adapted for their academic programs. This served as the overall foundation for coming together in this workshop.

During the workshop, the participants developed and agreed upon the details concerning the translation and co-publication of the textbook, which include standards, the work plan and other arrangements. Dr. Jumonongruk and her colleagues in KU will be doing a straight translation to Thai, while Dr. Lubis will be doing a contextualized version in Bahasa Indonesia that will reflect Indonesian experiences.

The translated versions are slated to be launched in February 2005. (FEACagampang)

Seated (L-R): Ms. Emilie Amolozo of UPOU; Dr. Jumonongruk Udomsade of KU, and Ms. Lily Tallafer of SEARCA. Standing (L-R): Mr. Felmer Cagampang of SEARCA; Dr. Alexander Flor of UPOU; Dr. Jumonongruk’s husband, Dr. Djunara Lubis of IPB, and UPOU Chancellor Dr. Felix Librero.

Second Tripartite Meeting for On-going Indonesian ARDSS, Held

The three parties directly involved in the project called Indonesian Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy Study (ARDSS) (ADB TA 3843-INO) namely, the government of Indonesia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and SEARCA, met in Indonesia on last 19 February to discuss the activities and major policy recommendations, as embodied in the Draft Final Report, for the project.

The Government of Indonesia was represented by Dr. Bungaran Saragih, Minister of Agriculture; ADB by Mr. Jamilur Rahman, Project Officer; and SEARCA by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Director, and Dr. Nicomedes D. Briones, Manager of the Consulting Services (ConServ) Department.

The other participants of the tripartite meet included ARDSS Team Leader Dr. Mark Rosegrant of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), as well as the top officials of various Indonesian government agencies, representatives from the private sector, non-government organizations, and other institutions.

The main objective of ARDSS is to formulate a short- to medium-term operational agricultural and rural development strategy for the period 2003-2020 for the Government of Indonesia to plan its policies, investments and institutional reforms in promoting sustainable, pro-poor agriculture and rural development.

The project started in mid-2003 and the Final Report will be submitted to ADB on the second quarter of this year.

The project’s dissemination component will be done after the Indonesian presidential and parliamentary elections while the target completion date of the project is the third quarter of this year.

The project implementation was led by SEARCA ConServ, with IFPRI as partner. SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. and ConServ’s Ms. Michelle N. Domingo serve as Project Director and Coordinator, respectively.

The study team consists of international and local consultants. The project office is hosted by the Center for Agro-Socio-economic Research and Development in Bogor, Indonesia. (NDBriones)
SEARCA ConServ Completes Impact Evaluation Study of QUEDANCOR’s Credit Programs...

The Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC), an attached agency of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA), accepted on 15 March 2004 the final report of the project Impact Evaluation of QUEDANCOR’s Credit and Guarantee Programs, submitted by the Consulting Services (ConServ) Department of SEARCA.

The project assessed the impacts of the credit and guarantee programs of the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR), another attached agency of the Philippine DA, on small farmers, fisherfolk and other rural-based entrepreneurs, particularly on their bankability, access to formal credit and on their income and welfare. It was implemented by SEARCA-ConServ mid-2003 and funded by the ACPC, with Dr. Maribec A. Campos as Project Leader, Dr. Maripaz L. Perez as Project Coordinator and Ms. Blanquita R. Pantoja, Dr. Marideth R. Bravo, and Mr. Cesar Z. Luna as Study Leaders.

The study’s major findings point that QUEDANCOR has benefited a number of farmers, fisherfolk, and entrepreneurs in the country, thereby addressing the credit needs of the urban and rural poor. This is specifically true for QUEDANCOR’s Self Reliant Team (SRT) Model, a mere two year-old project. Borrowers who participated most frequently and intensively in the SRT modules experienced the greatest changes in their motivation, capacity and performance vis-à-vis profitability of the agriculture-based enterprises they are engaged in.

QUEDANCOR’s major impact is that it was able to link small farmers and urban entrepreneurs to the formal lending sector important in their pursuit of further improving their living condition. A very clear indication that QUEDANCOR borrowers interviewed were satisfied with the loan programs they availed of is the fact that most of them signified their interest in availing of a QUEDANCOR loan if given another chance.

The general argument is that organizations like QUEDANCOR can perform only as much as the external environment within which it operates. The institutional analysis explains how QUEDANCOR, under its present management, was able to bring about the contributions discussed earlier. Given a clear vision of its goals and mandates and guided by sound credit policies, management was able to prove that farmers and fishers can be bankable and can in fact engage in highly viable enterprises.

A number of lessons were learned in the course of the study that could guide management in designing and managing future credit and guarantee programs for the agriculture and fisheries sectors in terms of access of small farmers and fishers to credit. These are promotion of team formation, capital formation and savings mobilization, as well as sustainability of agriculture and fisheries ventures.

The following lessons may be useful in improving future evaluation activities not only of QUEDANCOR but also of other credit and guarantee capacity-building programs of government: evaluation needs to draw on three types of theory—a theory of the credit and guarantee program that is being reviewed, a theory of performance (at the individual and institutional level), and a theory of change; the impact metaphor should be avoided in evaluating capacity development efforts as it sometimes provide very short term implications of capacity building programs whose impacts are felt only after a considerable period of time has passed and when capacities are already in place; the participation of organizational members and stakeholders is essential in the evaluation; triangulation is especially important in evaluating organizational capacity development; and evaluation should be designed and managed so as to contribute to the capacity development process itself. (NDBriones)

...and Agrees to Implement QUEDANCOR Training Project

Soon after completion of their impact evaluation study for QUEDANCOR, ConServ entered into another Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the credit agency, signed 8 March 2004, to collaborate in undertaking a long-term capacity building for 30,000 Self-Reliant Team (SRT) Leaders of QUEDANCOR’s credit programs.

SEARCA will implement the capability-building program for a period of five years, being a premier international organization for human resource development, training, research and professional consulting. The first phase of the training, which will be from March to July, 2004, will cover the National Capital Region (NCR), Region 1 (Batac, Ilocos Norte), Region 5 (Camarines Sur), Region 6 (Iloilo City) and Region 9 (Musuan, Bukidnon). (NDBriones)

SEARCA ADSS Becomes a “Habit”

Attending the SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS) has become a weekly “habit” for students and other men and women in the scientific and academic community of Los Baños, Laguna, where the Center is based.

The weekly forum, since it was launched in August last year, has been an excellent venue for dynamic and vibrant disc-
The External Advisory Committee of the SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) met on 3 February 2004. It was attended by SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan; Dr. Gelia Castillo, a National Scientist from the National Academy of Science and Technology; Dr. Benigno Pecson, President of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP); Dr. Randy Hautea, Global Coordinator of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA); Ms. Sonny Tababa, Network Administrator of BIC, and the rest of the BIC staff.

The meeting prepared the BIC for yet another strategy to disseminate scientific information on agricultural biotechnology. Whereas the BIC previously focused on face-to-face communication outreach by way of seminars, BIC will now tap mass media channels for greater audience reach. BIC also eyes industry players like feed millers, quality controllers, food manufacturers, and traders as priority stakeholders in its information campaign to enable them to arrive at informed decisions regarding modern agricultural technology.

BIC is also gearing up to expand tenfold its network through its electronic group. Moreover, changes are underway to improve the BIC website to address the information needs of its intended audience.

As part of BIC’s continuing capacity building program, it will organize a “Seminar-Workshop on Managing Communications on Agri-biotechnology” at the Asian Institute of Management. This activity aims to enhance the capacity of technical and extension staff in conducting outreach activities in agri-biotech, particularly in learning communication techniques and tools in message development, as well as appropriate communication styles for radio- and newspaper-based information campaign. The workshop will also discuss possible formation of an information resource network among Philippine agencies and organizations involved in biotechnology research, development, and extension.

BRP Holds Integration and Planning Workshop

Researchers and staff of the Biodiversity Research Programme (BRP) for Development in Mindanao together with the Philippine Working Group (PWG) met in Cagayan de Oro City on 20-21 February 2004 to craft an integrated work plan for ongoing studies under the BRP.

This is the first time that the quarterly researchers’ planning meeting focused on research integration which Dr. Perry Ong, chair of the PWG, describes as “one of the biggest challenges that the BRP program currently faces.”

Nine researchers presented highlights of their accomplishments during the plenary session. They are: Dr. Victor B. Amoroso (Floral Diversity Study); Dr. Olga M. Nuñez (Vertebrate Faunal Diversity Study); Dr. Myrna G. Ballentes (Invertebrate Faunal Diversity Study); Dr. Renato D. Boniao (Soil Ecological Diversity Study); Dr. Lucy B. Ledres and Dr. Emma M. Sabado (Arthropod Study); Dr. Cecilia B. Amoroso (Plant Propagation Study); Dr. Alita T. Roxas (Socioeconomic-cultural Studies); and Dr. Proserpina Gomez-Roxas (Aquatic Ecosystem Master Project).

Aside from presenting their accomplishments, the study leaders also identified data gaps and issues that they could address by working together. Among the issues identified were: soil erosion, food and habitat preferences of fauna, effectiveness of fishery laws and policies, and conflicts in resource use particularly the issue of commercial fishing in municipal waters.

Integration of studies was done by identifying specific factors that affect or influence the ecosystems. Four major factors identified were: (a) state of biodiversity loss (b) direct factors of biodiversity loss (c) socioeconomic and political drivers and (d) society’s response in terms of research, conservation actions, policy and legislation, capacity building, funding, etc. Each project leader identified factors that affected his/her concerned field of study.

During the meeting, these were all combined to come up with a clear picture of the overall factors affecting biodiversity in the terrestrial, coastal and riverine ecosystems of and around Mt. Malindang in Misamis Occidental, northern Mindanao.

It is also the third in a series of training courses implemented by SEARCA at RUA. The first two courses, on Research Proposal Writing and Strategic Planning, were both conducted in December 2003. All three courses, covering the full breadth of the planning process, were capability enhancement activities for institutional strengthening of the university in terms of academic, research, and organizational management.

Dr. Ruben C. Umaly, Executive Director of ASEAN Foundation, served as a volunteer expert for both the Strategic and Operational Planning courses. He served as the resource person for all topics in both courses, except for the topic on budgeting in the Operational Planning course.

Dr. Wilfredo H. Libunao, SEARCA Training Specialist, served as the lead training facilitator and resource person for the topic on budgeting. Mr. Ngo Bunthan, Vice Rector of RUA, served as Dr. Libunao’s counterpart in the Training Management Group for this course. Ms. Leah Lyn D. Domingo, SEARCA Graduate Scholarship Program Specialist, and Mr. Nguon Bunchhuon, Ms. Seng Vanna, Mr. Keo Vannak, and Mr. Chanthet Thannarak, all staff of RUA’s International Planning and Cooperation Office, provided logistical support.
SEARCA ConServ Signs Agreements for Three Projects

The Consulting Services (ConServ) Department of SEARCA recently announced its newly-forged partnerships with three organizations.

In behalf of SEARCA, Deputy Director for Programs Dr. Djoko Suprapto signed a Letter of Agreement last 1 March with the Community Empowerment for Rural Development Project (CERD), Department General of Community and Village Empowerment, Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, represented by CERD Project Manager Suryawan Hidayat. The agreement is for the implementation of CERD’s Short-Term Training Overseas Comparative Study.

The training will be participated in by the staff of the Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment and other related agencies at the central level and in the six provinces and eleven districts in Kalimantan and Sulawesi Islands. The two-week study tours would be in three batches with 30 participants per batch to be conducted in several countries. SEARCA’s Training Department (TD) and ConServ will collaborate in the implementation of the study tours.

SEARCA-ConServ also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed 9 February 2004, with the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP), represented by Ms. Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez, Chairperson Alternate, to implement the project titled Training Course on Enterprise Development. This international training course, to be implemented also by TD, is based on the tenet that increasing self-reliance individually and collectively through livelihood activities of farming communities will greatly improve the quality of life in the countryside. By adapting the agribusiness systems that introduce several product development initiatives, rural communities (especially those with access to markets) have long benefited from entrepreneurial activities. The weeklong training is designed to equip participants with basic business management and entrepreneurship concepts vital to running their organizations.

An MOA was also signed for the Second Phase of the project titled Strengthening of the Knowledge Management Capability of the National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NARDSAF), between the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Department of Agriculture (DA) of the Philippines, represented by Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr., and SEARCA, represented by Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan.

In the past two years, SEARCA has provided technical assistance to DA-BAR in strengthening its knowledge management system through initiating fund sourcing activities designed to supplement the existing resources of the system in developing and disseminating appropriate technologies in support of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA).

SEARCA, through the initial phase of this project, provided mechanisms for strengthening BAR’s knowledge management system vis-à-vis requirements and identified qualified members and support institutions to operationalize the proposed knowledge management system. This was done through the project’s provision of information and computer technology to connect most of its partners via the Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development Information System (AFRDIS). Through this virtual link, information exchange and update is made easier regardless of where these partners are.

SEARCA will continue to provide technical assistance to BAR through a second phase of the project to strengthen the knowledge management capability of the NARDSAF. (NDBriones)

SEARCA BIC Puts Out Two New Publications on Biotech

The SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) has come out with two new information materials in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and with Dr. Stephen G. Reyes of the Department of Entomology, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Agriculture.

Titled Questions and Answers on Rice Biotechnology and Philippines: Bt Corn and Insect Diversity, the publications contain the latest information on local biotechnology R&D and clarifies certain issues surrounding agriculture biotechnology particularly genetically engineered (GE) rice and corn.

The 15-page Q&A primer on rice biotechnology briefly answers frequently asked questions on agriculture biotechnology, on GE rice, and issues pertaining to health, environment, trade and ethics.

On the other hand, the two-page brochure on Bt corn and insect diversity highlights the results of insect diversity studies on Bt corn fields conducted in Isabela in Northern Luzon, and Camarines Sur in Southern Luzon. Using the Shannon index to measure species diversity, the results show that insect diversity in Bt- and non Bt-corn fields were generally the same.

Both publications are part of SEARCA BIC’s continuing efforts to share science-based information to stakeholders for informed decision-making. These and other informational materials on biotech may be downloaded from http://www.searca.org/~bic. (DCABaracol)

SEARCA Explores Partnerships with More Australian Institutions

SEARCA continues to explore the possibility of partnering with more academic institutions through the SEARCA-initiated University Consortium (UC), as well as linking with development funding institutions, in Australia.

Dr. Djoko Suprapto, SEARCA Deputy Director for Programs, met on 27 January 2004 with Dr. Roger Swift, UC Coordinator for the University of Queensland (UQ), to discuss UQ’s pledge of support and assistance in getting funds from AusAID for SEARCA scholarship and postdoctoral fellowship programs,

Dr. Djoko also visited Australia’s Griffith University (GU) on 29 January 2004. Professor Grant McTainsh, Acting Dean of GU’s Environmental Engineering Faculty, has previously expressed interest in joining the University Consortium. (WMAHVelo)

SEARCAADSS / from page 5
cussion of scientific findings, research results and perspectives within the purview of agriculture and development.

Open to the public and held at the Center every Tuesday, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., the ADSS is attended by students, academics, scientists and other members of the Los Baños community, who have actually become familiar faces to each other because of the weekly seminar.

The list of the most recent speakers in the SEARCA ADSS is available at http://www.searca.org. (AJTAragon)
Two Filipino Professorial Chair Holders Give Lectures

Two SEARCA Professorial Chair Holders at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) delivered their lectures at UPLB on separate occasions in January and February 2004.

Dr. Virginia C. Cuevas, Professor, Environmental Biology Division, Institute of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), gave her lecture on 30 January 2004, while Dr. Erlinda S. Paterno, Professor, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, delivered her lecture on 27 February 2004.

A specialist in Mycology and Plant Ecology, Dr. Cuevas presented her research titled "Ecological Approach in the Control of Club Root Disease." She reported that club root is the most damaging disease of cabbage, with as high as 70 percent incidence. She also reported that infected plants do not bear marketable heads. Since the parasite cannot survive in soils with a mean annual temperature above 25°C, in the Philippines, club root disease is found only in the Cordillera region, which is the biggest supplier of cabbage in the country.

Using ecological approach, Dr. Cuevas’ study centered on improving the acidic soil pH through the use of compost either alone or in combination with lime and the use of the biocontrol/biofertilizer agent, Trichoderma. Her study showed that the key to the successful control of club root disease is soil fertility management. All soil amendments must be applied at least two weeks before seeding transplant.

On the other hand, Dr. Paterno discussed her research on “Enhancement of Plant Growth and Production of Plant Growth Regulators by Soil Bacteria.” She explained that the increasing demand for low-input agriculture and growing concern on the use of environmentally damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides have boosted interest in soil microorganisms as important biological resources for improving sustainability of crop production. Studies have shown that bacteria thriving in plant roots, called plant-growth promoting bacteria (PGPB), have considerable impact on plant growth, development, and productivity. This plant-bacteria association can help plants established in marginal lands, protect plants from diseases, and promote plant growth.

While her previous studies showed significant increase in dry matter yield of plants inoculated with PGBP, Dr. Paterno had perceived the need to determine the mechanism of action of these bacteria which can be used as basis for strain improvement and development of inoculation technology. Hence, the research she presented focused on identifying, quantifying, and optimizing the conditions for the production of plant growth regulating substances. Characterization of the bacterial strains capable of producing these substances was also done. According to Dr. Paterno, bioassay showed that several PGBP produced gibberellins. Also, she reported that formulations of PGBP were packaged into an easy-to-use solid-based inoculant. In preliminary trials, positive results were obtained from the use of PGBP in the rooting system of stem cuttings of Mussaenda and Hibiscus and in the growth promotion of Dendrobium.

The SEARCA Professorial Chair is a program component of the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium (UC) for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources. To date, the University Consortium has awarded 112 Professorial Chairs, 83 of which were granted to Filipinos. (LLDDomingo)

UC Research Fellow Presents Results of Study

Dr. Fransiska Rungkat-Zakaria, an Indonesian Research Fellow, presented the results of her study at SEARCA during the SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS) on 19 February 2004.

Funded by the SEARCA-initiated South

east Asian University Consortium (UC) for for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Zakaria’s research is titled “Substitution of Fetal Bovine Serum in Hybridoma and Lymphocyte Cell Cultures by Fish Serum Prepared from Surimi Waste Products.”

Dr. Zakaria is Associate Professor at the Department of Food Technology and Human Nutrition, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB). She conducted her research fellowship at Kasetsart University (KU) in Bangkok, Thailand in 2003. She closely collaborated with Dr. Wanchai Worawattanamateekul, Head, Department of Fishery Products, KU, during the conduct of her research. Her partners at KU also assisted her in cooperating with some private firms in Thailand for the use of their facilities to enable her to do her laboratory work.

In essence, Dr. Zakaria’s research explored the possibility of using fish serum from Surimi waste products as substitute for fetal calf serum in hybridoma cell culture. Surimi is imitation shellfish manufactured from lean, white-fleshed fish.

Dr. Zakaria explained that hybridoma cells are hybrid cells resulting from the fusion of a lymphocyte and a tumor cell. She said hybridoma cell culture is the main technology used in immune cell biology research and they are also used to culture a specific monoclonal antibody used in diagnostic analyses and specific compound identification. The use of fetal calf serum as a supplement in the culture media for growing hybridoma cells has made the process extremely costly.

Hence, Dr. Zakaria’s research aimed at providing an alternative source of animal culture media that would reduce production costs in animal culture techniques. Her research also intended to show the potential value of Surimi waste from Thai processing plants as substitute for fetal calf serum in hybridoma cell culture. Surimi is imitation shellfish manufactured from lean, white-fleshed fish.

To date, the University Consortium has awarded 11 Research Fellowships, four of which were granted to Indonesians. (LLDDomingo)

UPM Has New UC Coordinator

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has a new UC Coordinator effective January 2004. He is Professor Dr. Gulam Rusul Rahmat Ali, Deputy Dean (Science of Engineering), School of Graduate Studies. He takes over the post of Dr. Shamsher Mohamad bin Ramadili, who has been appointed as Director of UPM’s Sports Academy effective January 2004. (LLDDomingo)
Thesis Abstract 1: Acidity and Flavor of Fermented Durian

Neti Yuliana Indonesia PhD Dissertation in Food Science University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)

The study evaluated the biochemical changes that occur during fermentation of durian (tempoyak). Tempoyak is fermented food made by mixing durian pulp with salt in a sealed container for seven days. Information on how fermentation might affect the flavor and acidity of tempoyak is sparse, hence this study.

Results showed that the most organic acid found in tempoyak was malic acid (145.9 mg/ml), followed by lactic acid (34.1 mg/ml), and small amounts of acetic acid (41.2 mg/ml). A rapid range in pH ranging from pH 6.9-7.0 to 4.0-4.15 was observed at four days after fermentation. This change was attributed to a significant increase in titrable acidity, non-volatile acid, and volatile acid. Flavor examination revealed that tempoyak components were dominated by sulfur compounds, namely: diethyl thiosulfide, disulfide diethyl, and ethane, 1-1-bis ethylthio.

Thesis Abstract 2: Shrimp Farming and Water Quality Conditions in Phuket, Thailand

Nantaporn Onkaew Thailand MS Thesis in Environmental Science UPLB

The study characterized and conducted a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of the shrimp farming industry in Phuket on the water quality in the coastal zone of Ban-Chi-Lao, Phuket, Thailand. A total of 29 randomly selected shrimp farmers were interviewed. Water samples were collected from four shrimp ponds and the adjoining coastal area and chemically analyzed. Description statistics and correlation analysis were done using SPSS.

Findings of the study showed that the general stocking rate in the study area was higher than the recommended stocking densities for shrimp farming. As a result, there is a tendency toward over feeding which could lead to water quality degradation, reduced survival rates, and increased possibility of shrimp disease outbreaks, hence, production was low.

The intake and coastal waters satisfied the coastal water quality standards (Class 4). The pond water pH and dissolved oxygen were within the acceptable ranges for shrimp production. Pond water temperature, TSS, secchi transparency, and salinity did not meet the optimum ranges for shrimp growth. The discharge water was of acceptable quality based on the standards for effluent water from aquaculture. Overall, the study showed that shrimp farming does not degrade the quality of water used in shrimp ponds and that of the coastal area when the pond water is released.

SEARCA Has Five New Fellows

SEARCA has five new fellows from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. They are SEARCA Scholars who completed their graduate studies recently.

Ms. Khin Lay Lwin, a Myanmar national, completed her MS in Phytopathology at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Indonesia in January 2004. The title of her thesis is Study on Wild Eggplant as a Rootstock Resistant to Bacterial Wilt.

From the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Nguyen Tat Toan, a Vietnamese, obtained his MS in Veterinary Medicine, major in veterinary pathology, in February 2004. His thesis is titled Comparative Evaluation of Isolation, PCR Detection and Clinico-Pathological Diagnostic Approaches in Field Cases of Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae Infection in Selected Farms of Luzon, Philippines.

Mr. Slamet Widiyanto, an Indonesian, and Ms. Apinya Vanichpun, a Thai, both completed their master’s degrees at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in March 2004. Mr. Slamet obtained his MS in animal science and the title of his thesis is Biological Responses of Inhaling Gas and Particulate Matter from Biomass Burning on the Respiratory System of Rats. On the other hand, Ms. Apinya obtained her MS in food science and her thesis is titled Microbial and Physicochemical Changes during Fermentation of Thai Chicken Sausage.

In November 2003, Mr. Bountheo Hemmany, a Laotian, obtained his MS in Information Technology for Natural Resources Management from Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia. His thesis is titled Extraction of Paddy Rice Field by Applying Tasseled Cap, NDVI, and RVI of Landsat TM7. (LLDDomingo)
SEARCA Establishes Advisory Board

The establishment of the SEARCA Advisory Board was recently announced by SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan. The SEARCA Advisory Board, composed of men and women prominent in both the national and international academic and scientific communities, is expected to provide advice to the Center regarding strategic areas it may go into or strategic approaches it may use to carry out its mandate of strengthening institutional capacities in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia.

The SEARCA Advisory Board is chaired by Professor Solita C. Monsod, Professor of Economics at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) and former Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Administration (NEDA) of the Philippines. Its members are Mr. Senen Bacani, President of ULTREX Management & Investment Corporation and former Secretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA); Dr. Ronald Cantrell, Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); Dr. Evamarie P. Capareda, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); Dr. Gelia T. Castillo, a National Scientist from the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and a Consultant at the Training Center of IRRI; Dr. Cielito Habito, Professor at the Ateneo De Manila University (ADMU) and former Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General of NEDA; Dr. Saifullah Syed, Chief of the Policy Assistance Branch for Asia and the Pacific of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); etc., as well as to continue churning out high-quality publications like books and monographs on agriculture and development.

SEARCA Director Issues New, Bigger Challenges to Staff

SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan issued new and bigger challenges to the staff and management of SEARCA, as the group was sworn to their respective appointed posts during the General Staff Meeting held on 20 January 2004.

Dr. Balisacan started by assessing the previous year, which saw the implementation of a restructuring program that resulted in a much leaner organization, as well as the introduction of a new leadership team.

For 2004, the start of the implementation of SEARCA’s new priority thrusts of Natural Resource Management and Rural Growth Promotion, however, bigger challenges lie ahead of the Center.

Dr. Balisacan issued these challenges particularly to the Center’s core programs.

The Graduate Scholarship Department (GSD) was urged to focus the deployment of graduate scholars to the best universities that have a strong comparative advantage in the program to be pursued. The Department was advised, as well, to launch an aggressive search for new scholarships. The impact of the

SEARCA-initiated University Consortium (UC) in advancing the new thrusts of the Center is also up for assessment, according to the Director.

The Research and Development Department (RDD), in turn, was challenged to intensify SEARCA’s collaboration with multilateral and bilateral institutions like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), etc., as well as to continue churning out high-quality publications like books and monographs on agriculture and development.

The Department was also urged by the Director to launch a new international journal as well as stage more international, regional and national conferences on agricultural and rural development concerns, and policy analysis.

The Training Department (TD) was advised to focus on “training of trainers” programs as well as on the development of training modules on impact evaluation approaches.

The whole group of SEARCA staff and management, however, received the most significant challenge for the year – resource generation. Toward this end, Dr. Balisacan required all Departments to have a clear roadmap for resource generation to augment internal funds.

SEARCA Consulting Services (ConServ) was likewise urged to develop itself into a highly profitable unit for income generation for the benefit of the Center and its staff. “For this to happen the Department must be internationally competitive and governed by strict standards of accountability and transparency, and follow a new operations manual providing

SEARCA Director / to page 12
“Science and Education as Beacons of the Academe”

Below are excerpts from the speech delivered by SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, when he was awarded the Most Outstanding Alumnus by the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), on its 26th University Foundation Day, 6 January 2004.

Science and education should serve as every university’s beacon or the reasons for its being... the path to glory for any university is to stay focused on being an educational and a scientific institution.

Science has liberated the human race from the chains of superstitions. The world has experienced much progress, thanks to science and the scores of men and women behind it who sacrificed convenience and even their very lives as they pursued scientific truths. The work of science is however far from being complete. The persistence and the insistence of discovering scientific truths is the kind of allegiance to science that universities should stand for.

Will Durant said in one of his essays that while man has conquered matter, he has yet to overcome himself. This is where education comes in. Education in a general sense is the "passing on to the next generation the gathered experience of the past." But more importantly, it is a potent weapon to master the present, a peaceful and harmonious way. It gives us the ability to have quality lives and to live in dignity and honor.

It is my hope that MMSU will not only turn out top-rate researchers, engineers and technologists, teachers, government technocrats, and leaders in private sectors, but more importantly, it will produce graduates who are humans in the highest sense of the word.

... I am fully aware of the gargantuan financial constraints of the university, especially in view of the tight fiscal bind that the Philippine Government is facing. Belt-tightening would most likely be the norm this year and perhaps in the ensuing years.

However, the situation does not give the university license to give up on its primary mandate. All the more, the situation calls for the university to sharpen its focus, to be fully aware of its areas of strength and capitalize on these.

I see that you have made a number of difficult decisions such as closing down some programs that have low enrollment or dismal performance. I congratulate the university officials for having the mettle to take these difficult but necessary action. You must, however, continue to be self-critical and ask again and again: "Have we pruned enough to make this organization operate efficiently and effectively?"

In addition to focusing and streamlining, the university may gain strength exploiting available information and communication technologies (ICTs) and expanding its networks.

If there is any infrastructure that needs investing on, I would suggest that computerization, including a backbone for Internet connection, be somewhere at the top of that list. This is an investment that, if exploited well, will assure a university of high and satisfactory returns because it will connect the university to the globe and will provide its faculty, staff, and students with access to the world’s wealth of scientific knowledge and information.

Knowledge generation and transfer is the core business of universities. Therefore, ICTs are its core tools. MMSU will do well in ensuring that these are available for use of everyone.

Networking is the other avenue for universities to overcome financial constraints. Networking leads to synergy. A proverb in the Holy Book says, "A three-cord rope is harder to break." That is synergy.

The challenge in networking, however, is not so much getting into one, but being part of those that have strategic advantages for the university. The pitfall is that an organization might be involved in so many networks that it spreads itself too thinly. The challenge is to be selective and to be part of a network where it can both give of its strength and receive from the strength of its network members.

Education should be considered not only as the preparation of the individual to make a living, but also as the development of every potential capacity in him for the comprehension, control and appreciation of his world. Universities should provide the atmosphere by which students can explore their potentials and creativity. Students are a very potent resource... a significant member of the university’s family. In fact, the very reason for a university’s existence. Let us not therefore look at them as just receivers of knowledge, but partners in the continuing search for knowledge and education.

Education enables us to be human... to live with others and our environment in a peaceful and harmonious way. It gives us the ability to have quality lives and to live in dignity and honor.

In recent economic history, literacy and skills, combined with technology and good governance, have become the engine of economic growth. The economic successes of our East Asian neighbors are an outcome of deliberately sustained investment in high-quality education made accessible to the broad base of the population.

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Shortly after MMSU’s 26th Foundation Day, it was MMSU President Dr. Saturnino Ocampa Jr.’s turn to visit SEARCA for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 5 February 2004 between MMSU and SEARCA – an immediate and most welcome outcome of Dr. Balisacan’s earlier issued offer to partner in a number of complementary goals and common educational, training and research objectives.

Through this partnership, SEARCA and MMSU commit to collaborate in undertaking programs, and to work together on the academic training of scholars from SEAMEO member countries. Shown in photo are (L-R) Dr. Nicomedes D. Briones, SEARCA Consulting Services (ConServ) Manager; Dr. Ocampa, Jr.; Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Balisacan; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Graduate Scholarships Department (GSD) Manager.

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SEARCA Staff Do Adventure-Based Teambuilding

The Management and staff of SEARCA underwent a Center-wide Adventure-Based Counselling (ABC) workshop in February 2004, a novel teambuilding exercise initiated by the Center's Human Resource Management Unit (HRMU).

The Center, having undergone a major reorganization late last year, is now being managed and run by a mix of old and new employees. The teambuilding workshop was seen as necessary for the whole Center to gel as a team, work with open communication, as well as to encourage camaraderie among SEARCAns.

ABC’s methodology is different from the conventional teambuilding training. It provides experiential learning through outdoor and adventure-based challenges, instead of the usual classroom-style lectures. It also provides opportunities for individuals to appreciate the values of working well with others despite diversity, eventually leading to the process of overcoming fears and conquering trials in the workplace.

SEARCA tapped Harness, Incorporated, a pioneer in adventure-based counseling in the country, to conduct the activity, which was held in Casa San Pablo, a secluded resort south of Los Baños.

The activities included exercises that challenged not only the physical state of the employees but more the mental as well as emotional capacities of each.

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SEARCA staff negotiate a tricky exercise during the teambuilding activity

It involved seemingly simple games of crossing “a sea of sharks” as a team, utilizing only several planks to do so, “fishing balls out of the water” and earning enough balls to score, and walking across air on a “barely there” cable -- all to encourage unity, cooperation, and teamwork.

As a fitting finale, the group members let go of their comfort zones, to learn to accept changes and risks by dealing with them and not by denying them -- through an activity that involved jumping from 40 feet above ground.

On the whole, the adventure-based teambuilding workshop served several purposes, including the ones it was initiated for, in the first place. However, the most important of all its outcomes is the realization that each one plays a major role in the functionality of the Center, regardless of the person’s position or rank in the organization.

As the Center prepares to embark on its Eighth Five-Year Plan, set to be implemented within this year, it does so with a renewed sense of unity and camaraderie, and a deeper sense of understanding of the concept of team membership.

(SEARCA Diary)

SEARCA Director / from page 10

the mechanics of incentive schemes for ConServ staff,” the Director said.

Dr. Balisacan also advised SEARCA staff and management to strive for improvement of cooperation and partnership with the Center’s host institution, UPLB, in resource deployment, including the hiring of consultants and resource persons for short-term training programs.

Despite the seemingly gigantic tasks issued, however, “prospects are bright for SEARCA staff, and management continues to work on the development of new incentive schemes for everyone,” according to Dr. Balisacan.

Dr. Balisacan concluded by urging everyone to begin the year with enthusiasm to pursue his/her respective tasks, to have high hopes for the Center and the country, and to have the determination to meet the challenges that have just been issued, no matter how big or difficult they seem to be. (AJTaran)

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SEARCA Director Receives Int’l Publication Awards

SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan received on 17 March six University of the Philippines (UP) President’s International Publication Awards. The awards, given only to publications that appeared in ISI-listed journals and books, are in recognition of Dr. Balisacan’s six international publications in 2003. Dr. Balisacan, who is also Professor at the UP Diliman School of Economics, received the awards from UP President Francisco Nemenzo during the ceremony held in UP Diliman.

Dr. Balisacan, along with his co-authors, was recognized for the following international publications:


(SEARCA Diary)