FAO, SEARCA conduct roundtable on CLMV agri competitiveness

SEARCA and the Policy Assistance Branch of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAPP) once again combined resources and expertise for the conduct of the second Policy Roundtable entitled, “Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness of Transition Countries in Southeast Asia” held on 6-7 August 2005 in Pasig City, Philippines. Representatives from Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam as well as from international organizations in Korea and Japan and local and regional institutions in the Philippines attended the meeting.

The second roundtable was conducted to formulate final draft proposals for national capacity building programs on agricultural competitiveness and greater regional integration of CLMV economies.

It was also done to disseminate the findings and conclusions of an FAO-RAPP project on policy options for revitalizing agriculture for food security and poverty reduction.

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, reported in his welcome message that the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture...
opportunities in rural areas, especially in means diversification of employment. Sustained rural income growth also come only from increases in agricultural growth in the rural sector. This can that would allow sustained income growth to be broadly based, thereby enhancing overall nutrition, human capital development, and productivity and economic growth in the medium- to long-term.

This enabling environment allows rural growth benefits to be more directly contributing to poverty reduction and food security objectives of the countries in the region.

As members of the expanded SEARCA family, we—staff, graduate scholars, fellows, partners, and other stakeholders—are entrusted with a mission to help win the war against poverty and food insecurity in vast areas of Southeast Asia. We recognize that the challenges are awesome, but let us be inspired by the recent successes of our Asian neighbors—as well as those within our own region, especially Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand—that have hurdled similar, if not worse, situations. The war can be won, albeit with much sacrifice, patience, and discipline, as well as a real honest-to-goodness desire and determination to do what is right for the greater good.

One key lesson we are seeing during the past half-century regarding rural development has to do with enabling the rural poor through policy, investment, and institutional reforms that enhance the efficiency of domestic markets and provide improved access to technology, infrastructure, and education.

Our role in Southeast Asia’s war on poverty

Many of us are familiar with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the international community’s commitment to substantially improve people’s lives by the year 2015. Through the United Nations, members of the global community pledged in 2000 to work toward the achievement of the MDGs.

The 2005 Human Development Report notes, however, that overall many nations are underperforming in most of the MDGs. This underperformance painfully translates into pockets of hunger, diseases, violence, and thousands of deaths every day. In Southeast Asia, despite gleaming facades of development in some areas, these pockets abound.

We are aware that agriculture plays a pivotal role in a nation’s quest for development and human security. About two-thirds of Southeast Asia’s poor live in rural areas; most of them depend on agriculture and agriculture-related industries for employment and income.

To lift the poor out of poverty and hunger, we must put in place an environment that would allow sustained income growth in the rural sector. This can come only from increases in agricultural productivity, i.e., getting output to grow faster than production inputs. Sustained rural income growth also means diversification of employment opportunities in rural areas, especially in non-farm areas where growth potentials are comparatively high.

SEARCA is in a very good position to contribute in the building of human and institutional capacities for agricultural and rural development in the region, thereby enabling the member countries, especially the less-developed ones among them, to effectively address their development concerns in the face of the regional and global challenges of this decade and beyond. Hence, beginning in July 2004, SEARCA has reoriented its focus and programs to agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management, for the purpose of more directly contributing to poverty reduction and food security objectives of the countries in the region.

The group agreed to focus the capacity-building effort on four areas of concern: (1) rural development policy and governance, (2) agricultural competitiveness, (3) natural resource management, and (4) food safety and standards. It also agreed that the country representatives will bring the capacity-building proposals back to their respective countries to consult other concerned institutions for more needs validation. Preliminary consultation with funding institutions working with their respective governments was also encouraged.

The Roundtable successfully concluded with a third roundtable in the offing. SEARCA and FAO look forward to seeing this country initiative move through further consultations, especially with potential donors and with other stakeholders particularly the governments of CLMV.

Dr. Balisacan and Dr. Donato B. Antiporta of FAO-RAP presented the issue papers during the roundtable. Country paper presenters were: Mr. Chan Saruth of Cambodia’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; U Boon Thein, of Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; and Mr. Tran Nam Binh of Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Delegates from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Korea’s Asia Pacific Agriculture Policy Forum, and Global Agricultural Policy Institute also participated and supported this undertaking. (MLV Ravago)
Impact assessment training yields 19 graduates

Nineteen staff members of national and local government units and non-government organizations in the Philippines finished on 23 September 2005 a two-week "Training in Enhancing the Capacity of Government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Assessing Development Programs’ Impacts on Poverty Toward Effective Policy Making and Governance."

The participants came from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), CSOs, city and provincial governments, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Integrated Agrarian Research Center, Office of Muslim Affairs, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. At the end of the course, they turned in seven impact assessment plans for their respective programs and projects. These plans are expected to generate relevant policies toward good governance and spin off into future action projects between and among themselves, SEARCA, and funding donors along the same subject matters of the course.

The training was held on 12-23 September 2005 at SEARCA. It aimed to enhance and mainstream the roles of NAPC and other government agencies, CSOs, and local government units in conducting scientific assessment of the impacts of development programs and projects on poverty to support and promote effective formulation and good governance. It was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Philippines. SEARCA’s Training Department organized and conducted the said course. Executing agency was NAPC, which is the oversight agency of the Philippine Government on anti-poverty programs and projects. At present, NAPC is the lead agency in the preparation of the Plan of Action for Poverty Reduction (PAPR), which is the strategic operational plan to achieve the Philippine 2004-2010 Medium-Term Development Plan’s poverty reduction targets along the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Dean of the School of Statistics, University of the Philippines Diliman, served as the technical course coordinator.

During the closing ceremonies of the training, Mr. Kyo Naka, Resident Representative a.i. of UNDP-Philippines, emphasized that “…considering the vast amount of funds allocated by governments and donor agencies to development interventions, conducting impact assessments becomes all the more critical in fostering collaborative efforts and bestowing broader ownership and legitimacy in the policy-making and decision-making processes.”

He added that “…as the program strives to equip the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge of linking policies with doable programs and action and revert the outcome of these programs and actions toward formulating more effective poverty reduction policies, we are again hopeful that you would have a multiplier effect.”

As a final note, he challenged the participants to go back to their work and practice what they have learned from the training and in their hands – they as the frontliners – rests the hope of poverty reduction of the Philippines.

For his part, SEARCA Director Arsenio M. Balisacan reiterated the rationale for having the course. He said that billions of pesos are being spent in the name of poverty alleviation and development. He expressed his hope that the participants would have learned not only data management but more importantly, the critical ability of obtaining insights from what the data say and of advocating for responsible and accountable governance.

Dr. Balisacan stressed that governance plays a very important role in a nation’s quest for development. “Good governance leads to effectiveness, efficiency, and credibility. This is important for us, development workers, because our stakeholders must trust and support our development programs for them to succeed. Our people must be convinced that what we do is for their benefit so that they will fully participate in the development process.”

In closing, Dr. Balisacan challenged the training alumni to “…have the will and purity of purpose for this cause, shunning populist politics and having the temerity to use the findings of research to re-orient our policies and improve on our governance.” (NARamos)
Where economic giants tread

... Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) try to trek on the same path. Long term goal: to rise on equal footing with the economic giants. Mission not impossible, if CLMV’s winning weapon would bear the two-in-one insignia: a combination of scientific skills and managerial acumen.

Lifting up quality of human resources

To enable CLMV to compete globally, Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, says that said countries need to prioritize investing in “education, health, and social capital,” and facilitate people’s access to “markets and information.”

Dr. Donato B. Antiporta, Senior Policy Adviser at the Policy Assistance Branch of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agrees with the idea. “I would like to see CLMV countries move into the area of capacity building.” He adds that what helped Germany, US, and South Korea develop very quickly was their focus on developing the quality of their human resources.

In very tangible terms, South Korea, for example, weathered the Asian crisis because of the government’s dedication in supporting education and technology advancements. Most of these investments have paid off as shown in the country’s track record of having one of the most educated and skilled work forces in Asia (Sours, RBE Asia, 1988).

Specifically, there is a need to “build scientific and managerial expertise to enhance agriculture competitiveness,” according to Dr. Ramesh Jain, FAO representative in the Philippines.

The WTO and related policies

For managerial expertise, Dr. Jain suggests that CLMV countries need to thoroughly understand and learn the ropes of negotiating World Trade Organization (WTO)-related concerns, so that they can contribute to the world economy.

Dr. Balisacan stresses that for CLMV countries to be on equal footing with the economic giants, now is the time for them to concentrate on cooking up a “mix of policies and institutions needed to spur rural growth and exploit the benefits of globalization.”

Perhaps where policies are concerned, the countries of CLMV very specifically have to look into those that would allow them to fare better. For example, there is a great need to enliven the seed technology/industry in Cambodia. From the technology side, Cambodia has to do a quick policy assessment of its seed production. This policy assessment should not only be for seed production, but also for other commodities that have high advantage.

Another example is Myanmar’s policy on rice. While the country can feed the whole of China where rice production is concerned, the government will not trade it because it is seen as a strategic commodity.

Compounding the situation is the fact that CLMV are not yet members of the WTO. If they are to be integrated into the WTO, they must be able to decide which of their respective commodities will perform well, and learn the craft of negotiation. WTO, one of the largest trade organizations ever mounted in...
The Fourth Asia-Pacific Agricultural Policy Forum was held in Jeju, Korea on 5-6 September 2005. It was co-sponsored by Global Agriculture Policy Institute, Cheju National University, National Agricultural Cooperatives Federation, Jeju Provincial Government, Korean Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Korea Forestry Service, Korea Fishing Port Association, and Korea FAO Association. The annual APAP Forum aims to foster cooperation on agricultural development issues among Asia-Pacific countries. Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director and Secretary-General of the APAP Forum, said the annual meeting provide a conducive venue for a free exchange of critical ideas coming from different perspectives in order to come out with syntheses or new ones that would have significant impacts on the interrelated concerns of agriculture and development.

This year’s forum continued the discussions on WTO/DDA negotiations in the context of Asia-Pacific agriculture and rural development; agricultural mechanization, postharvest modernization, sustainable fisheries development, forestry and sustainable mountain village development; and the possibilities of strategic alliances and cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries. It also discussed policies as they related to food and poverty reduction.

While in Korea, Dr. Balisacan met with several high government officials to explore possibilities of collaboration between SEARCA and Korea. The officials included Mr. Myung-Soo Lee, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Mr. Jeong-Soo Son, Administrator, and Mr. Je-Kyu Kim, Director of the International Cooperation Center, both of the Rural Development Administration; Mr. Sang-Tae Kim, Executive Director of Human Resource Cooperation, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); and Ms. Kyung-Hwa Kang, Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In particular, Dr. Balisacan discussed with them a capability-building proposal for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. (LLTallafer)

The 2005 Human Development Report, launched worldwide last 7 September, underscores the need for more aid, pro-poor trade reform, and peace-building, in order to win the global war against extreme poverty.

The global launch was held by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) a few days in advance of the 2005 World Summit held in New York, USA. In the Philippines, the launch was attended by more than 200 representatives of local and international development agencies, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and the diplomatic corps.

The annual HDR outlines the progress of UN-member countries toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of development targets jointly adopted by world leaders at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000.

However, using the latest country-level data, the 2005 Report shows that “while there has been substantial overall progress globally, many individual countries are actually falling further behind.” Presented by Dr. Manuel F. Montes, Regional Programme Coordinator of UNDP-Colombo, the Report focuses on the role richer countries must play to defeat poverty, in three vital areas—aid, trade, and peace-building.

Mr. Kyo Naka, Resident Representative a.i. of UNDP-Philippines, underscored in his Welcome Remarks that with 10 years to go to the target date, UNDP continues to take up the cudgels in the global pursuit of the MDGs.
Manila to host 2 SEARCA international conferences in November

SEARCA is gearing up for two international conferences to be held in Metro Manila, Philippines in November this year. Both are part of the Center’s month-long celebration of its 39th founding anniversary, and will also mark the beginning of the year-long celebration of its 40th year, which will culminate in November 2006.

The International Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia: Ideas, Paradigms, and Policies Three Decades After will be held on 10-11 November 2005 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Economists, development thinkers, academicians, scholars, and policymakers from Australia, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, and Thailand have registered in the conference. More are expected to sign up as the date draws nearer.

The list of speakers, their topics, and other important information on the conference are on http://web.searca.org/ard.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) International Seminar Support Scheme, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Rice Research Institute, the Worldfish Center, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries-Queensland Government, and Lapanday Foods Corporation from the Philippines have pledged to support the conference. Other institutions and organizations, both public and private, that would like to partner with SEARCA and sponsor the conference are welcome. For details of sponsorship, please email the Secretariat at <ard_conference@agri.searca.org>.

Meanwhile, SEARCA’s Biodiversity Research Programme (BRP) for Development in Mindanao will hold the Conference-Workshop Towards a Regional Cooperation on Biodiversity Research-for-Development on 28-29 November 2005 in Pasig City.

In 1997, SEARCA and the Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council (RAWOO) brought together researchers and policymakers from the country in a workshop to determine the national research agenda and priorities for biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. From this research agenda, the BRP was developed and provided funding by the Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation (DGIS).

Now on its fifth and final year of implementation, SEARCA-BRP is organizing and sponsoring this conference-workshop to assess the results of the BRP vis-à-vis the 1997 research agenda and situate its research results in the context of other biodiversity conservation efforts in the country and in the Southeast Asian region.

The conference will feature a Keynote Paper that will present local and international initiatives on biodiversity research-for-development and the linkage between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, and five Country Papers that will present the status of biodiversity conservation in each country, highlighting the experiences and results of biodiversity projects implemented.

A workshop will follow the conference to conceptualize a regional research-for-development programme focused on biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in SE Asia.

For more information, please contact Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Coordinator, BRP National Support Secretariat (NSS) at SEARCA, through telephone (63-49) 536-2290 loc. 132, fax (63-49) 536-4105, or e-mail <brp@agri.searca.org>. (MLVRavago and CSFule)

Other Upcoming Events*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date and Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>conferences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEARCA Felows Association of the Philippines (SFAP) Conference</td>
<td>11-12 Oct 2005 SEARCA, Baños, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultative Workshop on Emerging Issues and Policy Responses on Food Safety</td>
<td>27-28 Oct 2005 Wageningen, the Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second screening of proposals for the SEARCA Seed Fund for Strategic Research and Training (SFRT)</td>
<td>11 Oct 2005 SEARCA, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landcare Project Meeting and Workshop</td>
<td>15-19 Nov 2005 Bohol, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAMEO High Officials Meeting</td>
<td>24-25 Nov 2005 Chaam, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of Trainers in Promoting Local Market Development</td>
<td>5-16 Dec 2005 Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of Trainers in Food Safety and Standards</td>
<td>20-24 Feb 2006 SEARCA, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Program on Natural Resource Management in a Globalizing Asia</td>
<td>6-10 Mar 2006 SEARCA, Philippines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* List includes events within October 2005 to March 2006 only. Schedules may be modified without prior notice. Please visit www.searca.org for more updated information on SEARCA events.
SEARCA and QUEDANCOR reach out to countryside entrepreneurs

SEARCA, in partnership with the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR), the microfinancing arm of the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA), continue to reach out to agribusiness entrepreneurs in the countryside through the “Skills Enhancement and Social Awareness Course for QUEDANCOR Self-Reliant Team (SRT) Leaders.” The training course is part of a five-year capability-building project entitled “Strengthening the Capacity of QUEDANCOR SRT Leaders in Agribusiness and Credit Management: Phase II.” The project is funded by QUEDANCOR and implemented by SEARCA. It is aimed at promoting enterprise development in the Philippine countryside.

Since the project commenced in April 2005, seven of the targeted 13 batches of SRT Leaders have been trained. The first three courses were held between April and June; altogether they had 79 participants from Regions 4, 6, and 7. (See The SEARCA Diary Vol. 34 No. 2, June 2005.) Between July and September, 118 participants from Regions 13, 2, 11, and 8 were trained in agribusiness and entrepreneurial skills.

On 27 June-1 July 2005, 31 fisherfolk from Surigao del Norte in the CARAGA Region also underwent training in Surigao City. On 18-22 July, 28 rice farmers from Isabela and Nueva Viscaya attended the course conducted in Santiago City. On 22-26 August, 31 rice farmers from Tagum, Digos, Compostela Valley, Davao City, and South Cotabato attended the course held in Davao City. Lastly, on 19-23 September, 28 SRT Leaders under the rice and livelihood programs of QUEDANCOR attended the course held in Tacloban City.

In each of the five-day course, six modules were covered. These are: (a) overview of the SRT Model in relation to the development of the countryside; (b) strengthening SRT leadership with emphasis on flow and forms of power, leadership and power, styles of leadership, culture and gender in organizations; (c) management of farm enterprises and efficient agribusiness management systems; (d) farm planning and budgeting and cash flow management; (e) technical issues and concerns related to the participants’ production practices and management; and (f) re-entry planning. A visit to enterprises under QUEDANCOR lending and guarantee programs was also arranged for the participants.

The eighth and ninth offerings of the course are being arranged for implementation in October and November 2005. (ATRobles)

Where economic / from Page 4

the history of globalization, will be a huge and boundless pot of gold for the CLMV countries, if and when they have imbibed in their system technological, marketing, and managerial skills.

Final destination

It is easy to lose a needle in a stack of hay. Dr. Sang Mu Lee, Chair of the Asia Pacific Agriculture Policy Forum (APAP), reminds the other country representatives that though the CLMV countries should have a global perspective, they have to first confine their focus on their own backyard. Dr. Lee says that at the end of the day, the final destination is really to secure the quality of life of the rural people.

These thoughts were gleaned from the Second Policy Roundtable Discussion on Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness of Transition Countries in Southeast Asia held on 3-4 August 2005 at the Richmond Hotel in Pasig City, Philippines. (See related story on Page 1.) (LCMalicsi)
The second meeting of the SEARCA Advisory Committee was held last 6 July in Los Baños, Laguna.

The SEARCA Advisory Committee, composed of men and women prominent in national and international academic, scientific, and business communities, provides counsel to the Center on strategic areas it may go into, strategic approaches it may employ to carry out its mandates, or resource-mobilization schemes it may pursue to augment its incomes.

The Center’s major program accomplishments and financial performance in FY 2004/2005 were presented at the meeting. Plans, issues, and prospects for FY 2005/2006 were discussed.

The Committee commended SEARCA’s well-laid out plans as well as its effective management of financial resources. The Committee likewise advised the Center’s management on ways to improve its performance through having more focused programs and a more defined niche in the broad spectrum of agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management. It stressed the importance of packaging the Center’s accomplishments in a way that would attract donors and promote the “SEARCA brand,” as well as harness the potential of its various networks and linkages.

The meeting was presided by Prof. Solita C. Monsod of the School of Economics, University of the Philippines Diliman and former Philippine Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Present also were Dr. Gelia T. Castillo, National Scientist, Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST); Dr. Cielito Habito, Professor at the Ateneo de Manila University and former Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General of NEDA; Dr. Percy E. Sajise, Regional Director of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) Regional Office for Asia, Pacific, and Oceania; and Dr. Ernesto V. Carpio, Officer in Charge of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Graduate School.

The other members are Mr. Senen Bacani, President of ULTREX Management and Investment Corp. and former Philippine Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Saifullah Syed, Chief of the Policy Assistance Branch for Asia and the Pacific of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Dr. Hiroyuki Takeya, Director of the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education at Nagoya
Malaysian educ official underscores agriculture’s importance to national development

The importance of the agriculture sector to the national economy of Malaysia was underscored by Y. Bhg. Dato’ Dr. Zulkefli bin A. Hassan, Deputy Secretary General (Development) of the Ministry of Education of Malaysia.

Dato’ Dr. Zulkefli represented the Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia at the opening ceremonies of the 51st SEARCA Governing Board Meeting held in Langkawi, Malaysia, where he delivered the keynote message.

Citing the agriculture sector’s contribution to the national income and export earnings and creation of employment, the Malaysian official added that “the sector is also a major supplier of food as well as raw materials to resource-based industries.”

He described this sector as characterized by a dualistic structure, with the export-oriented plantations/large farms, on one hand, and the smallholders characterized by old age, small farm size, and lower levels of education and technology use, on the other. He said that among the issues and challenges besetting the industry is the less than encouraging response of the private sector in food production and negative perceptions of the youth toward earning a livelihood from agricultural activities.

Dato’ Dr. Zulkefli said that the Malaysian government undertakes adjustment measures to expedite the competitiveness of the sector to enable it to face new challenges both at domestic and international levels. He said that the Eighth Malaysia Plan (8MP) and the Mid-Term Review of the 8MP have broken down the broad objectives of the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) into detailed policy guidelines particularly for medium-term implementation of programs and objectives. “The role of agriculture is revamped and upgraded

Meet the SEARCA GB Members

Brunei
Cambodia
Indonesia
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

SEARCA GB commends Center’s progress, okays budgets

The Governing Board of SEARCA has commended Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, for the way he has redirected the programs of SEARCA and his effective management of its financial resources.

The commendation was given during the 51st meeting of the Board held in Langkawi, Malaysia on 23-25 August 2005.

The Governing Board, being the policymaking body of SEARCA, meets annually to review and evaluate the Center, particularly with regard the progress of its core programs and management concerns.

At its 51st meeting, the Board approved the Center’s accomplishment report, including its financial reports, for fiscal year 2004/2005, as well as its budgets for fiscal years ending 30 June 2007, 2008, and 2009, with annual totals of US$3,612,073, US$3,949,698, and US$4,305,589, respectively.

The Board also approved personnel-related proposals, including an across-the-board salary increase for the staff and the modification of the Center’s Job Classification Plan (which included the renaming of 12 authorized regular positions).

Moreover, it authorized the appointment of Alba Romeo & Co. as SEARCA’s external auditor for three years, starting 2006.

The Governing Board is composed of representatives of the 10 member-countries of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the SEARCA Director, and the Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat. The SEAMEO member-countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.
SEARCA ADSS

The weekly SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS) continues to be a venue for dynamic and vibrant discussion of scientific findings, research results, and perspectives within the purview of agriculture and development. It has had high-profile researchers and practitioners from the academe, government, and industry as resource persons. Open to the public and held at the Center every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., the ADSS is attended by students, academics, scientists, and other members of the Los Baños community and beyond. The following were the seminars held from July to September 2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 July</td>
<td>Seed Treatments: Toward Quality and Productivity</td>
<td>Dr. Satriyas Ilyas, Department of Agronomy, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>Will Climate Change Bring Famine or Feast? A Rice Story</td>
<td>Dr. John Sheehy, Head, Climate Unit, International Rice Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 July</td>
<td>Hybrid Rice Commercialization: Impacts and Future Directions</td>
<td>Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, Director, Philippine Rice Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 July</td>
<td>The Impact of an RP-US Free Trade Agreement on Philippine Agriculture</td>
<td>Mr. U-U-Primo E. Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, College of Economic and Management (CEM), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 August</td>
<td>Philippine Biotech Industry --Forging Ahead!</td>
<td>Dr. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza, Research Professor, Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB, and Editor-in-Chief, Philippine Agricultural Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 August</td>
<td>Economic and Environmental Tensions in the Uplands: Causes and Consequences</td>
<td>Dr. Agnes Rola, Director, Institute of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies, College of Public Affairs, UPLB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 August</td>
<td>Toward a Philippine-Japan Economic Cooperation in Agriculture</td>
<td>Professor Amelia Bello and Dr. Zenaida Sumalde, CEM, UPLB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>An Analysis of Costs and Performance of Irrigation Projects: Lessons from World Bank, ADB, and IFAD-funded Projects</td>
<td>Dr. Arlene Inocencio, Economist, International Water Management Institute, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Commercialization of Technologies at BIOTECH</td>
<td>Dr. Teresita M. Espino, Director, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), UPLB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 September</td>
<td>Demand for Fish in the Philippines: A Cross-Income Comparison</td>
<td>Dr. Yolanda T. Garcia, CEM, UPLB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>When the Ivory Tower Meets the Bottom Line: Setting priorities for research on aquatic resources</td>
<td>Dr. Roehlano Briones, Senior Fellow, Brain Trust, Inc. Knowledge and Options for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>Domestication of a New Crop: The Case of Sago</td>
<td>Dr. Eufemio Rasco, Professor, University of the Philippines Mindanao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 September</td>
<td>The GAME Model: GIS-based Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation for Sustainable Resource Management</td>
<td>Dr. Nathaniel C. Bantayan, Associate Professor, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, UPLB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

as the third engine of growth, after the manufacturing and service sectors. As such, the agriculture sector is in line for new growth in view of the government’s commitment to revitalize the sector,” he added. He shared that the Budget 2005 focuses on generating greater dynamism of the agriculture sector, and has the twin objectives of increasing income and reducing dependence on imports, particularly food.

He reported that the Malaysian government has allocated large funds for research aimed at developing new products and technologies and that Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) continues to play a key role in research and development in Malaysia. Under the BMP, UPM will receive a total of US$44 million to implement 498 research projects. Of these, 121 projects are in the agro-industry sector.

The Malaysian official also shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has designated UPM as a center of excellence for agricultural education. He stressed that closer collaboration and linkages at the international level with organizations like SEARCA would help transform UPM into such a center of excellence. (LLTallafer)

while SEARCA / from Page 8

University; Mr. Cesar E. A. Virata, President of Management Consultants and former Prime Minister of the Philippines; and Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, Director of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). (AJTAragon and SVFernandez)
Workshop to tackle food safety in Southeast Asia

SEARCA and the Regional Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network (TROPMED), another center of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), will jointly conduct a Regional Consultative Workshop on Emerging Issues and Policy Responses on Food Safety. It will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 27-28 October 2005.

The objectives of the workshop are: 1) to provide an overview of the status of food safety systems; 2) to examine emerging policy and institutional issues relating to food safety; and 3) to identify regional initiatives intended to enhance food safety in Southeast Asia.

The workshop will feature a keynote paper on “Food Safety in Southeast Asia: Challenges Facing the Region.” Five issue papers on the following topics will also be presented: 1) Socioeconomic impact of food-borne diseases; 2) Food safety and international trade; 3) Microbiological and chemical risk assessment: What are the benefits and costs to developing countries?; 4) Food safety emergency preparedness; and 5) Networking for food safety.

Representatives from Southeast Asian countries are expected to participate in the workshop and share their country’s experiences in food safety.

For more information on the workshop, please visit http://web.searca.org/foodsafety.

(MLVRavago)

SEARCA GB / from Page 9

Vietnam.

Presently, the Board is chaired by the representative of Myanmar, in the person of Mr. Tin Htut Oo, Director-General, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Board next meeting (52nd) will be held in Singapore in September 2006.

(LLTallafer)
DAAD-SEARCA scholarship program evaluated

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Evaluation Team, headed by Mrs. Hannelore Bossman, Chief, Section of South and Southeast Asia, DAAD, visited SEARCA on 25-27 July 2005 to conduct an evaluation of the DAAD-SEARCA scholarship program.

The other members of the Team were Dr. Uwe Muuss, Managing Director, Center for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry, Georg-August University of Goettingen, Germany, and Prof. Dr. Heinz-Ulrich Neue, Head and Professor, Department of Soil Sciences, UFZ Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle in Germany.

The DAAD Evaluation Team conferred with the SEARCA Directorate, and staff of the Center’s Graduate Scholarship Department and finance units regarding the administrative and academic issues that concern the DAAD-SEARCA scholarships. They also discussed with Dr. Ernesto V. Carpio, Vice Chancellor for Instruction and Officer in Charge of the Graduate School, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), regarding the UPLB Graduate School policies and procedures. The Team also met all the DAAD scholars studying at UPLB and some of their advisers as well as some SEARCA fellows.

DAAD has been supporting SEARCA’s graduate scholarship program since 1975. To date, it has funded 274 (135 MS, 139 PhD) SEARCA scholarships, 31 (13 MS, 18 PhD) of which are ongoing.

DAAD-SEARCA scholarship awarded to Filipino

Ms. Marissa R. Parao, a Filipino, has been granted a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and SEARCA to pursue her PhD in Silviculture at the University of the Philippines Los Baños effective 1 June 2005.

DAAD also provided funds for additional one-year graduate scholarships to ongoing SEARCA scholars at UPLB, namely: Ms. Htay Htay Aung, a Myanmar national (MS, Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Management); Mr. Dam Viet Bac, Vietnamese (MS, Forestry); and Mr. Nathaniel R. Alibuyog, Filipino (PhD, Agricultural Engineering).

18th Executive Board Meeting crafts vision for a revitalized University Consortium

“To be a leader in implementing collaborative strategies for excellent graduate education and cutting-edge research in agriculture, environment, and natural resources for the benefit of the Southeast Asian region”—this is the new vision of the revitalized Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources or University Consortium (UC). The new vision was crafted by the participants of the 18th University Consortium Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held on 19 August 2005 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Prof. Dato’ Dr. Mohd Zohadie Badaie, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), in his opening remarks, stressed that “the active participation of the members of the UC is a testimony that the UC is still a relevant and important network for the promotion of agriculture and sustainable environment.”

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, underscored the challenge on the UC to effectively intervene and create a positive impact by producing highly trained professionals who could contribute to the development of their respective countries’ policies and other mechanisms that promote rural development. On the other hand, Dr. Aini Ideris, Dean of the UPM School of Graduate Studies, emphasized the need for the UC to stand on its own, grow.
Transaction-Cost Politics in Environmental Regulation and the Case of Hazardous Wastes in the Philippines

Anna Floresca F. Abrina
Philippines
MS in Economics,
University of the
Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)

This study attempts a conceptual unification of the works on transaction-cost politics by Avinash Dixit and of the other literature on the Coase theorem and transaction costs as applied to regulation and to politics. The analytical framework developed is used to provide perspective on the observed environmental regulatory arrangements and the constraints in the making and implementation of environmental regulatory policies in the Philippines, with particular emphasis on hazardous waste management.

The present study views environmental regulatory policy as an equilibrium outcome of a political process, which is influenced by many costs of negotiating and implementing agreements, most notably costs of coping with information asymmetries and costs of making commitments credible. In the examination of the agency relationships among political principals, regulators, regulated agents and society, the presumptions of the severity of common agency and of the prevalence of opportunistic behavior and information asymmetries in hazardous waste regulation are reinforced. Environmental regulatory reform and the design of environmental regulatory agency should therefore take into account the human capital and communication infrastructure needed to provide efficient administrative and enforcement services and the conflict of interest between different social groups.

Establishment of a Resource Information System for Aurora State College of Technology (ASCOT) Reservation Area in Aurora Province, Philippines

RB J. Gallego
Philippines
MS in Forestry, UPLB

The study sought to develop forest resource databases for Aurora State College of Technology (ASCOT) Reservation Area, correlate the distribution of resources along the gradients of the environment, and recommend appropriate management schemes deemed necessary to develop the area. The study produced databases from the results of the data sourcing and inventory. In terms of species composition, floristic composition analysis showed that species of Dipterocarpaceae dominates the area. The study showed that presence of lesser-used species was the evidence of the past logging operations that opened gaps for these species’ emergence. Vegetation analysis by principal components showed no relative correlation between species composition and the variants of environment like elevation, slope, and soils. The faunal assessment revealed that most of the species are endemic to the Philippines. Three bird species were identified as near-threatened species. A simple GIS analysis was used to identify areas for conservation and management. Management schemes were also formulated for the area using the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that were identified based on the results of the study.

Land Use Changes and Biodiversity Conservation in Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Ismet Khaeruddin
Indonesia
PhD in Environmental Science, UPLB

The study was conducted at Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia from February 2001 to April 2002 for field study, and July to August 2003 for GIS analysis. Factors affecting land use changes at the individual family and village factor levels of the 15 buffer zone villages associated with four major vegetation types, namely lowland, monsoon, lower montane, and anthropogenic of Lore Lindu National Park were examined. This study aimed to determine the dominant driving factors for land use change from natural forest to non-forest, and its implications on biodiversity.

Village surveys were conducted to gather individual family data i.e. family size, educational attainment, agricultural land possession, potential agricultural land, agricultural income, potential agricultural land in the village, and road distance to the city were tested. Pearson correlation analysis was used to determine the relationships between land use change and biodiversity status. Net present value of the natural forest and non-forest land uses were computed in the benefit and cost analysis.

The dominant factors for land use change at the village level were migrants and education, and agricultural land possession at the individual family level. Hence, changes in forest structure resulted to a negative effect on biodiversity status. The net present value (NPV) of land use change from natural forest to non-forest was negative. This implies that the area should be better retained as a natural forest.

Collaborative management with appropriate zonation implementation is one feasible solution to long-term biodiversity conservation in Lore Lindu National Park.
**SEARCA assists in Philippine agrarian reform**

SEARCA was recently chosen by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide consulting services for ADB TA No. 4390-PHI: Agrarian Reform Communities Project II (ARCP 2). The project continues ARCP1, which will be completed in December 2005. ARCP 2 is expected to sustain the momentum generated by the first phase toward optimizing the impact of agrarian reform.

ARCP 2 aims to reduce poverty in the Philippines by helping the government prepare an investment project that will equitably distribute agriculture land and provide rural infrastructure and income. The components of ARCP 2 will include land surveying and titling, provision of rural infrastructure and development support services, project management, and capacity building of the Philippine Department of Land Reform (DLR), local government units (LGUs), and agrarian reform community (ARC) organizations.

SEARCA’s Technical Assistance (TA) team is composed of the following: Mr. Rey Estanislao C. Crystal, Rural Development Specialist cum Team Leader; Dr. Dorothy Lucks, Agrarian Reform and Social Development Expert; Engr. Clovis Ike J. Payumo, Rural Infrastructure Specialist; Ms. Guia Romero-Minguiz, Agribusiness and Rural Enterprise Development Specialist; Ms. Liberty Guinto, Financial and Economic Specialist; Mr. Raike R. Quinones, Microfinance Specialist; Atty. Virgilio R. De Los Reyes, Legal Expert in Land Tenure; and Ms. Jo Rowena D. Garcia, Environment Specialist.

On June 30 and July 1, the project held its Inception Mission at the DLR office in Quezon City, led by representatives from ADB, DLR, SEARCA, and the TA team.

The first Consultation-Workshop was held last 1-2 August at the Oasis Hotel at Angeles City, Pampanga. Representatives from the different agencies involved in the project discussed ARCP 2 to its target beneficiaries coming from the provinces of Romblon, Marinduque, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Negros Occidental, Leyte, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Maguindanao, Lanao Sur and Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). (HJV Sarmiento)

**Authors meet for rice policy book**

Chapter authors of the book entitled, “Ensuring Rice Security for All: Issues, Constraints, and Policy Directions” presented the preliminary results of their respective studies during the Author’s Workshop held on 21 September 2005 at the Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) Conference Room in Quezon City.

SEARCA, the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), and DA-BAR combined resources to come up with a volume on the Philippine rice industry that is systematic, organized, and offers a forward-looking assessment of the industry from a policy perspective. The contents of this book will focus on important rice policy issues and institutional constraints. It will also examine policy choices that will lead towards achieving rice security, presented in a manner that can be easily understood and appreciated by lay readers, especially decision makers and legislators.

Experts who will contribute to the volume include Arsenio Balisacan, SEARCA; Donato Antiporda, UN Food and Agriculture Organization-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN FAO-RAP); Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice; Eliseo Ponce, Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS); Gilberto Llanto, PIDS; Tirso Paris, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); Herminia Francisco, UPLB; Prudenciano Gordoncillo, UPLB; Alex Brillantes, University of the Philippines Diliman; George Norton, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Rodrigo Badayos, UPLB; Mercy Sombilla, SEARCA; Flor Lantican, UPLB; Nerliita Manalili, SEARCA; and Ma. Concepcion Lizada, UP Diliman. (MLVRavago)

**18th Executive / from Page 12**

The meeting reformulated the mission and objectives of the UC, redefined the roles of its members and Secretariat, and modified its organizational structure.

The UC Board also approved the following: a) revised guidelines on UC Membership; b) the revised Memorandum of Agreement on the Funding Scheme; c) the revised grants administration guidelines and the suspension of the UC Research Fellowship and UC Professorial Chair Programs; d) the operational plan and budget for 2005/2006; and e) the conduct of the 19th UC Executive Officers Meeting in Kasetarst University (KU), Thailand in mid-November 2006.

The UC was established in September 1989. Its founding members are Institut Pertanian Bogor and Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia; KU in Thailand; and University of the Philippines Los Baños. Its associate members are University of British Columbia in Canada; University of Queensland in Australia; and the Georg-August University of Goettingen in Germany. SEARCA initiated the establishment of the UC and currently serves as its Secretariat. (ECCedicol)

**SEARCA launches / from Page 11**

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, thanked Prof. Dato’ Dr. Mohd. Zohadie Bardaie for the support he has given to the publication. He said the Primer Series, which presents the overall agricultural situation for each SEAMEO member country, is one of the latest publications of SEARCA. It is part of SEARCA’s commitment to promote agriculture and rural development in the region.

The maiden volume of the series, featuring Philippine agriculture, came out last year. The third volume will be on Myanmar agriculture. (LLTallafer)
GB members / from Page 7

of Agriculture and Irrigation. His term of office as GB member is from 3 Nov 2000 to 10 Dec 2006.

The other GB members, their designations, and terms of office are:

Brunei Darussalam - represented in the interim by Mrs. Pengiran Rosidah binti Pengiran Haji Metussin, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources; 1 Apr 2002 - 31 Mar 2005;

Cambodia - Dr. Chan Nareth, Rector, Royal University of Agriculture; 14 Jan 2005 - 13 Jan 2008;

Indonesia - Prof. Dr Ir H Moehammad Munir, M.S., Director, Research and Community Services Development, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education; 30 Jun 2005 - 29 Jun 2008;

Lao PDR - Mr. Thongphanh Kousonsavath, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, National University of Laos; 14 Sep 2001 - 8 Aug 2007;

Malaysia - Prof. Dato’ Dr. Mohd Zohadie Bardaie, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Putra Malaysia; 3 Jun 2001-Sep 2007;

Philippines (ex-officio) - Dr. Wilfredo P. David, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños; 1 Nov 1999 - 31 October 2005;

Singapore - Dr. Tan Teck Koon, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, and Dean of Students, Office of Student Affairs, National University of Singapore; 1 Jul 2004 - 30 Jun 2007;

Thailand - Mr. Veerasak Wongsombut, Secretary-General, Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education; 1 Oct 2003 - 5 Oct 2007;

Vietnam - Prof. Dr. Dang Kim Vui, Rector, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry; 22 Aug 2005 - 21 Aug 2008;

SEARCA (ex-officio) - Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Director;

SEAMEO Secretariat (ex-officio) - Dr. Edilberto C. de Jesus, Director.

Participants of the 51st SEARCA Governing Board Meeting pose for posterity with Y. Bhg. Dato’ Dr. Zulkefli A. Hassan (middle), Deputy Secretary General (Development), representing the Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia, who delivered the keynote speech at the Meeting’s opening ceremonies on 23 Aug.

UNDP Report / from Page 5

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Director of SEARCA and President of the Philippine Human Development Network (HDN), said in his Opening Message that “the reality of many nations underperforming in most of the MDGs forces us not to bask on the achievements so far, but to focus on our failures.”

In his reaction to the Report, Dr. Ponciano L. Intal, Professor at the De La Salle University, highlighted that in the case of the Philippines, aid should be better managed and implemented, and beneficiaries need to be better targeted. Mr. Isagani R. Serrano, Senior Vice President of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, on the other hand, noted the relative silence of the Report on the issue of debts, as well as ecological and environmental security.

Former President of the Philippines Fidel V. Ramos, who is also Chair of the country’s HDN, summed up the Report’s salient points in his Closing Message. He said that ultimately, the promise of development, in the form of the MDGs, needs to be honored now, not tomorrow, and not in 2015. Moreover, the urgency amply demonstrated by the Report should serve to jolt governments to finally address inequalities, acknowledge human rights, promote investment, and stamp out corruption. (AJTAragon)
Indonesian Charge d’Affaires visits SEARCA.
SEARCA received last 7 July the Charge d’Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in the Philippines. His Excellency Sanusi was briefed by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Deputy Director-Administration, on the Center’s activities and priority areas. Apart from renewing the ties between Indonesia and SEARCA, the meeting also identified areas of further collaboration to promote agricultural competitiveness and rural development in Southeast Asia. Indonesia is one of the 10 member countries of SEAMEO.

Former SEARCA official visits. Dr. Anake Topark-ngarm, former SEARCA Deputy Director and now Director of the Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen, Thailand, visited SEARCA last 2 September. Dr. Anake was briefed by SEARCA Management on the different programs and activities of the Center. He also discussed the programs of the Mekong Institute as well as possible areas of collaboration between the two agencies.

First screening of SFRT proposals held. SEARCA received 24 submissions from six countries in the first call for proposals for support under the SEARCA Seed Fund for Strategic Research and Training (SFRT). The first screening was held last 19 September. Evaluators were Dr. Gelia Castillo, National Scientist, Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology; Dr. Tirso Paris, Professor at the College of Economics and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños; Dr. Arnulfo G. Garcia, and Dr. Jesus C. Fernandez, Managers of the Research and Development and Training Departments of SEARCA, respectively. The second screening will be held on 11 October 2005. Grantees will be announced on the Center’s 39th anniversary celebration on 29 November. For more information

President FVR meets SEARCA officials. Former President of the Philippines Fidel V. Ramos received three SEARCA officials at the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation office in Makati City last 22 September. (From left to right) Dr. Lorna C. Malicsi, Head of the Center’s Knowledge Management Unit (KMU), Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Deputy Director-Administration, and Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, and presented him with SEARCA publications. In turn, President Ramos gave the Center a book titled “In a Class of Her Own: The Life and Times of Angela Valdez Ramos,” which is a biography of his mother.

Former President of the Philippines Fidel V. Ramos received three SEARCA officials at the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation office in Makati City last 22 September. (From left to right) Dr. Lorna C. Malicsi, Head of the Center’s Knowledge Management Unit (KMU), Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Deputy Director-Administration, and Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, and presented him with SEARCA publications. In turn, President Ramos gave the Center a book titled “In a Class of Her Own: The Life and Times of Angela Valdez Ramos,” which is a biography of his mother.

The SEARCA Diary

WEB www.searca.org/newsletter.asp
EMAIL post@agri.searca.org
MAIL SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, PHILIPPINES
TELEPHONE (63) (49) 5362290 local 419
FAX (63) (49) 5367097

Editor / Design and Layout ALTHEA JOYCE T. ARAGON
Production Assistant MARY ROSE JOY G. SAGABAY
Editorial Consultant LILY L. TALLAFER
Editorial Adviser ARSENIO M. BALISACAN, PhD

Entered as Second Class Mail on _____________ at College, Laguna 4031, Philippines