

# The SEARCA DIARY



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## A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Forty-one years of commitment to agricultural and rural development (ARD) in Southeast Asia... we have come a long way. Together with our partners, we raise a toast to another year of new triumphs and milestones as we charge forward for stronger regional cooperation toward increased institutional capacities in ARD.

CHEERS!!!



## SEARCA turns 41, fetes former president

SEARCA marked its 41st Anniversary celebration with a ceremony graced by former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos held at SEARCA's Umali Auditorium on 27 November 2007.

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, led the management, staff, and scholars in the celebration, which was attended by officials of institutions in the Los Baños Science Community as well as SEARCA's partners. In his welcome remarks, Dr. Balisacan said that this [anniversary] is a very important milestone for SEARCA. Stressing the importance of celebrating the occasion, he said that "from such remembrance we can gain new inspirations to move forward, carrying our mandate of building Southeast Asia's capacity for agricultural and rural development in order to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security."

As SEARCA turned 41, it enriched its offerings by launching the Dioscoro L. Umali (DLU) Achievement Award for Agricultural Development. Mr. Ramos led the launch of the DLU award.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 02 **SEARCA turns 41 (Anniversary section)**  
An honor due  
Snippets of the anniversary speeches
- 05 9 SE Asian researchers get grants
- 06 SEARCA participates in Filipiniana book donation  
to Cambodia  
Experts glean lessons from tropical forestry project
- 07 Agriculture and fisheries experts needed  
SEARCA co-organizes biotech workshops  
SEARCA and IFS host proposal writing seminar
- 08 UP renews hosting agreement with SEARCA  
SEARCA-ConServ bags three projects
- 09 SEARCA launches 2 books on development  
21 Southeast Asians, Europeans attend Natural  
Resources Knowledge Management forum
- 10 IPB hosts 20th University Consortium meeting
- 11 SEARCA Director, DOE Undersecretary  
urge biofuels development debate  
SEARCA Director presents Asia's poverty profile  
at US seminar
- 12 SEARCA awards professorial chair to 8 profs  
SEARCA awards 4 travel grants
- 13 Snapshots
- 14 SEARCA Alumni update
- 15 Graduate thesis abstracts
- 16 SEARCA-University of Hawaii-EWC hold conference  
on sustainability science  
INRAD project launched



The DLU award is named after SEARCA's first director who had been a prime mover of agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia in his time and whose quest for scholarship and excellence in agriculture fueled his vision for a progressive Southeast Asia. It intends to put agriculture in high profile by recognizing exemplary individuals who have advanced agricultural development in Southeast Asia. It is expected to be given annually, starting in November 2008, and comes with a cash prize of US\$10,000.

The other highlight of the anniversary program was SEARCA's conferment of a special award to Mr. Ramos, recognizing him as a foremost national leader who opened the Philippines' doors to globalization; fostered stronger cooperation in the Southeast and East Asian regions; and led reforms and programs engendering economic growth and sustainable development, food security and poverty reduction, in an atmosphere of peace and stability.

Mr. Ramos, in his keynote address, lauded SEARCA and its contributions to the region. He said "Nowadays – under the leadership of Dr. Balisacan, whose views on Philippine poverty I respect and frequently quote—SEARCA continues

to earn credibility in the type of development work it has been doing over the decades."

Mr. Ramos, in recalling the contributions of his administration to the agriculture sector, related that modernizing the country's agricultural sector was a priority agenda of his administration. He said that countryside development must be a centerpiece of public policy.

"We must therefore maximize the potentials of agriculture as the backbone of the Philippine development. We must build up an agricultural sector that will make us competitive not only in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia but also in other global markets," Mr. Ramos said.

He underscored that, although Southeast Asia has improved economically over the past quarter-century, poverty and food insecurity still stalk portions of the region. The challenges that abound are changing rapidly and SEARCA and stakeholders in the development sector must remain alert and relevant to respond to regional concerns and global development.

The former President furthered "SEARCA must also keep its collective expertise focused on agricultural policies and support system – in institutional development sustainable land and water management, conservation, biotechnology, biofuels and climate change—under the overarching concept of sustainability."

The event also saw the launch of SEARCA publications, namely:

- Asian Journal of Agriculture and Development Vol. 4. No. 1. 2007;
- The Unfolding Gene Revolution: Ideology, Science, and Regulation of Plant Biotechnology;

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director (left), hands SEARCA's Special Award to former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos. With them is Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, University of the Philippines Los Baños Chancellor and Philippine representative to the SEARCA Governing Board.

- Reasserting the Rural Development Agenda: Lessons Learned and Emerging Challenges in Asia;
- The Dynamics of Regional Development: The Philippines in East Asia;
- Recognizing What is Rightfully Yours: Intellectual Property Rights;
- An Ex Ante Evaluation of the Economy-wide Effects of an Avian Influenza Outbreak;
- Endangered Beauty: Mt. Malindang and its Environs in Mindanao, Philippines;
- Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer Series (Philippines – revised edition, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia);
- The AFTA-CEPT and the ASEAN-China Early Harvest Program: An Assessment of Potential Short-run Impacts (Discussion Paper Series);
- Policy Brief 2007 Series; and
- Natural Resource Management in a Globalizing Community.

SEARCA also conferred during the program the Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) grants to the third batch of awardees. This batch has nine recipients from Indonesia (2), Lao PDR (1), Philippines (3), and Vietnam (3). (See related story on page 5).

Moreover, SEARCA recognized eight staff members with Loyalty Awards. The awardees and their years of service are:

- 20 years - Maciste B. Alegre, General Services Assistant; Marites U. Suarez, Administrative Assistant; Cirila B. Miranda, Accounts Analyst; Elma M. Banzuela, Purchasing Assistant; Delfin T. Paz, Electrical and Equipment Technician;
- 15 years –Eugene Philip S. Boone, Grounds and Building Supervisor; and
- 10 years - Gaspar L. de Chavez, Carpenter/Plumber; Van-Allen S. Limbaco, Transport Services Assistant.

The program also featured a cultural presentation by SEARCA scholars. (MAFABad)

# SEARCA's

## 41st Anniversary Celebration



Former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos delivers his keynote address.



Mr. Ramos receives copies of SEARCA publications from the Director.



The guest of honor with present and past SEARCA officials.



The Deputy Director, master of ceremonies...



Bernadette Joven sings the Invocation.



SEARCA recognizes its Loyalty Awardees. Thumbs up!



SEARCA staff and guests during the anniversary program.



SEARCA scholars perform a special cultural presentation.



The publications launched during the anniversary celebration.



The ushers.



SEARCA staff with the guest of honor.

### THE SEARCA DIARY

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# An honor due

SPECIAL AWARD FOR FORMER PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS  
by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director

Today, on SEARCA's 41st Anniversary, we are privileged to be able to honor a multi-talented man who has chalked numerous achievements in his life in the service of the Philippines.

Iconic with his famous unlit tobacco, earning him the moniker "Tabako", as well as his thumbs-up sign, our honoree has been an example for many of us of simplicity, hard-work, service, can-do attitude, hands-on leadership, dogged determination, loyalty, courage, and nationalism.

With his keen aspiration for a great Filipino nation, he did his utmost when he had the power to do so to reform the Philippines so that its people may live in dignity.

During his presidency, he led his administration to focus on accelerating the pace of economic growth by building the international competitiveness of domestic industries, reforming regulation in services and industry, and investing in basic infrastructure. He strongly supported the implementation of a Social Reform Agenda so that the Philippines would be able to achieve its human development targets. This Social Reform Agenda is considered to be the first effort of the Philippine public administrative system to organize the various sectors of government toward securing the so-called minimum basic needs of people before attending to other demands of priority sectors.

It is for these and his other endeavors and achievements in support of the country's development that today, SEARCA confers its Special Award on the Honorable Fidel V. Ramos.

The award citation reads:

*A foremost national leader, Hon. Fidel V. Ramos, opened the Philippines' doors to globalization; fostered stronger cooperation in the Southeast and East Asian regions; and led reforms and programs engendering economic growth and sustainable development, food security and poverty reduction, in an atmosphere of peace and stability.*

*SEARCA recognizes his invaluable contributions to the Philippines' well-being through this special award given on 27 November 2007 on SEARCA's 41st anniversary, in Los Baños, Laguna.*

## Snippets of the Anniversary Speeches

### WELCOME REMARKS

by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director

As always, it is with gladness that I welcome you to SEARCA. We are deeply grateful and appreciative of your presence as we mark this annual milestone in our life as an organization.

Sometimes, in the flurry of activities, it is easy to delist anniversaries from our priorities.

However, according to our ability, we at SEARCA make a big deal of our anniversary because by remember our beginnings, we give ourselves a chance to distill the meaning of our existence and to etch in our corporate consciousness the purpose of our being. From such remembrance we can gain new inspirations to move forward, carrying our mandate of building Southeast Asia's capacity for agricultural and rural development in order to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security.

SEARCA's birth was the culmination of many months of committed work by a team of thinkers and scientists from the then University of the Philippine College of Agriculture, led by its Dean, Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali.

Dr. Umali and his team drew up the blueprint for SEARCA's establishment, believing that the time was ripe for Southeast Asia to take a bigger role in the development of its citizens' capacities in addressing the region's agriculture and rural development concerns.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Umali was appointed the first Director of SEARCA. After him came other helmsmen of SEARCA, who steered the Center through good times and bad, tempering it to maturity so that it would stand firm during days when stormy winds buffeted the Center and tried to bring it down.

We credit not only the Center's leaders for making SEARCA what is it today. Recognition is due equally on the dozens of men and women who have served and continue to serve SEARCA, many of them giving it the best of their years.

This 41st anniversary celebration is special for at least two reasons.

First, we will be launching a special project that honors the legacy and aspirations for Southeast Asia of Dr. Umali, mentor to many at UPLB and beyond.

And second, this occasion is graced by the man who, while in the highest office, had shown us that the "misfortunes" afflicting this country can be reversed, and, even now that he's out of office, continues to encourage us to nurture in our hearts the hope that yes, the Philippines can be great again!

I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the Philippine Government for its committed support to SEARCA through its hosting of our offices on UPLB campus and its financial support to the Center.

We likewise acknowledge all our partners, collaborators, and members of our networks. We thank you because with your help, SEARCA is able to do much beyond what it can by itself.

### WELCOME REMARKS

by Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños, and Philippine Representative to the SEARCA Governing Board

It is both a privilege and honor to welcome all of you to this special celebration, the 41st anniversary of SEARCA.

Four decades back, education ministers of Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam, together with a representative from the United States Government met to explore possible venues for regional cooperation in education, science, and culture. This historic meeting led to the birth of SEARCA in

our very own campus. This was followed by glorious as well as challenging events that eventually ushered SEARCA to where it is now.

Indeed, so much can be said about how SEARCA has excellently fulfilled its mission to undertake graduate education, research, training, and knowledge exchange. But this does not matter much at this point. The great thing about SEARCA is not where it stands now but in what direction it is moving – agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management toward food security and poverty reduction.

These thrusts are truly formidable but through the years, the 11 SEAMEO member countries succeeded in getting the job done despite the challenges. Together as a family, they have done great things, giving hope not only to the Southeast Asian Region but to society as a whole. This reminds me of the words of Egyptian President Sadat Anwar – "there can be hope only for a society which acts as one big family, not as many separate ones."

As we usher SEARCA to its fifth decade, let us keep the spirit of cooperation alive among us all and work towards our goal. Together, as Oliver Wendell Holmes put it, "let us sail with the wind and sometimes against it but we must sail. Not drift, nor lie at anchor."

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AGRICULTURE: THE BACKBONE OF PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT

by Former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos

#### Introductory

Many thanks for this Special Award that SEARCA has seen fit to give to me.

Since it comes from Southeast Asia's foremost regional Center—which is working on the development concerns closest to my heart—I will regard this Award as truly special.

I will cherish it – as a token of the precious regard that you in SEARCA have for what I tried to do in agriculture and rural development during my Presidency.

#### Modernizing our Country's Farming Sector

As most of us here well know, my Administration focused a major part of its resources and energy into modernizing our country's agricultural sector.

Successive Administrations before mine had routinely treated agriculture as the "stepchild" of Philippine development.

It is on the industrial sector that some had lavished public investment – despite common people's complaints that they are not feeling the supposed benefits of growth.

And the reason, of course, is that sustained growth is not coming from the labor-intensive, relatively low skill industries which offer the only jobs suited to millions of our under-educated rural young people.

If we are to begin redressing the balance of our still lopsided economy, we must continue to make countryside development a centerpiece of public policy.

We must therefore maximize the potentials of agriculture as the backbone of the Philippine development. We must build up an agricultural sector that will make us competitive not only in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia but also in other global markets.

#### Nurturing The Best Cultivation Practices

My dream has always been for the Philippines to become a major player in the Asian regional market and to benefit from the opportunities of global interdependence.

Hence, the policies and reforms my Administration introduced placed agricultural concerns in the forefront. We designated agricultural growth corridors throughout the country and did all we could to develop the best

cultivation practices and technologies for both staple and high-value crops within them. We identified the 20 poorest provinces in the country and inputted therein extra resources so that they could be uplifted from their perennial condition of mass poverty.

At the same time, we liberalized vital support sectors such as transport, irrigation, processing, credit, and so forth – to bolster our agricultural production breakthroughs we owed largely to aggressive R&D, which spurred us to introduce the best appropriate technologies of the time.

#### SEARCA's Record of Achievement

It was during this period that Los Baños became my favorite sanctuary and SEARCA my frequent destination among all the Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization (SEAMEO) centers.

Nowadays – under the leadership of Dr. Arsi Balisacan, whose views on Philippine poverty I respect and frequently quote—SEARCA continues to earn credibility in the type of development work it has been doing over the decades.

As a regional center hosted by the Philippines, SEARCA has consistently brought honor and benefit to our country. That the center is "grafted" to U.P. Los Baños enables both institutions to enjoy the benefits of synergy to the fullest extent.

Quite a number of Filipino scientists have acquired world-class reputations and linkages by taking part in SEARCA programs.

#### Food Insecurity Still Stalks Southeast Asia

Of course, SEARCA's work on agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management is far from completed.

While Southeast Asia has improved economically over this past quarter-century, poverty and food insecurity continue to stalk portions of our home – region. Hence, the challenges to all those who work on agricultural and rural development persist.

SEARCA must continue to be alert and stay relevant. Like every other regional institutions, it must be responsive to regional concerns and global development.

Meanwhile, SEARCA must also keep its collective expertise focused on agricultural policies and support system—in institutional development sustainable land and water management, conservation, biotechnology, biofuels and climate change—under the overarching concept of sustainability.

#### Agricultural Development will not be Enough

Agricultural development—along with rapid expansion of job and income opportunities in manufacturing and in services—has done a great deal to reduce Southeast Asian poverty—particularly during this last generation.

Recent trends, however, suggest that agricultural development alone will not be enough to sustain growth and poverty reduction in rural Southeast Asia in the years ahead.

Our traditional kind of agricultural production may no longer be a major factor to food security and poverty reduction.

#### "Land Mining" for Wealth Creation

Economic history shows us how technological change supported productivity increase and wealth-creation in the mature countries.

Investments are also needed in support services—particularly infrastructure and institutions—that would reduce the cost of doing business in rural areas; sustain the productivity-enhancing effects of improved technologies the rural economy.

Not only must Government invest in agriculture and rural development. Our elected leaders must

also improve their overall performance, and deliver governance that is honest, transparent, participated, predictable, and credible. And since government cannot provide all the investment that R&D will need, the best thing it can do is to create the policy environment conducive to private R&D.

#### A Great More for SEARCA to Do

All this means that there more SEARCA needs to do.

Among all that this Center must achieve, building and strengthening linkages and partnerships stand out as the key strategies.

Equally important is the truism that agricultural and rural development is the springboard from which a developing country such as ours can assure the sustained progress and well-being of all its people.

For SEARCA—as for our country—poverty alleviation continues to be the noblest cause of all.

#### The David Timberman Study:

The Philippines' Under-Performance

Allow me now to cite the observations of Dr. David Timberman, a scholar who has worked long years and written extensively on Southeast Asia and South Asia in his previous postings with the USAID, Asia Foundation, and Asia Society.

In a recent essay comparing the performance of Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines in terms of political, economic, and social development, it was said: "Ramos accelerated the economic reforms begun under Aquino. In 1992, the country opened to international financial markets and the peso became fully convertible. In 1993, a genuinely independent Central Bank (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or BSP) was established. Telecommunications and other strategic sectors were finally deregulated, privatization was accelerated, and foreign investment was cultivated.

## 9 SE Asian researchers get grants

Nine Southeast Asians will receive funding support from SEARCA's Seed Fund for Strategic Research and Training (SFRT) to jumpstart their research.



SFRT awardees with Dr. Arnulfo G. Garcia, Manager of SEARCA's Research and Development Department, Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB Chancellor.

## SEARCA participates in Filipiniana book donation to Cambodia

SEARCA was among the organizations that provided books to the Philippine Embassy in Cambodia for a Filipiniana collection that it donated to Cambodia on 11 December 2007.

The book donation marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Cambodia.

The collection was turned over to the National Library of Cambodia and the Library of the Senate of Cambodia during formal ceremonies led by H.E. Lourdes G. Morales, Philippine Ambassador to Cambodia, and H.E. Oum Sarith, Secretary General of Cambodia's Senate and Director Khlot Vibolla of the National Library. The event was witnessed by other officials of the two libraries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, ambassadors of the ASEAN member countries to Cambodia.

The Philippine Embassy in Cambodia says the collection contained more than 60 coffee table books, yearbooks, reference materials, compact disks, and other reading materials reflecting the history, government, culture, environment, and people of the Philippines. They covered topics ranging from governance, business, economics and entrepreneurship to art, dance, literature and food. The collection included books written by Dr. Jose Rizal, national hero of the Philippines, as well as classic essays and other literary works of prominent Philippine artists and personalities.

Philippine Ambassador Morales said having books about the Philippines in the two most frequented libraries in Cambodia would enhance learning and help in cultivating a deeper understanding between the peoples of both countries, particularly at this time when Cambodians' interest and desire to learn more about the world around them and the region are high. (LLTallafer)

## Experts glean lessons from tropical forestry project

Fourteen experts and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representatives and SEARCA participated in a roundtable discussion on lessons learned from the Small Grants Program to Promote Tropical Forests (SGP-PTF) on 10 November 2007 at SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

A key lesson identified is that in the absence of a formalized legal framework on access rights of the community, there is a need to improve interaction between communities and local authorities so that access rights can be arranged informally.

Mr. Eduardo E. Queblatin, Regional Program Coordinator of SGP-PTF, discussed the four major themes of accumulated lessons from the

project. These are: (1) coping with resource uncertainty and living with rapid social change, (2) strengthening local forest governance, (3) supporting practice through policy and collaboration, and (4) sustaining livelihood. He emphasized that sustainable forest management should always involve the community, local government and other sectors of the locality in order to be effective.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration said, "This [roundtable] is our continuing effort to share the learnings of the program. This is an innovative way of articulating our advocacy on natural resource management which is one of the thrusts of SEARCA. We also put a lot on knowledge management (KM) as our voice in bringing out the worthwhile outputs of our work."

UNDP and SEARCA have been implementing the SGP-PTF since 2002. The project provided support to enhance the capacity of the communities in eight Asian countries (Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia) to address the twin goals of managing the tropical forests and reducing poverty in these communities. It is funded by the European Commission (EC).



The roundtable participants with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (first row, third from right), SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration.

Communities in Panay Island, Philippines, West Visayas State University, Philippines

- Ms. Yvette Guanzon, GIS-Based Participatory Comprehensive Agricultural Development Plan as a Tool for Poverty Alleviation of Farming Families, Xavier University, Philippines
- Mr. Sitha Khemmarath, Impact of Eucalyptus Cultivation on Livelihood and Biodiversity Conservation in Khammouan Province, Lao PDR, National University of Laos, Lao PDR
- Dr. Felino Lansigan, Simulation Analysis of the Effects of Changing Climate on Major Crops in the Philippines, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines
- Dr. Vo Thi Thanh Loc, Value Chain Analysis of Shrimp Product in Mekong Delta, Vietnam, Can Tho University, Vietnam
- Dr. Vo Quang Minh, Soil Fertility Degradation Classification in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam, Can Tho University, Vietnam
- Ms. Ariana Suciati, Research Development and Dissemination of Information about Biodiversity in Forest Park Wan Abdul Rachman to Support Community-Based Ecotourism in Hurun Village, Padang Cermin, South Lampung, Indonesia, Organization of SHK Lestari, Indonesia
- Dr. Suhardi, Optimizing Sand Dune Area through Appropriate Land Utilization for Providing People Requirement on Food Security, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
- Dr. Ngo Thi Thu Thao, Cultivation of Mud Snail (*Cerithidea obtusa*) and Blood Cockle (*Anadara granosa*), Can Tho University, Vietnam

Four of the nine awardees were present during the awarding ceremony, namely: Dr. Roel Alli, Ms. Yvette Guanzon, Dr. Felino Lansigan, and Dr. Suhardi Mantomulyono. Dr. Luis Rey Velasco, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, led the awarding of the SFRT grants together with Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director and Dr. Arnulfo G. Garcia, Manager of SEARCA's Research and Development Department.

The SFRT aims to assist Southeast Asian researchers with limited start-up funds to translate their promising research and training into scientific outputs that could be applied to promote agricultural and rural development. The seed fund (maximum of US\$15,000) is envisaged to enhance the chances of chosen research and training proposals of securing long-term support from donor agencies.

To date, 25 proposals from five Southeast Asian countries have received SFRT funding. The country breakdown is as follows: Indonesia (4), Lao PDR (2), Philippines (9), Vietnam (9), and one joint proposal from Thailand and Philippines. (RCDikitanan)

## SEARCA co-organizes biotech workshops

SEARCA, through its Biotechnology Information Center (BIC), co-organized a series of workshops on risk management and social marketing of public sector biotechnology products. The workshops were held on 24-25 July, 7-8 August, and 3-4 October at Tagaytay City, Naga City, and Pampanga, respectively.

The workshops, which had 122 core participants, used a variety of learning tools such as lectures, sharing of experiences, study visits, role playing, interactive games, video showing, and group discussions and planning. Resource persons discussed global and Philippine crop biotechnology status; the biosafety framework in the Philippines and its regulations for field trials; principles of risk communication and social marketing; and sharing of experiences in clearing regulatory requirements and in biotech communication.

Special briefings on Papaya Ring Spot Virus-Resistant (PRSV-R) papaya and Fruit and Shoot Borer Resistant (FSBR) eggplant projects — their background, status, product

path, safety assessment, socio-economic and intellectual property/licensing aspects—were given. The PRSV-R papaya project is an initiative of the Philippine Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCARRD), Institute of Plant Breeding-University of the Philippines Los Baños (IPB-UPLB), and the Monsanto, Inc. The FSBR eggplant project, on the other hand, is a joint collaboration by the IPB-UPLB and the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company. The projects, which are also supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), specifically its two projects, namely: Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II (ABSPII) and Economic Modernization through Efficient Reforms and Governance Enhancement; and International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), are implemented by UPLB-IPB.

The workshop series' other organizers were the DOST-PCARRD, Philippine Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry, ISAAA, ABSPII, Program on Biosafety Systems for Southeast Asia. These workshops also received support from USAID and Monsanto Fund. (SPTababa)

## Agriculture and fisheries experts needed, says Timorese education minister

Timor-Leste is in urgent need for more highly trained human resources who could assist in the development of agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country. This was expressed by H.E. Dr. Joao Cancio Freitas, new Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of Timor-Leste, during his meeting with Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Department Manager, on 9 November 2007 in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Dr. Cedicol who was in Timor-Leste to interview Timorese candidates for SEARCA graduate scholarship for school year 2008-2009, paid a courtesy call on the new Minister of Education.

Dr. Abrao dos Santos, Director of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, and Dr. Aurelio Da Guterres, Vice Rector for International Relations of the National University of Timor-Leste, emphasized also that their country needs more lecturers and researchers. Dr. Guterres joined Dr. Cedicol as the Ministry's representative in interviewing 18 candidates for the SEARCA scholarship.

SEARCA draws its scholarship funds from several sources, among them, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which has been a faithful partner and presently supporting the scholarships of most Timorese scholars.

So far, 20 Timor-Leste nationals have been granted the DAAD-SEARCA scholarships. Ten of them have completed their degrees, and five are ongoing students at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia and University of the Philippines Los Baños. The other five students have finished summer and semestral courses. (ECCedicol)

## SEARCA and IFS host proposal writing seminar

SEARCA and the International Foundation for Science (IFS) hosted a special seminar on proposal writing on 26 November 2007 at the Umali Auditorium, SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

The seminar served as a venue for junior researchers/scientists to know more about the IFS program. Ms. Maria Duterte, Scientific Programme Coordinator of IFS oriented the participants on what IFS does and the research grant opportunities that they offer.



The resource persons from International Foundation of Science with Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager of SEARCA's Training Department, and Mayla H. Viray, Training Specialist at SEARCA, pose for posterity.

SEARCA and IFS / to page 8

As of May 2005, there were 225 proposals (second in Asia) granted from the Philippines. He challenged the participants to come up with more research proposals employing the Q2 approach. This means employing both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

On the other hand, Prof. Hagberg pointed out the value of fieldwork in any form of research. Researchers, especially social scientists, should always be aware of the ethical concerns surrounding his or her study. "Unlike natural sciences, social sciences do not have laboratories. Researchers can influence his project site," he said.

The IFS was established as a non-governmental organization based in Sweden in 1972. Its mission is to contribute in strengthening the capacity of developing countries to conduct relevant and high quality research on the sustainable management of biological resources. The IFS identifies promising young scientists and supports them in their early careers through research grants.

Approximately 200 participants were present during the seminar. These included professors and instructors, researchers, and students who came from various institutions around Los Baños and other nearby areas. (RMMDedicatoria)

## UP renews hosting agreement with SEARCA

The University of the Philippines (UP) has affirmed the commitment of the Philippine government to the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) by agreeing to host SEARCA on the UP Los Baños (UPLB) campus until 2026.

The hosting agreement was signed between UP and SEARCA on 30 October 2007 by Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, SEARCA Director and Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, UP President. The signing was witnessed by Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB Chancellor, and Dr. Gil Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration.

The agreement binds SEARCA to strive to provide a regular number of professorial chairs to UPLB, graduate scholarships and assistantships, and



Photo shows (from left) Dr. Gil Saguiguit Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director, Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, UP President, and Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB Chancellor.

other opportunities for academic and research undertakings to current UPLB faculty and other staff.

UPLB serves as one of the study posts of SEARCA's graduate scholars. Currently, more than 80 SEARCA graduate scholars are enrolled in UPLB. Also, eight professorial chairs have been awarded to UPLB this school year.

SEARCA also agreed to contribute to the development and maintenance of UPLB's support infrastructure and services.

SEARCA currently sits, free of charge, on about 4.5 hectares of land in UPLB for its office building, conference facilities, residence hotel, housing and apartments.

## SEARCA-ConServ bags three projects

SEARCA's Consulting Services Department (ConServ) has recently been awarded three projects from the Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

These are:

- DAR - *Sustaining the Gains of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP): Master Plan for Philippine Rural Development*. This six-month project aims to fine tune agrarian reform in the context of global development by conducting in-depth analysis of the situation. It involves the conduct of the sector's review and development of a framework and formulation of a Master Plan for Rural Development. Mr. Johnson Mercader serves as the Team Leader. It started on 5 November 2007 and will end on 5 May 2008. The total project amount is PhP11,991,044 .

- DOE – *Profiling and Baseline Studies for Unelectrified Barangays in Support of the Government's Expanded Rural Electrification (ER) Program*. Funded by the World Bank, the project will collect the required data from targeted barangays in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao using rapid rural appraisal (RRA) techniques. The data to be collected will help DOE undertake the following tasks: 1) identify the list of barangays to be included in the Project Access Phase 2 and possibly Phase 3; 2) assess the energy needs of public and potential livelihood generation facilities; 3) assess potential ownership and maintenance arrangements for the photovoltaic (PV) systems to be installed at the public facilities; 4) assess the potential five-year household PV market, taking into account the number of households, sources, levels and seasonality of incomes, willingness to pay for different types of energy services provided by PV systems such as domestic lighting, entertainment, communications, security lighting, community views and experiences with PV systems, credit services operating in the area; and 5) prepare a profile on each

Sustainable Solar Market Packages (SSMP) area. The SEARCA team, led by Dr. Merlyne Paunlagui, is handling Cluster 1 composed of 152 targeted barangays in Luzon. The project, which amounts to PhP4,506,500, started in October and will run until March 2008.

- DENR - *Preparation of a Working Paper on Free Patent (FP) Amendments* under DENR's Land Administration and Management Project's (LAMP 2). Headed by Mr. Virgilio Cabezon, the project primarily aims to investigate the potential impacts of the proposed amendments on the FP titling process and how these changes can accelerate land titling in alienable and disposable lands, to include rural and urban lands. The project is from 9 November 2007 to 9 February 2008 and costs PhP780,250.00.

ConServ is the consulting arm of SEARCA. It provides professional consulting services to government institutions and private enterprises in Southeast Asia in the areas of agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management. (RLSSalac)

## SEARCA launches 2 books on development



L-R: Dr. Thomas Elhaut, Prof. Solita Monsod, Senator Eduardo Angara, Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Mr. Ellie Ossir, and Dr. Jikun Huang.

SEARCA, together with the Ateneo de Manila University Press, launched two publications that bring the development agenda to the fore on 7 October 2007 held at New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City, Philippines.

The two books are:

- (1) *The Dynamics of Regional Development: The Philippines in East Asia and*
- (2) *Reasserting the Rural Development Agenda: Lessons Learned and Emerging Challenges in Asia.*

The first book is co-edited by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director and Professor, University of the Philippines Diliman and Dr. Hal Hill, H.W. Arndt Professor of Southeast Asian Economics and the Convenor of the Division of Economics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. It compares and analyzes economic policies in the context of globalization and decentralization, and looks closely at the Chinese and Indonesian experiences. It also examines the Philippine economy against the greater framework of local politics, governance, labor markets, infrastructure, trade liberalization, growth, and poverty. It serves as a sequel to the bestselling *Philippine Economy: Development, Policies and Challenges*, published in 2003, also edited by Balisacan and Hill.

The second book is co-edited by Dr. Balisacan and Nobuhiko Fuwa, associate professor of agricultural economics at the Graduate School of Science and Technology of Chiba University in Japan. It calls our attention back to the role

of agricultural and rural development (ARD) in the economic development debate. While conceding that the agricultural sector's perceived importance in the international development discourse waned after the 1980s, and noted declining investments in both research and development in the sector, the editors and contributors revisit the evolution of ARD models and experiences, particularly in Asia, and attempt to set a reinvigorated agenda for ARD in both research and policy in the coming decades.

Dignitaries such as the Philippines' Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Senator Edgardo Angara served as keynote speakers during the event.

Sen. Angara highlighted two imperatives in agriculture in the Philippines: research and development (R&D) and the improvement of post-harvest facilities. On the first, he noted the importance of injecting modern technologies into agriculture. These include biotechnology and genetic engineering applications, which he considers as ways of increasing productivity.

On the second imperative, he pointed out that the lack of necessary postharvest facilities causes tremendous losses in the agriculture sector. "If we make these [postharvest facilities] more efficient, our country can be food secure - not necessarily food sufficient but food secure. We can manage limited resources and apply them in areas where they matter," he said.

Mr. Virata had high praises for the books. He said, "I really appreciate very much the combined pursuit of these authors with reference to a subject that is declining in interest but is very important to economists. [I commend] your focus on development issues affecting the sector and your perseverance to obtain life lessons of the past that could assist us in reaching the preferred future that we would like to see."

Other notable guests during the event were: Dr. Jikun Huang, Founder and Director of the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); Dr. Thomas Elhaut, Director for Asia and the Pacific, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and Mr. Ellie Ossir, Senior Program Specialist, International Development Research Center (IDRC); H.E. In May, Cambodia Ambassador to the Philippines; Ms. Ines Loge, Scientific Attaché of the French Embassy; Dr. Gelia Castillo, National Scientist in the Philippines and Prof. Solita Monsod, Professor, UP School of Economics. (RMMDedicatoria)

## 21 Southeast Asians, Europeans attend Natural Resources Knowledge Management forum

Twenty-one Southeast Asians and Europeans participated in the "Fourth Executive Forum on Natural Resource Management: Natural Resources Knowledge Management in Southeast Asia" held at SEARCA in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines on 7-9 November 2007.

The participants were from organizations focusing on natural resource management, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and environment from Cambodia, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines,



The forum participants and resource persons pose with Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director (first row, seventh from left).

and Thailand. The three-day forum centered on the application of knowledge management principles on natural resource management in Southeast Asia.

The forum's main objectives were to encourage participants to develop systematized knowledge management (KM) in their organizations; identify

and cite KM practices applicable to Southeast Asia; and develop a KM plan for their respective organizations or projects.

KM experts from the University of the Philippines (UP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) served as resource persons.

They included Dr. Serafin Talisayon, Director, Center for Conscious Living Foundation, Inc. Philippines and Professor, UP Diliman; Mr. Daan Boom, Head, Knowledge Management and Chairman, ICT4Development Community of Practice, ADB; Mr. Michael Riggs, Information Management Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Dr. Alexander Flor, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Information and Communication Studies, UP Open University; and Dr. Maria Victoria O. Espaldon, Dean, School of Environmental Science and Management, UP Los Baños.

At the end of the forum, the participants presented intermediate institutional/project KM plans of action for their respective organizations.

Dr. Maria Theresa H. Velasco, Professor and Chair, Department of Science Communication, College of Development Communication, UP Los Baños, served as the forum's technical coordinator. (ACBenedicto)

## IPB hosts 20th University Consortium meeting

Indonesia's Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) hosted the 20th University Consortium Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting on 5-7 November 2007.

The meeting focused on the need to generate funds for the UC and enhance resource mobilization efforts. The expert services of a consultant on fund generation were tapped to assist the UC in this aspect. Ms. Marianne G. Quebral, Executive Director of Venture for Fund Raising based in the Philippines, was invited to present some fund raising strategies and recommendations for the UC to consider. In her presentation, Ms. Quebral pointed out the following communication needs of the UC: 1) the niche of the UC and its successes; and 2) more visibility to raise funds. To address these needs, the following strategies were recommended: 1) emphasize the UC's long-term existence and track record; 2) emphasize the impact of UC activities on individuals, institutions, countries, and the region as well as the prestige

of being a UC grantee; 3) put across a message to the grantees to improve the value of their credentials by helping improve on the reputation of the UC; and 4) market the UC experts. She then presented some fund raising strategies and challenged the UC to decide and focus on any of the following: 1) endowment; 2) earned income; 3) donations from individuals; 4) grants; and 5) membership fees.

To facilitate the UC's movement along the direction it wants to take, the UC Executive Board decided to set up a UC Steering Committee to make decisions on the activities that the UC must undertake and implement in the future. The Committee is composed of a representative each of the immediate past host, the present host, and the future host of the UC meetings, and the UC Secretariat. The Committee shall communicate to all UC members/associate members the line-up of activities that shall be pursued in the succeeding years.

The University of Queensland has agreed to host the 21st UC meeting. Hosting the annual meeting of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) is rotated among its member institutions.

Participants of the meeting were:

- Dr. H. Ahmad Ansori Mattjik, Rector, Dr. Khairil Anwar Notodiputro, Dean, Graduate School, *Dr. Drajat Martianto*, Vice Dean, Graduate School, and Dr. Ma'mun Sarma, Director for International Programs, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia;
- Dr. Masyhuri, Chairman, Master of Agribusiness Management Program, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia;
- Dr. Aini Ideris, Dean, Graduate School, Dr. Hasanah Mohd. Ghazali, Deputy Dean,

School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia;

- Dr. Sornprach Thanisawanyankura, Vice President for International Affairs, and Ms. Phacharavadee Paerattakul, Director, International Affairs Office, Kasetsart University, Thailand;
- Dr. Mahesh Upadhyaya, Associate Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Graduate Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada;
- Dr. Richard Williams, Professor and Coordinator, Faculty International Programs, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Australia;
- Dr. Akimi Fujimoto, Director of International Programs, and Dr. Michito Mihara, Deputy Director of International Programs, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan;
- Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Chancellor, Dr. Oscar B. Zamora, Dean, Graduate School, and Dr. Cristeta N. Cuaresma, Secretary, Graduate School, University of the Philippines Los Baños;
- Ms. Marianne G. Quebral, Executive Director, Venture for Fund Raising;
- Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Director; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department, SEARCA.

The UC was established in September 1989. Its founding members are Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM); Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand; and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Its associate members are University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada; University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia; the Georg-August University of Goettingen (UG) in Germany, and Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan. SEARCA serves as the UC Secretariat. (ECCedicol)



Some of the participants of the 20th UC meeting at IPB. (L-R): Dr. Asep Saifuddin, Head of the IPB Department of Statistics, Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, Dr. H. Ahmad Ansori Mattjik, IPB Rector, and Dr. Khairil Anwar Notodiputro, Dean of IPB Graduate School.

## SEARCA Director, DOE Undersecretary urge biofuels development debate

Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, and Mr. Mariano S. Salazar, Undersecretary, Philippine Department of Energy (DOE), urged key stakeholders in the biofuels industry to participate in a productive exchange of knowledge and best practices on biofuels development in the East and Southeast Asian region.

Occasion was the workshop titled "Biofuels Development in Southeast and East Asia: Policy Issues and Research Agenda" held on 7-8 October 2007 at Renaissance Hotel, Makati City, Philippines.

In his welcome address, Dr. Balisacan recognized biofuels as a contemporary concern that relates to issues of energy security and independence. He encouraged the participants to engage in a dynamic and enriching discussion to come up with an overall framework for assessing the impact of biofuels. He said that the exchange of knowledge on biofuels development among East and Southeast Asian nations would shape the future of the biofuels industry in the region through intellectual debate and discussions.

Mr. Salazar, in his opening remarks, acknowledged the workshop's "very direct relevance to the efforts that have propelled most of our work at DOE for the past months." He emphasized that



Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director (inset top) and Mr. Mariano S. Salazar, DOE Undersecretary, address the participants of the Biofuels Development Workshop. (Photo by: RDD/SEARCA)

crafting strategies on the sustainability aspect of biofuels is the task of policymakers. "Energy is critical but food security is paramount. We cannot sacrifice the hunger of our people in exchange for gratification of the increasing appetite for energy for our cars and factories," he expounded.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders in energy development to discuss a systematic and research-based impact assessment initiative on biofuel development in the region (including China). More specifically, discussions were aimed at: (1) identifying key policy issues and agenda for research; (2) coming up with an overall framework for the impact assessment study; and (3) establishing the regional and country teams in the selected Southeast Asian countries that will undertake the assessment study.

Resource speakers presented global and regional perspectives in biofuels development as well as country papers on the prospects of national biofuel initiatives. At the end of the workshop, the organizers incorporated country inputs in the development of a proposal on "Effects of Emerging Biofuels on Agricultural Development, Food Security, Poverty and the Environment: with specific focus on East and Southeast Asia."

There were over 40 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, China and the USA.

The workshop was organized by SEARCA and the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP), together with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (MAFABad)

## SEARCA Director presents Asia's poverty profile at US seminar

The Asia Foundation hosted a seminar titled "Poverty in Asia: Patterns, Priorities, and Policies" on 20 November 2007 at its main office in San Francisco, California, USA.

The seminar was delivered by Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, a development economist whose research mainly focuses on poverty, inequality, and agricultural and rural development.

Dr. Balisacan stressed that although Asia, particularly China, has largely accounted for the global reduction in poverty rates, the region continues to account for nearly two-thirds of the poor globally. He pointed out, however, that such reduction has not been uniform across countries (or even within a country); the slower progress of South Asia has been slower than East Asia's.

The SEARCA official clarified that the rapid urbanization in Asia has not substantially reduced the relative importance of rural poverty. That is,

poverty remains a largely rural condition and likely to stay that way in the next 20 years.

He also discussed chronic poverty, and presented a Philippine study on it vis-à-vis agriculture. Among the findings are: (1) multi-dimensional deprivation tends to correlate strongly with the dependence of the local economy on agriculture, and (2) rural income diversification is key to addressing chronic poverty.

To improve the response of poverty to income growth, Dr. Balisacan recommends that focus should be on agricultural and rural development and what he refers to as the "deep determinants" of poverty reduction: education, health, and asset reform. At the country level, the key response should be domestic reforms in order to enable rural areas to sharpen their response to market access opportunities. This can be done by working for the spatial integration of local economies and reforming education and labor market policies. Moreover, he bats for the building of capacities of developing countries to enable them to address new challenges, particularly global climate change, new technologies, and globalization.

He identified the following as challenges facing development organizations, researchers, and practitioners, which could have a significant impact in the lives of Asia's millions of small farmers and the poor:

- *Supermarket revolution*, which is driven by the rising incomes of consumers and urbanization on the demand side, and globalization and modernization of marketing systems on the supply side.
- *Gene Revolution* (taking over the Green Revolution), particularly rapid advances in agricultural biotechnology, which are driven mainly by the private sector
- *Global Climate Change*, particularly as regards risks posed to agriculture and human development and adaptation and mitigation measures
- *Biofuels*, the rising demand for which is both an opportunity and a threat for farmers and the poor in the developing world.

The seminar was attended mostly by the program managers and staff of The Asia Foundation, which supports programs in Asia that help improve governance, law, and civil society; women's empowerment; economic reform and development; and international relations. With its network of 17 offices throughout Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research. (LLTallafer)

## SEARCA awards professorial chair to 8 profs

Eight faculty members of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) were awarded the SEARCA Professorial Chair for academic year 2007/2008.

The awardees and their research topics are:

- Dr. Christian Joseph R. Cumagun of the Crop Protection Cluster, College of Agriculture, "Managing Plant Diseases and Promoting Sustainability and Productivity with Trichoderma;"
- Dr. Flordeliza A. Lantican of the Department of Agricultural Economics (DAE), College of Economics and Management (CEM), "The Philippine Banana Industry: Market Performance, Constraints, and Policy Directions;"
- Dr. Inocencio Buot, Jr. of the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS), College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The seminar of Dr. Buot is titled "Assessment of Vascular Plant Diversity: Its Role in Understanding the State of Philippine Mountain Ecosystems;"
- Dr. Maribel Dionisio-Sese of the IBS-CAS, "Sustaining Rice Agriculture through Physiological Profiling of Rice Cultivars for Salt Tolerance;"
- Dr. Corazon B. Lamug, Department of Social Sciences, CAS, "A Critique of the Social Research Designs of Studies on Community-based Natural Resources Management;"
- Dr. Corazon L. Rapera of the DAE-CEM, "Environmental and Economic Sustainability Implications of the Major Trends in the Material Flow Accounts of the Philippines, 1981 to 2006;"
- Mr. Rex B. Demafelis, College of Engineering and Agro-industrial Technology, "Waste Management in Emerging Philippine Biofuel Industry;" and

- Dr. Serlie B. Jamias, College of Development Communication, "Communication for Behavior Change: Lessons Learned from Development Communication Research in Agriculture, Environment, Biotechnology, and Emerging Fields."

The eight new awards bring to 230 the total number of SEARCA professorial chairs awarded to UPLB since 1974. Of this, 84 were granted through the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources. (LLDDomingo)

## SEARCA awards 4 travel grants

SEARCA awarded travel grants to four Filipinos whose scientific papers were accepted for presentation in international conferences from October to December 2007. Two are from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and two are from UP Visayas (UPV). The topics of their papers are along the Center's twin thrusts of natural resource management and promotion of agricultural competitiveness.

The grantees are as follows:

- Dr. Francisco B. Elegado, Professor, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), UPLB, presented his paper titled "Probiotic and Antimicrobial Properties of Bacteriocinogenic Lactic Acid Bacteria from Philippine Water Buffalo Intestine and Some Fermented Foods" at the Fourth Asian Conference on Lactic Acid Bacteria and Third International Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria and Health held in Shanghai, China on 14-16 October 2007.
- Dr. Merlina N. Andalecio, Coordinator for Research, Institute of Fisheries Policy and Development Studies, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, UPV, who presented two papers at the DELTA 2007 Conference: Managing the Coastal Land-Water Interface in Tropical Delta Systems held on 7-8 November 2007 in Bang Sean, Thailand: "Assessment of the Impacts of Oil Spill on Aquaculture" and "Integrating Aquaculture in Coastal River Planning: The Case of Dagupan City, Philippines."
- Dr. Rodelio F. Subade, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, UPV, who also presented two papers at the Eighth Asian Fisheries Forum held on 20-23 November 2007 in Kochi, India: "Economic Valuation in Sustainable Marine Resource Management: Demonstration, Appropriation and Utilization of Economic Values of Marine Resources for Sustainability and Conservation" and "Do Off-site Communities Matter in Marine Oil Spill Damage Assessment: A Critical Review and Empirical Results from two Marine Oil Spills in Visayas, Philippines."
- Ms. Blanquita R. Pantoja, Chief, Agrarian and Rurban Institutions and Legislation, Institute of Agrarian and Rurban Development Studies, College of Public Affairs, UPLB, who presented her paper titled "Bioeconomic Modelling of Philippine Fisheries Policies" at the Conference on Business, Environment, International Competitiveness and Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Economies to be held in Selangor, Malaysia on 3-4 December 2007.

The SEARCA travel grant provides limited support to qualified applicants who will present scientific/policy papers in international or local scientific fora. The topic of the paper must be along the thrusts of SEARCA and has regional relevance. Southeast Asian nationals working in a development-oriented institution or graduate students of reputable universities in Southeast Asia are eligible to apply. (LLDDomingo)

## Snapshots



Visitors from the National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan, came to the Center to know more about the graduate scholarship and short-term training program of the Center. Dr. Shii-Wen Roan (leftmost), Professor and Deputy Dean, Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Dr. Israel Bau-Jen Jiang (rightmost), Associate Professor, Department of Forestry (Laboratory of Forest Genetics, Tree Breeding, and Conservation Biology) were briefed by Dr. Edith C. Cedicol (center), Manager of SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Department and Mayla H. Viray, Training Specialist at SEARCA. The Taiwanese visitors were accompanied by Dr. Alexander F. Ferre (second from right), Professor at Cavite State University.



SEARCA officials, led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (fifth from right), Deputy Director for Administration, welcomes the guests from the Namsaling Community Development Center (NCDC) of Ilam, Nepal on 15 November 2007. NCDC is a non-governmental organization that has been working in the field of environment since its establishment and was particularly interested on the Center's works on climate change and sustainable agriculture.



Ms. Lily L. Tallafer (third from right), Senior Executive Assistant, Office of the Director, poses with the delegation from Central Agricultural Broadcasting and Television School (CABTS) of China. CABTS is the oldest distance learning institution in China, oriented towards agriculture, rural areas and farmers, new agricultural technical revolution, and agricultural modernization.



Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, shake hands with Ms. Maria Duterte, Scientific Programme Coordinator for the Social Sciences, International Foundation of Science (IFS). With them are Ms. Dina Andersson, Programme Administrator, IFS and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (right), Deputy Director for Administration, SEARCA. IFS co-hosted a proposal writing seminar at SEARCA on 26 November 2007.



Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, SEARCA Director, welcomes Dr. J. D. Mullen, Principal Research Scientist, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Dr. Jeff Davis, Program Manager, Policy Linkages & Impact Assessment Program, ACIAR on 4 December 2007.



Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan (left), SEARCA Director, hands a token to Dr. Soekartawi, former SEARCA Deputy Director, on 5 November 2007 during a visit to SEARCA with the officials of the Ministry of National Education of Indonesia.



SEARCA joined the University of the Philippines Los Baños Loyalty Day Parade on 10 October 2007. The traditional foot parade is participated in by university personnel, members of the Los Baños Science Community, students and alumni.



Economics students from the Eastern Visayas University (EVSU) visited the Center on 19 December 2007. Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Senior Executive Assistant, Office of the Director, SEARCA, led the briefing and turned over SEARCA's book on rice policy (inset) to EVSU. Receiving the book is Mr. Socrates Ballais, Instructor and Research Faculty, AB Economics Department, College of Arts and Sciences, EVSU.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Deputy Director for Administration, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from the Southern Luzon Zonal Center for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development and North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo, for SEARCA's co-sponsoring of the National Training Course on Freshwater Fish Identification held at SEARCA's Drilon Hall on 18-22 October 2007.



SEARCA placed third Runner-Up in Pasko sa Gubat 2007, an annual sportsfest participated in by selected agencies and organizations in the Los Baños Science Community. SEARCA took home six other trophies: Men's Category - Volleyball (Champion), Basketball (1st Runner-Up), Table Tennis (1st Runner-Up), Track Relay (1st Runner-Up), and Darts (2nd Runner-Up); and Women's Category - Table Tennis (1st Runner-Up). A Special Award was given to Leo Ebuenga as Best Player in Men's Volleyball.

## SEARCA Alumni update

### FILIPINO SEARCA ALUMNUS APPOINTED AS PROFESSOR EMERITUS



After 37 years of committed service to the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and achieving a marked distinction as a productive scholar and effective teacher in social forestry and natural resource management, Dr. Lucrecio L. Rebugio has been appointed Professor Emeritus by the UP Board of Regents on 28 June 2007 at its 1221<sup>st</sup> meeting.

A recognized prime mover in the field of social forestry in the Philippines, Dr. Rebugio obtained his PhD in Community Development at UPLB in 1976 under a SEARCA scholarship. He has published 108 scholarly works over the years. Notably, three of his pioneering papers in social forestry—"Social Forestry: For What and for Whom," "Social Forestry as a Resource System," and "Social Forestry as a Development Program"—published between 1985 and 1987 were seminal and continue to be leading references in social forestry in the Philippines.

Likewise, Dr. Rebugio's SEARCA Professorial Lecture, titled "Paradigm Shift: The Key to Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Resource Management," delivered in 1995 at UPLB and in Antalya, Turkey and later published in a refereed journal, has spurred major policy and program reforms in forestry. The paper advocates forestry reforms that veer away from the long-established technical orientation of forestry and instead move toward a more holistic and integrated approach that includes social dimensions of natural resource management.

An internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Rebugio served as Visiting Associate Professor of Tropical Forest Sociology at Yale University in Connecticut, USA in 1984. He was a Research Fellow at the Environment and Policy Institute of the East-West Center in Hawaii, USA in 2004. He also served as Chief Technical Adviser/Rural Sociologist cum Forestry Extension Specialist of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Project in the Development of Professional Education in the Forestry Sector at Chitagon University, Bangladesh where he developed an innovative graduate curriculum in social forestry that became the model for the entire Bangladesh.

Some 20 years after publishing his landmark papers in social forestry, Dr. Rebugio continue to

lead cutting-edge research in forestry education and best practice as the Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-Korean Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP)-Philippines Research Team, which was awarded the 2007 UPLB Outstanding Research Team for its pioneering research on restoration of degraded forest ecosystems in the Philippines.

Not only is Dr. Rebugio a prolific scholar and mentor, he had also been tireless as a college and university administrator in various capacities, capping it as Dean of the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) from 1995 to 2001 and later as Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs from 2005 to 2006. As CFNR Dean, he worked for the recognition of the College by the Commission on Higher Education as a center of excellence in forestry education.

The innovative and inspiring leadership of Dr. Rebugio as an educator and administrator has made a lasting impact on the philosophy and practice of forestry and natural resource management professionals in the Philippines, the Southeast Asian region, and beyond. (LLDDomingo)

### THAI SEARCA ALUMNI PUBLISH IN NATURAL SCIENCE JOURNAL

Two Thai SEARCA fellows at Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand published articles in the internationally refereed Kasetsart Journal of Natural Science Vol. 21, No. 4 (December 2007).

Dr. Samakkee Boonyawat, Associate Professor of Forestry, Department of Conservation, Faculty of Forestry, co-wrote the paper titled "Estimating Evapotranspiration of Paddy Field and Teak Plantation Using Remote Sensing." His co-authors are Piyapong Tongdeenok and Kankhajane Chuchip.

The paper presents the results of a study that investigated suitable models that can estimate actual evapotranspiration (ETa) using remote sensing data. Study sites were a paddy field in Sukhothai, Thailand and a teak plantation in Lampang, Thailand. It was concluded that remote sensing approach is applicable for ETa estimation. Remote sensing has the advantage of providing spatial distribution for large areas and making it easier to determine Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), surface albedo, and surface temperature.

Similarly, Dr. Sakda Intaravichai, Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering, Department of Farm Mechanics, Faculty of Agriculture, co-wrote the paper titled "Rotary Blade Power Tiller

under Saturated Sandy Clay Loam Soil Condition." Her co-authors are Mesfin Tafesse, Banyat Sitthiti, and Thanya Kiatiwat.

Dr. Sakda et al's paper discussed the results of the application of a mathematical modeling approach to predict optimum design parameters in terms of the total specific energy requirements of "Pick," "C," "I," "L," and "J"-shaped rotary blades. The study suggests rotary tiller development under local conditions.

Aside from their academic work at KU, Dr. Samakkee is currently Vice President for Research, and Dr. Sakda serves as Assistant to the President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Samakkee earned his PhD in Forest Resource Management at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in 1986 under a SEARCA scholarship. On the other hand, Dr. Sakda obtained her MS in Agricultural Engineering at UPLB in 1986 and her PhD in Agricultural Process Engineering at Universiti Putra Malaysia in 1993, both times under a SEARCA scholarship. (LLDDomingo)

### SEARCA ALUMNUS WRITES VIETNAM AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT PRIMER



SEARCA recently published the Vietnam volume of the Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer Series. It was written by Dr. Nguyen Tri Khiem, Dean, Faculty of Economics, a Giang University, and Vietnamese SEARCA fellow.

A part of a series covering 10 Southeast Asian countries, the Vietnam volume is the fifth to come out after those on the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Singapore.

The primer describes Vietnam's agriculture and its significant contributions in strengthening the country's overall economy. It discusses the primary agricultural commodities produced for the import and export market and the market trend. It also delves on government interventions and policy reforms that have had strong impact on development efforts. The primer likewise underscores how public investment and research and development have bolstered Vietnam's agriculture sector.

The Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer Series provides a concise yet comprehensive reference material on Southeast Asian agriculture. Each volume featuring a Southeast Asian country presents the institutions, structures, policies, and other areas

affecting the sector's performance over the past three decades.

Dr. Khiem holds a PhD in agricultural economics from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. Dr. Khiem has been actively engaged in teaching and research for most of his career. He held various leadership positions at Can Tho University. He also worked at the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute as a Research Fellow and Project Scientist.

Having obtained his MS in agricultural economics at UPLB in 1973 under a SEARCA scholarship, Dr. Khiem is recognized as one of the 1,000-strong SEARCA fellows from Southeast Asia. (LLDDomingo)

### SEARCA RESEARCH GRANTEE WINS BEST PAPER IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Dr. Cely S. Binoya, a grantee of the Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) in 2005, won the best paper award in the Third International Conference of the Asia-Pacific Association of Educators for Agriculture and Environment (APEAEN) held on 4-7 November, 2007 at the Philippine Carabao Center, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

Her research paper titled "Rethinking Higher Agriculture Education and Environment: Lessons Learned from the Agroecosystems Analysis for the Sustainable Development of Lake Bui" is an expanded version of her SFRT research study. It competed against seven other papers from other Asia-Pacific countries under the session on "Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change and Health". Moreover, Dr. Binoya submitted a proposal to JICA for a comprehensive integrated development planning for sustainable watershed and lake management in Bui, Camarines Sur, Philippines, and recently received a funding commitment of about US\$895,000 for 2008 implementation. Such development exemplifies the primary intention of SEARCA's SFRT.

Dr. Binoya currently sits as the Secretary and Executive Director of the APEAEN.

APEAEN was established in 1997 as a non-stock, non-partisan, non-government, international organization of educators, researchers, extension workers, administrators, policymakers, practitioners, development workers/specialists and institutions involved in agriculture and environment education. (RVGerpacio)

## Graduate thesis abstracts

### LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS AND HYDROLOGIC CHANGES IN MANANGA WATERSHED, CEBU, PHILIPPINES



Ricardo T. Bagarinao, Philippines PhD in Environmental Science University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)

The change in landscape structure and its influence on the hydrology of Mananga Watershed in Cebu Province were assessed. Land use maps in 1956, 1985, and 1995 together with topographic and other thematic maps were used to identify and delineate the common landscape elements. ArcView 3.2 was used to analyze changes in patch size, number and density and in landscape pattern with respect to soil type and slope of the watershed. The temporal change in runoff coefficient and soil erosion potential was determined. Actual runoff coefficient was compared with estimated runoff coefficient using Soil Conservation Service Curve Number for estimated runoff. Soil infiltration rate was determined for different land uses and soil types. The influence of change in population of the watershed was also assessed.

The watershed landscape consists of a matrix of annual cropland; patches of tree plantation, brushland, grassland, and perennial cropland; and river and road corridors. The area for annual cropland has decreased continuously throughout the study period (1956-1995) while tree plantation's area has increased throughout this period. This contributed to the downward trend in runoff coefficient. The proclamation of the watershed as protected area and reforestation activities improve watershed hydrology.

### COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF ISOLATION, PCR DETECTION AND CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES IN FIELD CASES OF MYCOPLASMA HYOPNEUMONIAE INFECTION IN SELECTED FARMS OF LUZON, PHILIPPINES



Nguyen Tat Toan, Vietnam MS in Veterinary Medicine UPLB

A total of 46 lung tissues and 12 nasal swabs suspected to be Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae of

swine (MPS) were collected from 15 pig farms in Luzon. These suspected MPS were diagnosed and confirmed using clinico-pathological methods (i.e., clinical signs, gross pathology, hispathology, bacterial isolation, and polymerase chain reaction (PCR)). Also, the sensitivity, specificity, accuracy, positive and negative predictive values of each diagnostic method was determined.

Clinical signs observed were coughing, labored breathing, pyrexia, unthrifty appearance, anorexia, and prolonged course. Gross lesions were confined to the lung and were clearly demarcated from the normal lung. Two types of gross lesion were observed: 1) acute, which is characterized by bilateral fawn, edematous and pink, and 2) chronic, which is characterized by plum-colored, atelactatic areas of anteroventral, apical, cardiac, and diaphragmatic lobes. The enlargement of bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes was also seen in the infected pigs. In hispathology, peribronchiolar, and perivascular lymphoid hyperplasia as well as lymphoid nodule formation were found to be the most common characteristic lesions associated with Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae infection.

Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae isolation from the 46 lung samples gave 4.34 (2/46) percent positive results, while the 12 nasal swabs were all negative. In PCR identification, 17 pigs out of 34 (50%) showed positive reaction in the PCR using DNA extracted from lung tissue, while the 12 nasal swab samples subjected to PCR identification had negative results.

Among the clinico-pathological methods used in this study for MPA diagnosis, hispathology had the highest specificity, accuracy, and positive predictive value, whereas clinical signs had the lowest. Among all methods, PCR had the highest accuracy, followed by clinical signs, gross pathology, and hispathology. Isolation is still considered the diagnostic gold standard.

### SEARCA BILLBOARD

Event	Date	Venue
Impact Assessment of Anti-Poverty Programs: Focus on Technology and Capacity Development	24-28 March 2008	SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines
Responding to Changing Climate: Knowledge-based strategies to managing risks in agricultural production	2-10 June 2008	SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines



## SEARCA-University of Hawaii-EWC hold conference on sustainability science

SEARCA, University of Hawaii Manoa (UHM), and East-West Center organized an International Conference on Sustainability Science for Watershed Landscapes in Honolulu, Hawaii on 13-14 November 2007. Sustainability science is an emerging research field, which examines the interactions between natural and social systems, and the effect of those interactions to the challenge of sustainability.

The conference presented the state of the art of sustainability science research for watershed management, examined specific case studies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and aimed to strengthen the development of a transdisciplinary method of organizing research to inform general and specific instruments of public policy, especially on watershed management. It discussed thematic and issue papers on sustainability science and watershed management, watershed restoration for flood management, watershed information systems, and sustainable transformation for poverty alleviation. Critical issues for research and policy analysis at the regional, national, and international levels were also identified.

The conference and the resulting book manuscript by leading economists, biologists, hydrologists, and engineers will help synthesize a third wave in sustainability science that focuses on facilitating policy analysis.

Led by SEARCA Director Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan, participants from Southeast Asia included Dr. Arnulfo G. Garcia and Ms. C. Nyhria G. Rogel, both of SEARCA, Dr. Nicomedes D. Briones of the University of the Philippines Los Baños School of Environmental Science and Management (UPLB-SESAM), Dr. Rodel Lasco of World Agroforestry Center Philippine Office (ICRAF), Dr. Yolanda Garcia of WorldFish Center-Philippines, Dr. Daniel Murdiyarsa of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia, and Dr. Sittidaj Pongkijvorasin of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

Other participants were from universities, research organizations, and government agencies in Japan, Hawaii and the US Mainland. (CNGRogel)



*L-R, Front Row:* Aly El-Kadi, Majah-Leah Ravago, Maite Guardiola-Claramonte, Nyhria Rogel, Kimberly Burnett, Makena Coffman, Yolanda Garcia, Arsenio Balisacan, Arnulfo Garcia, Daniel Murdiyarsa. *L-R, Middle Row:* Chris Wada, Rodel Lasco, Chieko Umetsu, Nguyen Hai Nam, Rebecca Goldman, Kensuke Fukushi, Harold McArthur, Jun Shimada, Hao Zhang, Nicomedes Briones. *L-R, Top Row:* Nori Tarui, J.B. Friday, Sittidaj Pongkijvorasin, Akimasa Sumi, Jefferson Fox, Greg Bruland, Melora Purrell, Jim Jacobi, James Roumasset, Carl Evensen

## INRAD project launched



Participants of the INRAD project launch held at SEARCA on 6 November 2007, led by Dr. Didier Pillot (foreground), Director for International Relations, Montpellier SupAgro.

A three-year project on the development and implementation of a Master of Science related to Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Agricultural Development (INRAD) was launched at SEARCA on 6 November 2007.

The project, funded by the Asia Link Program of the European Union, is primarily aimed at building the human resource capacities of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) in Cambodia and the University of Lampung (UNILA) in Indonesia. Kasetsart University in Thailand and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak in Malaysia will provide technical assistance to RUA and UNILA.

Led by Montpellier SupAgro in France, the other partners in the initiative include University of Copenhagen in Denmark, SEARCA, and the Network of European Agricultural (Tropically and Sub-tropically-Oriented) Universities and Scientific Complexes Related with Agricultural Development (NATURA) in Czech Republic.

The launching workshop had eight participants from the project's different partners. It mainly discussed the different tasks of each project collaborator/partner.

The project is subdivided into six work packages, namely:

- 1) preliminary integrated natural resource management field research and preparation of the curricula;
- 2) academic training in Asia and Europe for selected staff;
- 3) implementation of the INRAD master course and support to the mobility of students;
- 4) preparation of training tools and information and communication technologies (ICTs) investments;
- 5) communication and exchange; and
- 6) management and governance.

The INRAD Project launch was spearheaded by Dr. Didier Pillot, Director for International Relations, Montpellier SupAgro. (NARamos)