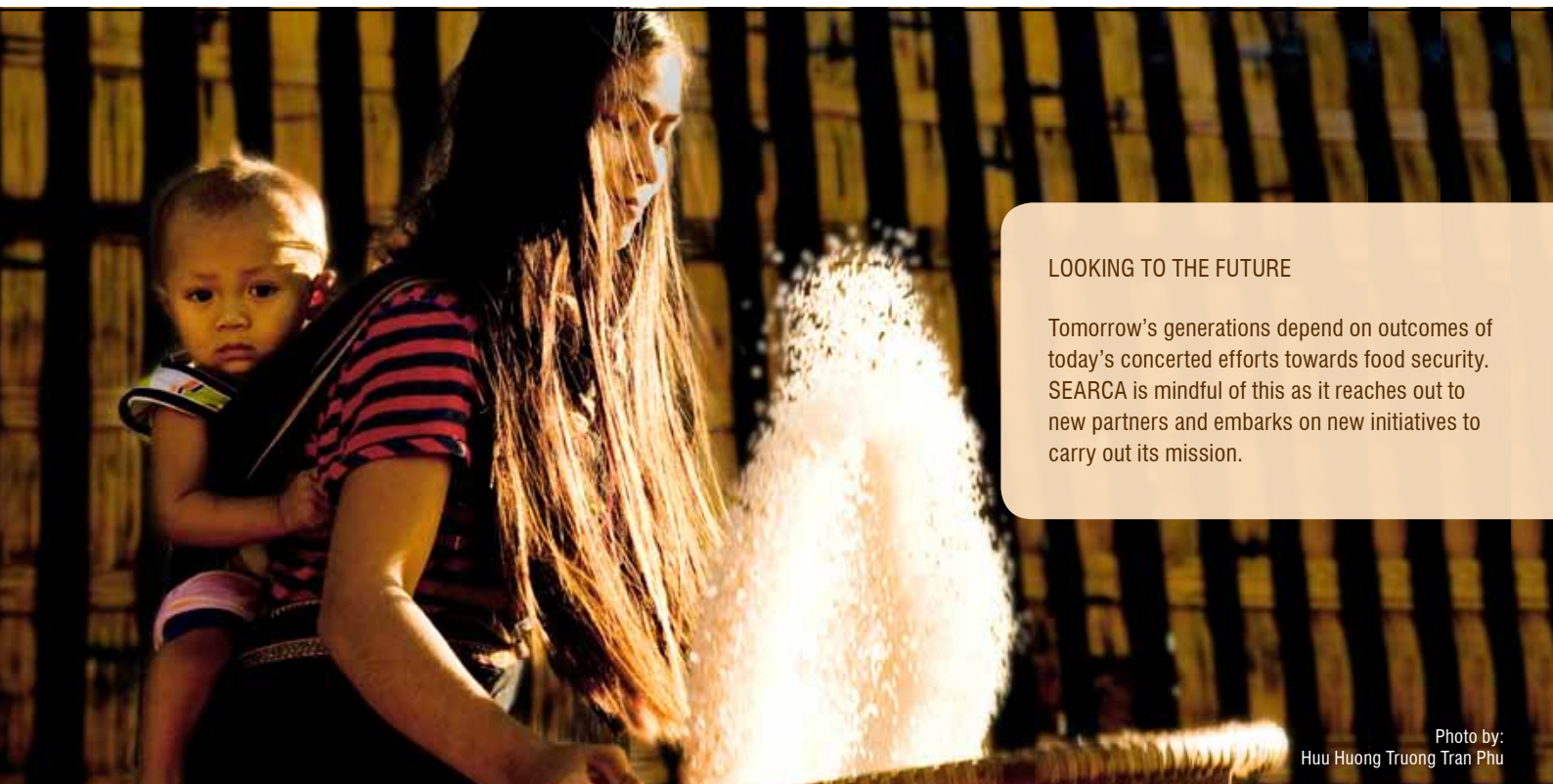


The SEARCA DIARY



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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Tomorrow's generations depend on outcomes of today's concerted efforts towards food security. SEARCA is mindful of this as it reaches out to new partners and embarks on new initiatives to carry out its mission.

Photo by:
Huu Huong Truong Tran Phu

SEARCA marks 44th year

SEARCA celebrated its 44th anniversary on 19 November 2010, confident that it can continue to be of great service to Southeast Asia.

Themed *Enhancing Partnerships in Education, Research, and Knowledge Management Towards Food Security in Southeast Asia*, SEARCA's 44th anniversary celebration was keyed by His Excellency Armin A. Luistro, who is Philippine Education Secretary and the incumbent President of the SEAMEO Council.

"Today is a most opportune time for us to look back and appreciate our many years of existence as a development organization. That we have reached this ripe age is a testament to SEARCA's relevance and recognized service to our home region of Southeast Asia," Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said in his opening remarks.

SEARCA alumni and scholars, partners and representatives from government agencies and the diplomatic corps, and members of the Los Baños Science Community joined the Center in the celebration.

Dr. Saguiguit thanked SEARCA's partners, donors, and stakeholders for their support. He shared that the past year was a banner year for the Center as it saw SEARCA forging collaborations with international and national organizations in

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important areas affecting agricultural and rural development. These areas include food security, climate change, rural poverty reduction, natural resource management, agricultural productivity and competitiveness, biotechnology, and biodiversity.

Secretary Luistro congratulated SEARCA on the strides it has made in building capacities of researchers, academics, and technicians across Southeast Asia to bring forth greater development in agriculture, a key development sector in the region.

"If we are serious about halving the incidence of poverty in the country by 2015, indeed we must enhance partnerships in education, research, and knowledge management towards food security in the Philippines, in particular, and in Southeast Asia, in general," Secretary Luistro said.

As of June 2010, SEARCA has awarded a total of 1,305 scholarships, of which 1,123 have been completed (638 MS, 468 PhD, 17 PhD research).

44th ANNIVERSARY PHOTO GALLERY Anniversary Speakers



H. E. Armin A. Luistro, Secretary of Education, Philippines, keynotes the event.



Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, UPLB Chancellor, gives his welcome remarks.

Apart from providing graduate scholarships and other academic grants, SEARCA also organized conferences, workshops, and discussions as well as implemented research projects to generate knowledge in support of agricultural and rural development. Seven international workshops, conferences, and roundtable discussions on urgent concerns such as global food systems; knowledge management in agricultural biotechnology; mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, agribusiness development, and sustainability science for food, forests, and floods were conducted in FY 2009/2010. Eight research projects were conducted and eight new Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) grants were awarded. SEARCA had also conducted 23 learning events on topics that include climate change, agricultural biotechnology, research management, and technology management.

"As the Center grows in its programs and services through the years, we also remember the men and women who have given life to the Center and

contributed significantly to what it is today. I refer to the members of the SEARCA family—past and present officials and staff, as well as scholars and alumni, and the Center's advisers and mentors," Dr. Saguiguit said.

As in previous years, SEARCA recognized during its anniversary celebration the members of its staff who have rendered dedicated service to the Center in the past years. The four SEARCA Loyalty Awardees are:

- Mr. Edmund M. Ubaldo, Purchaser, 15 years
- Ms. Natividad P. Salazar, Cashier, 15 years
- Ms. Ruby H. Johnson, Administrative Assistant, 20 years
- Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator, Networks and Linkages, 25 years

The afternoon program of the anniversary was a time for fellowship among the SEARCA staff and scholars. The program included speeches by the loyalty awardees, a cultural presentation by SEARCA scholars, and parlor games. (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, gives the opening remarks.



Dr. Agnes T. Banzon (second from right), a Filipino SFRT grantee, poses with (from left) Dr. Velasco, Dr. Saguiguit, and Secretary Luistro after being recognized during the anniversary program.



Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, closes the anniversary program.



The UP Rural High School Choir charms the guests with their rendition of contemporary Filipino folk songs.

THE SEARCA DIARY

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The SEARCA Loyalty Awardees of FY 2009/2010, namely: (from left) Ms. Ruby H. Johnson, Ms. Tallafer, Mr. Edmund M. Ubaldo, and Ms. Natividad P. Salazar.

Vietnamese, Filipino, top SEARCA photo contest

A Vietnamese and a Filipino bagged first and second prize, respectively, in the SEARCA Photo Contest 2010. Now in its fourth year, the contest theme was *Agricultural and Rural Development in a Globalizing Southeast Asia: Challenges and Triumphs*.

Mr. Anh Tuan, Vietnamese, won first place with his entry titled *Harvesting*. It depicts farmers harvesting rice grown along a river in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Ranked second was the entry titled *Basket Weaving* by Mr. Brian Enriquez. Mr. Tuan also bagged third place with his entry titled *Teamwork*.

The winners were recognized during SEARCA's 44th Anniversary Celebration on 19 November

2010. The winning entries and 12 finalists were displayed at the anniversary exhibit.

The 2010 SEARCA Photo Contest aimed to catch glimpses of contemporary issues in agriculture as seen from the grassroots level. A total of 180 entries were received.

The activity is part of SEARCA's initiative called *Knowledge Center on Climate Change: Adaptation in Agriculture and Natural Resources Sectors in Southeast Asia or KC3*. KC3 aims to provide ready-to-access knowledge solutions for informed decision-making that will address the impacts of changing climate in the agriculture and natural resources sectors in Southeast Asia. It documents climate change adaptation in agriculture and NRM in the region. (RJEvangelista)



1st place, Harvesting by Anh Tuan



2nd Place, Basket Weaving by Brian Enriquez



3rd Place, Teamwork by Anh Tuan

9 Southeast Asians get research grants

Nine Southeast Asians are recipients of SEARCA's Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) this year. The nine grantees were recognized during the 44th Anniversary Celebration of SEARCA on 19 November 2010. SEARCA has given 50 such grants so far since it established SFRT in 2005.

SFRT is an annual competitive grant aimed at providing assistance to selected Southeast Asian researchers to enable them to carry out promising initiatives supportive of agricultural and rural development. Each grant is up to US\$15,000.

The new grantees, their institutional affiliation, and research studies are:

FROM CAMBODIA (1)

- Dr. Va Dany, Department of Environmental Science, Royal University of Phnom Penh; Community Building Resilience toward

Emerging Climate Disasters: A Case Study in Koh Andet District, Takeo Province, Cambodia

FROM INDONESIA (1)

- Dr. Christine Wulandari, Lecturer, Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Lampung University; "Prediction of Agroforestry Sustainability on Hutan Marga (Customary Forest) in Lampung Province"

FROM MYANMAR (2)

- Dr. Dolly Kyaw, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Yezin Agricultural University; "Ecosystem Approach to Sustainable Farming System and Assessment of Farm Households' Food Security in Nautmouk Township (Dry Zone), Myanmar"
- Dr. Thanda Kyi, Deputy Director and Associate Professor, International Relations, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture

and Irrigation; "Assessment of Vulnerability and Risk for Adaptation at Household Level in the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar"

FROM LAO PDR (1)

- Dr. Linkham Douangsavanh, Associate Professor and Director, Agriculture and Forestry Policy Research Center (PRC), National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI); "The Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood and Land Use of People along Nam Ou River: A Case Study of Two Villages in Pak Ou District, Luangprabang Province, Lao PDR"

FROM THE PHILIPPINES (2)

- Dr. Agnes T. Banzon, Assistant Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management,

9 Southeast Asians/ to page 15

Cambodia hosts 58th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting

Cambodia, through its Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and its affiliate Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), hosted the 58th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting (GBM) held on 18-20 October 2010 at Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

His Excellency Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, was guest of honor at the opening ceremonies. In his keynote message, H.E. Sarun underscored the vital role of human resource development in agricultural education and research in Cambodia's strategic drive to increase rice production and export to foreign markets. He expressed that his country also needs to benefit from agribusiness through high-value crops like maize, soybean, cassava, cashew, pepper, vegetables, ornamental plants, fruit crops, and other industrial crops.

The 58th GBM gave the representatives from the 11 SEAMEO member countries a chance to review SEARCA's accomplishments and programs. Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Philippine Representative and current Chair of SEARCA's GB, observed that 2009-2010 has been a "breakthrough year" for SEARCA.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, reiterated in his opening remarks that in serving the development needs of Cambodia and the other member countries, SEARCA has focused its core programs on graduate education, research, and knowledge management on two major fronts: natural resource management and agricultural competitiveness. He elaborated that in order to better pursue its mandate, SEARCA recognizes the need to review and align its programs to address emerging and contemporary issues and problems in agriculture.

"Currently, these include increasing globalization, the gene revolution, increasing environmental awareness and concerns, global climate change risks and rising demand for biofuels. Like other countries in the region, these concerns will surely impact on the development of Cambodia. And it is in these areas, along with those identified or requested by the country, where SEARCA hopes to be of service and assistance within the limits of our capacity and resources," Dr. Saguiguit said.

For her part, Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director for Administration and Communication of the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES), shared four thrusts of SEAMEO towards regional understanding and cooperation

in education, science and culture. These thrusts are: 1) SEAMEO-wide strategic planning to enhance relevance and efficiency; 2) refinement of key performance indicators; 3) enhancement of access to education of disadvantaged groups such as through the use of mother tongue and other non-dominant languages; and 4) standardization and continuity of SEAMEO guidelines and procedures. Dr. Tinsiri represented Dato Dr. Ahamad Bin Sipon, SEAMES Director, at the meeting in ex-officio capacity.

Other meeting participants were:

- Representing Brunei Darussalam - Mr. Ibrahim Bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Senior Special Duties Officer, Department of Schools, Ministry of Education;
- Representing Cambodia - Dr. Men Sarom in lieu of Dr. Chan Nareth, Advisor to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF);
- Representing Indonesia - Dr. Prof. Ir. Moehammad Aman Wirakartakusumah in lieu of Prof. Dr. Ir. Suryo Hapsoro Tri Utomo, Director, Research and Community Services Development, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education;
- Representing Lao People's Democratic Republic – Dr. Sitha Khemmarath, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Savannakhet University;
- Representing Myanmar – Dr. Myint Thauung in lieu of U Than Aye, Director General, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation;
- Representing Singapore - Dr. Prof. Prakash Kumar, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore;
- Representing Thailand - Ms. Prapa Tantasuparuk in lieu of Dr. Sasithara Pichaichannarong, Secretary-General, Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education;
- Representing Timor Leste - Dr. Edmundo Viegas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education; and
- Representing Vietnam - Assoc. Prof. Dang Van Minh in lieu of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dang Kim Vui, Rector, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry.

Also present were Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration (DDA) and GB Secretary; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager, Knowledge Management Department; Ms. Edna Lisa A. Albufera, Head, Internal Audit Unit; Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head, Management Services Unit; Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Technical Assistant to the Director; Ms. Jesselle S. Laranas, Technical Assistant to the DDA; and Ms. Fe D. Dela Cruz, Administrative Assistant, Office of the DDA. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA's Governing Board Members with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (seated, second from right), SEARCA Director; H.E. Chan Sarun (seated, center), Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF); and H.E. Hak Seng Ly (seated, second from left), Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, both of the Kingdom of Cambodia, pose for posterity during the Opening Ceremony of the 58th SEARCA GBM on 18 October 2011.





H. E. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia, delivered the keynote address.



Mr. Ibrahim Bin Haji Abdul Rahman of Brunei Darussalam



Dr. Men Sarom (left) of Cambodia and Dr. Peñalba



Prof. Prakash Kumar of Singapore



Dr. Sitha Khemmarath of Lao PDR



The GB Meeting's support staff from SEARCA (from left, front): Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Ms. Fe D. dela Cruz, Ms. Edna Lisa A. Albufera, Ms. Adoracion T. Robles. At the back is Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration.

Agriculture and development primer on Cambodia launched



H.E. Chan Sarun (second from left) receives from Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. a copy of the *Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer: Cambodia*, a publication series produced by SEARCA. Looking on is Dr. Touch Visalsok (right), Rector, University of Battambang, one of the authors of the primer.

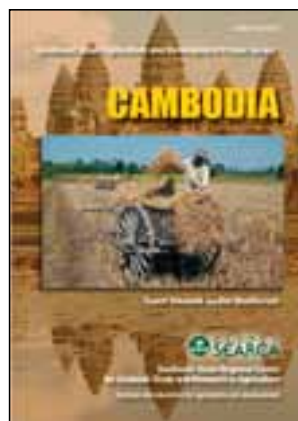
The Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer (SAADP) volume on Cambodia was launched at the Opening Program of the 58th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting on 18 October 2010 at Hotel Cambodiana, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The SAADP series is published by SEARCA as part of its commitment to advance the science and practice of agriculture and rural development in the region.



Dr. Ker Monthivuth

The volume was written by Dr. Touch Visalsok, Rector, University of Battambang, Cambodia, and Dr. Ker Monthivuth, Acting Director, Department of Administration, Planning, Accounting, and International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia. Dr. Monthivuth is a SEARCA graduate alumnus, having obtained his PhD in development communication from the University of the Philippines Los Baños through a SEARCA scholarship grant funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



SAADP: Cambodia

The primer on Cambodia starts by describing agriculture and its significant contributions in improving the country's overall economy. It features the primary agricultural commodities produced for the import and export market and shows market trends. Government interventions and policy reforms that have had a profound impact on development efforts are also discussed. The last two sections of the primer deal with important facets, namely: public investment and research and development, which, if addressed judiciously, have the potential to boost agriculture.

The SAADP series targets a wide range of readership, including policymakers and legislators, researchers, students, program practitioners, donor agencies, the business community, and the media. (LLDDomingo)

20 Southeast Asians study Indonesia's policies and initiatives for climate change resilience



Participants of the Study Tour-Writeshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Indonesia pose for a souvenir photo with the organizers from SEARCA and SEAMEO Regional Center for Tropical Biology and Korea FAO Association (KFAO) led by Dr. Sang Mu Lee (front row, center), KFAO Chairman.

Twenty researchers, policy advisers, and planners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam convened in Bogor, Indonesia on 21-27 November 2010 to learn how Indonesia is carrying out its climate change programs and projects in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. They are participants of the *Study Tour-Writeshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Indonesia* organized by SEARCA in cooperation with the SEAMEO Regional Center for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP) and funded by the Korea FAO Association (KFAO).

The study tour cum writeshop aimed to expose researchers/policy advisers from selected Southeast Asian countries to Indonesia's climate change adaptation (CCA) and mitigation policies, programs, and technologies. It also aimed to provide the participants the chance to reflect on and write about their exposure and their countries' experience in CCA.

Institutions that oriented the group were Indonesia's National Council for Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture Agroclimate and Hydrology Research Institute, Ministry of Forestry Watershed Office, and Institut Pertanian Bogor Center for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The participants also visited DAS Citarum-Ciliwung, a watershed that covers the provinces of Banten, DKI Jakarta, and West Java.

The learning event included a two-day writeshop where the participants refined research proposals or wrote new concept notes for submission to donors. They also wrote experience/research notes that highlight the status of climate change policies, programs, and adaptation projects in their respective countries. These experience/research notes were then shared via SEARCA's Knowledge Center on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia (KC3) at <http://climatechange.searca.org>.

Dr. Sang Mu Lee, KFAO Chair, mentioned in his remarks during the opening program that KFAO and Brighten Institute, which is based in Bogor, had jointly conducted a feasibility study on the development of community-based forest management for improving watershed conditions in West Java. He said they are now gearing up to initiate a pilot project under an agreement between the governments of Korea and Indonesia to adopt this as one of the highest priorities of Indonesian national development policy.

The study tour cum writeshop is a follow-up activity to the "Technical Workshop on Vulnerability and Risk Assessment in Climate Change: Toward Strengthening Agriculture and Food Security in Transition Southeast Asia" conducted by SEARCA with KFAO and Brighten Institute in Bali, Indonesia in August 2010. In said workshop, participants from the transition economies of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) developed concept proposals for enhancing climate change resilience in watershed management for sustainable development. (MCHCadiz)

SEARCA officials participate in food security confabs

Three SEARCA officials participated in two workshops and a convention on food security held in October and November 2010. Participating in international meetings on food security enables SEARCA to keep abreast of the current food security status and initiatives as well as share experiences and recommend guidelines for enhanced cooperation.

Knowledge Based Bio-Economy Workshop

Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager, Research and Development Department, represented SEARCA at the Knowledge Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) Workshop of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Titled *Towards Strengthening of Science and Technology International Cooperation in the FP7 Programmes*, the workshop gathered 35 participants from 15 countries representing the European Union (EU), Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America on 13-15 October 2010 in Montpellier, France. They included representatives from national ministries, regional stakeholder

bodies, and International Cooperation Network (ICO-NET) partners, as well as scientific experts. The workshop aimed to identify common areas of interest among the regions with respect to Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (Theme 2 of FP7). Of the five themes, SEARCA's mission relates well to two themes: aquaculture and zoonotic diseases.

Convention on Addressing Challenges in Agricultural Education

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Director, and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department, attended the 18th AAACU Biennial Convention themed *Addressing the Challenges for Food Security, Water Shortage, and Climate Change in the Agricultural Education System* held on 27-30 October 2010 in University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam. Sixteen papers on the conference theme were presented and representatives of seven member universities gave reports on their institutions' food security initiatives.

Seminar on Resilience of Agricultural Systems

Dr. Saguiguit also attended the Seminar on Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Developing Countries held on 25-27 November 2010 at the University of Hohenheim (UHOH), Stuttgart, Germany. Organized by the Food Security Center (FSC), a global project initiated by UHOH, the seminar focused on investigating the economics of adaptation and mitigation options to climate change in developing countries, its linkages with food security, and the methods to enhance the resilience of food and agricultural systems to shocks through trust, collective action, social capital, insurance, market coordination, and other institutional arrangements. SEARCA is a strategic partner of the FSC, which is part of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) program "Exceed" and supported by DAAD and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA, Maejo University renew accord

SEARCA and Maejo University (MJU) have agreed to collaborate in a number of areas to pursue common education, training, and research objectives. This was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding for Institutional Cooperation signed on 2 December 2010 at SEARCA. The MOU renews the first memorandum signed by SEARCA and MJU in 2002.

Signatories are Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, and Dr. Chamnian Yosraj, President of MJU and a SEARCA graduate alumnus. The ceremony was witnessed by key officials and staff members of SEARCA and MJU.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (left), SEARCA Director, and Dr. Chamnian Yosraj, President, Maejo University, sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Institutional Cooperation between their institutions on 2 December 2010 at SEARCA.

The MOU provides that SEARCA and MJU shall collaborate in undertaking programs, projects, and other related activities as well as exchange scientific materials, publications, and information. Two activities have already been identified along this line: (1) International Training in Environmental Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation for Southeast Asia (ELCCA SEA); and (2) Executive Forum on Leadership Excellence in Academic Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA). These learning events are slated for 2011 and 2012, respectively. Other potential activities for cooperation are holding of conferences on themes of common interest, project development, and graduate sandwich program.

Dr. Chamnian expressed gladness and gratefulness for the renewed partnership. He likewise thanked SEARCA for its contribution to MJU, particularly in providing scholarships to some of its faculty members.

Dr. Saguiguit expressed the hope that this new accord would enable SEARCA and MJU to create a greater dent in the area of capacity-building in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia, particularly in northern Thailand and vicinity.

The other members of the MJU delegation are Dr. Yongyooth Srigiofun, Vice President (VP) for International Affairs; Dr. Chalermchai Panyadee, VP for Research and Networking Development; Mrs. Penrut Hongvityakorn, VP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Apichart Traisaeng, Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts; Mr. Choocheep Cheep-Udom, Director, MJU's Phrae Campus; and Mrs. Maria Diana Jantakad, Secretary of the President (International Affairs).

The MOU will be in force until 2015 and can be extended for another five years thereafter. (MAFABad)

EU-FPAVAS training courses on knowledge capture and social mobilization conducted

SEARCA conducted two training courses held back-to-back in November 2010 as part of the European Union Focused-Food Production Assistance to Vulnerable Sectors (EU-FPAVAS) project. *The Training in Video Capture of Local and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices* was held on 15-17 November 2010, while the *Course on Communication, Visibility, and Social Mobilization* was held on 18-20 November 2010.

Participants of the course on indigenous knowledge and practices capture were representatives of indigenous peoples (IPs) communities and provincial focal persons of

the National Council for IPs (NCIP). On the other hand, the course on communication, visibility, and social mobilization was attended by local government unit who are partners in the EU-FPAVAS project.

Dr. Alexander G. Flor, Professor of Information and Communication Studies, UP Open University and FPAVAS Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Multimedia Specialist, served as the resource person in both courses and he used a learner-centered approach which involved experiential, participatory, mentoring, and coaching methods.



Participants of the Communication, Visibility and Social Mobilization Training Course pose for a souvenir photo with the European Union – Focused-Food Production Assistance to Vulnerable Sectors (EU-FPAVAS) project staff.

Indigenous Knowledge Capture

The IP representatives were taught how to use mobile devices (e.g., video-enabled cellular phones) to capture local and indigenous knowledge and practices on sustainable agriculture. The practicum exercises included video documentation of land preparation and harvesting activities at the International Rice Research Institute.

Dr. Carlos P. Buasen, Director of the Office on Education, Culture and Health (OECH) - NCIP, presented the NCIP Draft IKSP Documentation Protocol to give the participants a clearer view on documentation procedures.

Mr. Joel Cardenas, FPAVAS Mobile Videographer, also served as a resource person in this course

Social Mobilization

The course on communication, visibility, and social mobilization aimed to increase both a sense of project ownership among target beneficiaries and local IEC capacities. It included sessions that validated the proposed Communication and Visibility (C&V) plan that was adapted for local implementation. Participants were able to develop specific C&V action plans for their respective provinces. (With reports from EMAmoloza)

Snapshots

SEARCA RECEIVES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



The Honorable Corazon J. Soliman (right), Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines, is oriented on SEARCA's programs and offerings by Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager of SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Department during her visit to SEARCA on 20 October 2010. Secretary Soliman was keynote speaker at the SEARCA-hosted Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Community Development. Her presentation was titled *Strengthening the Household as the Base for Community Development*, which discussed the programs of the DSWD.



Dr. Edmundo Viegas (fourth from left), Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education, Timor Leste and Country Representative to SEARCA's Governing Board, met with SEARCA scholars from Timor Leste who are currently studying at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and Dr. Cedicol (fifth from left), during his brief visit to SEARCA on 23 October 2010. Among others, they discussed the status of the academic programs of the Timorese students.

SEARCA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2010: HATS GALORE!



The finalists of the Christmas hat competition show off their original creations during SEARCA's Christmas party held on 20 December 2010 at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay, Cavite, Philippines. They are (from left) Mr. Angelito R. Menguito, Mr. Nguyen Dinh Ha (Vietnamese scholar), Ms. Bathsheba P. Aparilla (Filipino scholar), Mr. Edward N. Raymundo, Ms. Maritess U. Suarez, Ms. Mary Grace C. Dancel, Ms. Maria Cristina L. Decena, Mr. Lamberto N. Mariano, and Mr. Melor Enriquez. Mr. Mariano bested all others in the competition.



SEARCA staff and scholars join in a different version of a favorite parlor game called "Trip to Jerusalem" during the Center Christmas Party.



SEARCA staff pose with their self-styled hats during the Christmas party.

SEARCA'S 44TH ANNIVERSARY



SEARCA officers and staff, led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (front row, left), SEARCA Director, and Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba (front row, right), SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, in the morning event of the Center's 44th anniversary celebration.



Former SEARCA directors who graced the Center's 44th anniversary celebration pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Saguiguit (leftmost), Dr. Peñalba (fourth from left), Philippine Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro (fourth from right), and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Chancellor Luis Rey I. Velasco (rightmost). They are (from left) Dr. Ruben L. Villareal, Dr. Arturo A. Gomez, Dr. Fernando A. Bernardo, Dr. Percy E. Sajise, and Dr. Emil Q. Javier.



Secretary Luistro (right) receives a token from Dr. Saguiguit (center) and Dr. Velasco. The token is the winning painting (elementary category) of SEARCA's on-the-spot-painting contest held in 2009.



SEARCA scholars perform a special number that conveys unity and harmony among nations to address poverty during the afternoon program of the anniversary, which was an intimate affair that encouraged fellowship among SEARCA staff and scholars.



Dr. Peñalba (left) and Mr. Mario Morais, a Timorese SEARCA scholar, go for the win in the feather-blowing contest during the afternoon program of the anniversary.

SEARCA organizes Food Security Center activities

The Food Security Center (FSC), a global project initiated by the University of Hohenheim (UHOH), based in Stuttgart, Germany and SEARCA, one of its strategic partners, jointly organized a short course and a roundtable discussion held at SEARCA in November 2010. Both activities were participated in by Southeast Asians.

Course on Biodiversity and Ecosystems

A *Short Course on Values and Institutions of Biodiversity and Ecosystems* was conducted by Dr. Franz Gatzweiler, a German Senior Scientist at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) and Lecturer at University of Bonn (UB), Germany.

Held on 9-12 November 2010, the course was conducted by SEARCA in cooperation with the School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños, the course focused on addressing loss of biodiversity and ecosystem goods by understanding market failure, or the blindness of the market towards the values of nature, and conducting economic valuation.

Twenty-four graduate students, junior faculty members, and research staff from Indonesia (2), Myanmar (4), and the Philippines (18) attended the course.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said during the closing program of the course that he would like to upscale the course to a regional level, in collaboration with UHOH and UB, so that other universities in Southeast Asia could also offer the course to their students.

Roundtable on Achieving Food Security

On 17-18 November 2010, SEARCA convened a *Roundtable on Achieving Greater Food Security in Asia through Improved Information Network*. SEARCA and UHOH organized the roundtable in cooperation with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Participants of the Short Course on Values and Institutions of Biodiversity and Ecosystems pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Franz Gatzweiler, German Senior Scientist, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship, SEARCA and officials of the UPLB-SESAM.

Twenty policymakers and decision-makers from 11 Southeast Asian countries joined the meeting to identify key recommendations and research areas to help further strengthen the food security information system in the region. They discussed and analyzed the effectiveness of the existing monitoring and evaluation process of the food security situation in their respective countries. They sought to identify gaps in said process, especially with an environment that is faced with new challenges like climate change, food-fuel nexus, and globalization of markets. The participants also discussed possible measures to encourage the full participation of countries in strengthening the food security information system. Intervention measures were recommended to rectify gaps, both on the monitoring and evaluation processes as well as in encouraging greater country participation in the food security information system/network.

The papers presented were on topics that include the food security situation in Southeast Asia, the Asian Development Bank's approach to poverty challenges, updates on the status of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), and farmers' registration as a tool to determine their

vulnerability to food security.

Dr. Saguiguit said food security continues to be a major development issue in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. Food security was thus identified as one of the development outcomes in SEARCA's Ninth Five-Year Plan (2009-2014).

The short course and the roundtable were both funded by the FSC, which is part of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) program "Exceed" and is supported by DAAD and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

As a center of excellence in development collaboration, the FSC's mission is to make effective and innovative scientific contributions in research, teaching, and policy advice to eradicate hunger and achieve food security in collaboration with partner Higher Education Institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as national and international development and research organizations. The FSC activities deal with issues of sustainable food availability, food access, food use, and food utilization. (LLDDomingo with report from MAFABad)



Participants of the Roundtable on Achieving Greater Food Security in Asia through Improved Information Network, including Dr. Detlef Virchow (second from left, standing), Executive Manager of the FSC, and Dr. Paul Teng (rightmost, standing), Dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, National Institute of Education and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, brainstorm during a workshop session.

SEARCA partners with Taiwanese institutions to train Asians on edible mushroom production



Participants separate wet rice straw (agro-waste) for use as basic raw material for mushroom cultivation.

SEARCA organized a *Training Course on Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs* in partnership with the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region (FFTC), Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Institutions (APAARI). The training was held on 21-27 November 2010 in Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China with support from the Council of Agriculture (COA) of Taiwan.

Sixteen researchers, agriculture officers, extension workers, and entrepreneurs from Indonesia (1), India (1), Malaysia (1), the Philippines (7), Thailand (1), and Vietnam (5) completed the course.

The training course was aimed at equipping the participants with a working knowledge on enterprise development initiatives involving the

promotion and adoption of improved technologies for sustainable commercial production of edible mushroom for Asian farmers and entrepreneurs. The training focused on the importance of eco-friendly resource recycling of agricultural wastes through lecture discussions and sharing of experiences, practicum, and visits to edible mushroom production enterprises. The majority of the training resource persons were TARI researchers.

Mushrooms have long been consumed as food and used as medicine. There are reportedly more than a thousand species of mushroom that are edible. The edible variety contains a high amount of protein, essential amino acids, vitamin B-complex, and a variety of minerals. It is also a rich source of dietary fiber. Of late, there has been a resurgence of interest in mushrooms due to their medical benefits, particularly in strengthening the

human immune system and increasing the body's adaptive abilities.

Edible mushroom production has been developed as rural enterprises to meet consumers' demand in countries such as Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. But it has generally been given less attention by farmers in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Nevertheless, mushroom cultivation has proven to be profitable as a household industry or large-scale enterprise that markets fresh, canned, or dried products, including mushroom powder and soup. Mushroom production provides a promising enterprise to Asian farmers. When a smallholder mushroom industry is established in rural and peri-urban areas, mushroom becomes readily available as part of the common diet, providing valuable source of proteins, vitamins, and other essential minerals to help improve the rural population's health.

The training provided the participants with hands-on experience towards managing farm organic wastes when agricultural and food processing by-products are used as growing media for edible fungi. The spent substrates are then composted and applied directly back to the soil as organic fertilizer supplement.

Participants further saw how Taiwan, through government policies that support mushroom production, has been able to make edible mushroom production a flourishing industry in the country. Taiwan is now a major producer of mushroom, and supplies both local and foreign markets.

Business models have been adapted in commercializing edible mushroom production. Quality assurances (ISO) as well as food safety protocols (HACCP) are incorporated in the production set-up. One commercial production site visited features robotic technology used in handling mushroom spawns to ensure zero contamination of the produce. (NARamos)

Bioprospecting: Key to biodiversity conservation and community development

Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz, a Philippine National Scientist, reported that Aytas communities, with their indigenous knowledge of the forests, are key to finding natural medicinal products of economic value. Dr. Cruz discussed her research on Bioprospecting in the Ancestral Domain of Aytas in Bataan, Philippines at SEARCA's Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS) held on 4 October 2010.

Dr. Cruz said bioprospecting research should not only include biodiversity and conservation, scientific development, development of drugs and other applications, but also community development while utilizing bioresources. She emphasized that Aytas have to be empowered as stewards of the environment. She said this would lead to forest conservation as well as contribute to sustainable livelihood. She said marginalized communities must be educated, empowered, and involved in development to achieve peace, poverty reduction, and food security.

Dr. Cruz is Professor Emeritus at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Her research has contributed to the understanding of the biochemistry of toxic peptides from the venom of fish-hunting Conus marine snails. She was also instrumental to the development of conotoxins as tools for examining the activity of the human brain. Dr. Cruz is an expert in biodiversity conservation and drug development, anti-TB compounds, use of HPLC for quality assessment of honey, and in linking academe to rural poor particularly in defining a socio-cultural development index for indigenous communities.

The ADSS is a weekly seminar series that provides a forum for intellectual and scholarly discussion of pressing issues and concerns in agriculture, natural resource management, and rural development. ADSS speakers include top experts as well as bright young researchers from the academe, development sector, and private sector. It is open to the public and held every Tuesday at SEARCA. (AMSMiñas)

Alumni Notes

INDONESIAN SEARCA ALUMNI HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE, ELECT NEW ISFA PRESIDENT



Dr. Sugeng P. Harianto

Indonesian academics and experts on agricultural and rural development recently participated in a *National Conference on Agricultural Education for Better Farming and Better Living*. Conducted on 9 December 2010

in Semarang, Indonesia, the conference was organized by the Indonesian SEARCA Scholar Fellows Association (ISFA), with support from SEARCA and the University of Diponegoro.

The conference discussed five presentations, as follows:

- The Role of SEARCA in Improving Agricultural Education in Southeast Asia (by Ms. Lily L. Tallafer, Special Projects Coordinator for Networks and Linkages, SEARCA)
- Indonesia's Prospect as a World Economic Power based on Its Human Agricultural and Natural Resources (by Prof. Dr. Bunasor Sanim, President Commissioner, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, and Professor of Economics, Institut Pertanian Bogor)
- Revitalizing the Agriculture Industry (by Prof. Dr. Mochammad Maksum Machfoedz, Professor of Socioeconomics, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada)
- Education and Research in Agriculture (by Prof. Dr. Sunarso, Professor, Faculty of Animal Agriculture, and Senate Secretary, University of Diponegoro)
- The Future of the Agriculture Industry (by Mr. Erry Wardhana of Indomedia/Agribusiness Division, Arama AgroPratama)



Prof. Dr. Bunasor Sanim, President Commissioner of Bank Rakyat and a SEARCA graduate alumnus, delivers his presentation during the ISFA National Conference held in Semarang, Indonesia on 9 December 2010.

The Conference was attended by SEARCA graduate and training alumni from various parts of Indonesia as well as by faculty and graduate students of University of Diponegoro.

Back-to-back with the Conference was the *National Congress of ISFA*, which is composed of SEARCA graduate alumni from Indonesia. During the business meeting, the alumni elected Prof. Dr. Sugeng Prayitno Harianto as the new ISFA President effective January 2011. Dr. Sugeng is Rector of University of Lampung. The Indonesian alumni also committed to revitalize ISFA and to hold at least one major activity each year such as a national conference. (LLTallafer)

2010 UPLBAA DISTINGUISHED AWARDS CONFERRED ON SEARCA ALUMNI



Dr. Narong Sompong



Dr. Yolanda T. Castañeto

Two SEARCA graduate alumni were recognized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association (UPLBAA) on the occasion of the 92nd UPLB Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming. They are Dr. Narong Sompong (PhD, community development, 1991, UPLB) of Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand and Dr. Yolanda T. Castañeto (PhD, forestry, 1997, UPLB) of Nueva Viscaya State University (NVSU), Philippines. Narong and Dr. Castañeto received their awards during the Alumni Fellowship and Awards Night held at UPLB on 9 October 2010.

Dr. Narong, who is Associate Professor at the Department of Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, KU, was the Distinguished Alumnus for Educational Technology Application and Research of the UPLB-College of Development Communication (CDC) Alumni Association. He was cited for "his exemplary contributions in conducting research and action programs that infuse educational and communication technologies in instructional design, knowledge management, and technology transfer in Thailand."

Dr. Castañeto, on the other hand, was recognized by the UPLB-College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) Alumni Association with the Outstanding Institutional Service Award (education sector). Currently, Professor and Dean of the College of Forestry of NVSU, she was cited for "her significant achievements

and performance as educator, researcher, administrator, and a dedicated public servant epitomizing both brilliance and excellence; and for exemplary leadership in the planning and implementation of various programs on instruction, research, extension, and resource generation which significantly contributed in the recognition of the Nueva Viscaya State University, College of Forestry as a Center of Excellence for the BS Forestry Program by the Commission on Higher Education."

Each year, UPLBAA pays tribute to distinguished alumni for their exceptional achievements and outstanding leadership contributions in their respective fields of endeavor be they in foreign and local communities, public service, private companies or non-government organizations. The awardees are nominated and selected by their respective college alumni associations. (MTBFerino)

ERIBERTO SALANG IS NEW DEAN OF WMSU-COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Eriberto D. Salang has been appointed Dean of the College of Agriculture of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), Philippines effective 16 October 2010. He holds the rank of Associate Professor.



Dr. Eriberto D. Salang

Dr. Salang is a SEARCA graduate alumnus who completed his PhD in Soil Science at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in April 2010 under SEARCA's PhD Research Scholarship

Program. He was among the outstanding graduate students of UPLB, and was conferred the Academic Achievement Award. His PhD research is titled "Soil Carbon Sequestration under Conservation Tillage Systems on Faraon and Adtuyon Series of Zamboanga Peninsula, Philippines," the findings of which he presented at SEARCA's the Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS).

The SEARCA PhD Research Scholarship provides funds to qualified PhD students whose researches are relevant to the priority thrusts of SEARCA. It is open to citizens of the 11 SEAMEO member countries.

Dr. Salang joined WMSU in June 1982 and has been actively involved in agricultural research and extension. Many of his research works have been published in the WMSU Journal. WMSU is the only state university in Zamboanga City and one of the oldest universities in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. (MTBFerino)

Thesis Abstracts

SPATIAL AND VERTICAL INTEGRATION OF TEA MARKETS IN VIETNAM



Nguyen Viet Dang
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The study aimed to analyze the degree of market integration and price asymmetry spatially and vertically and suggest policy directions to enhance the market integration and price transmission in the tea industry of Vietnam. Six tea markets with the two major tea products, namely: black and green tea, were selected. Integration of the domestic and the world markets was also examined.

At farm-gate level, the tea markets were highly integrated with one another. Law of One Price (LOP) was found in majority of the cointegrated tea market pairs, implying that the prices were fully transmitted between these markets. The integration pattern was also found to be perfect. At the processor level, the black tea market pairs were not significantly cointegrated with each other, indicating an inefficient market operation. However, the green tea market pairs were relatively cointegrated. Tea markets at the retail level were highly integrated with one another, indicating the efficient tea trade among the markets. LOP was held in majority of the market pairs, implying that the prices were fully transmitted between these markets. The integration pattern was found to be almost perfect.

The marketing channels for black tea revealed that prices at farm-gate and processor levels were highly cointegrated while farm-gate prices, Granger-caused processor prices, and price transmissions between farm-gate and processor levels in most of the markets were symmetric. In the marketing channels for green tea, retailers played an important role in the market price formation and in the channeling of market price information, while the tea processors did not. Tea retail prices Granger-caused tea processor prices for both black and green tea. Furthermore, the export price for tea was not fully integrated with the world price.

To enhance market integration and price transmission among tea markets in Vietnam, the

following policy directions are suggested: (1) strengthen the organization and operations of the Vietnam Tea Association (VITAS); (2) establish a tea auction center; (3) formulate and implement a tea marketing strategy for tea products; (4) establish a market information system for the tea industry; (5) improve human capital for the tea industry; (6) privatize state-owned tea farming and processing enterprises; and (7) improve road conditions in tea-producing regions.

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE COLLEGES IN SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN THE SUPER REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



Frances Muriel L. Tuquero
-Laquinon
Philippines
PhD in Agricultural Education
University of the Philippines
Los Baños

The study was a correlation survey conducted to examine and determine the personal and organizational orientations of agriculture colleges of selected Philippine universities to knowledge management (KM) and their teachers' perceived competencies in integrating the concept of multifunctionality of agriculture (MA).

A total of 162 members of the agriculture faculties of Benguet State University, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Visayas State University, and Central Mindanao University participated in the study, representing four of the country's Super Regions.

The universities did not significantly differ in terms of knowledge transfer performance and MA competency. They were on "on the road" to a focus on personal information and KM.

Organizational culture, technology, human resources, political influence, and age significantly influenced the organizations' knowledge transfer performance. The factors that significantly affect knowledge assets were organizational culture, people/human resources, technology, political influence, and postdoctoral field of discipline.

Meanwhile, field of discipline, organizational culture, organizational structure, technology, and gender significantly influenced the competency

of teachers to integrate the multifunctional agriculture concept in their subjects.

Conclusions drawn from the study point to the importance of initiating a more holistic KM program among schools and mandating that agricultural schools develop and implement an MA curriculum plan.

SELF-RELIANCE OF COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE: A CASE STUDY OF A THAP LAN WOMAN'S WEAVING GROUP IN PRACHIN BURI PROVINCE



Parinyarat Poosiri
Thailand
PhD in Tropical Agriculture
Kasetsart University

The study aimed to determine factors that influence the self-reliance of the Thap Lan woman's weaving group in Prachin Buri province in Thailand. Primary data were collected through interviews with group committees and members, while secondary data were obtained from various documents.

Internal factors found to influence the self-reliance of the group were local wisdom, knowledge management, group management, and marketing, while the external factors were community contexts, network, and government policies. The study showed that the group could become self-reliant if it has appropriate technology, circulated capital, sufficient raw materials in the locality, enthusiastic group leaders, and helpful group members.

Recommendations of the study were as follows: (1) conserve Lan palm trees for long-term use in weaving; (2) circulate functions within groups to develop a new generation of leaders; (3) encourage members to participate in group activities; (4) conduct continuous training of members to boost their morale as well as improve their knowledge and decision-making ability; and (5) develop a marketing strategy to widen the market for their products. The study also suggested that further research be conducted to develop a drying machine made of Lan palm leaves for use during rainy season.

University Consortium holds 23rd Executive Board Meeting



Participants of the 23rd University Consortium Executive Board Meeting pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (third from left, back), SEARCA Director, and members of the SEARCA Management Committee during their visit to SEARCA.

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) held its 23rd Executive Board Meeting on 10-11 November 2010 at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, Philippines.

The UC Executive Board approved the development and offering of one or two masters courses focused on ASEAN agriculture that could be credited to an existing masters program offered by each UC member to give that program an ASEAN perspective. Since the proposal is a joint initiative of UPLB and SEARCA, the Board agreed that the two institutions will continue to work together to develop said graduate courses focused on ASEAN agriculture starting 2011. At the same time, they will also gradually develop short courses on relevant topics which are envisioned to eventually form part of a full masters program.

Eight UC members and SEARCA as UC Secretariat were represented in the meeting by 19 officials. Participants of the meeting were:

From Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Indonesia

- Dr. Herry Suhardiyanto, Rector

- Dr. Khairil Anwar Notodiputro, Dean of Graduate School
- Dr. Rinekso Soekmadi, Director, Directorate of Collaboration and International Programs

From Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia

- Dr. Masyhuri, Director, Center for World Trade Studies

From Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia

- Dr. Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah, Vice Chancellor
- Dr. Hasanah Mohd. Ghazali, Dean, School of Graduate Studies
- Dr. Bujang Kim Huat, Deputy Dean, School of Graduate Studies

From Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand

- Dr. Somsakdi Tabtimthong, Director, International Affairs Division

From UPLB, Philippines

- Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Chancellor
- Dr. Oscar B. Zamora, Dean of Graduate School
- Dr. Cristeta N. Cuaresma, Secretary of Graduate School

From University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada

- Dr. Murray B. Isman, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Graduate Studies

- Dr. Mahesh Upadhyaya, Associate Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Graduate Studies

From University of Queensland (UQ), Australia

- Dr. Roger Swift, Director, Gatton Campus
- Dr. Richard Williams, Professor of Horticulture, both from the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science

From Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), Japan

- Dr. Akimi Fujimoto, Director of International Programs
- Dr. Mariko Uehara, Deputy Director of International Programs

From SEARCA

- Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Director
- Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager of Graduate Scholarship Department

SEARCA initiated the establishment of the UC in 1989. The UC founding members are IPB, UGM, UPM, KU, and UPLB. Four universities outside Southeast Asia have joined the UC as associate members. They are, UBC, UQ, TUA, and Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany. (LLDDomingo)

3 Filipinos get SEARCA PhD research scholarships



Ms. Majah Leah V. Ravago

Mr. Thomas L. Cardente II

Mr. Anatolio N. Polinar

SEARCA awarded PhD research scholarships to three Filipinos for school year 2010/2011. The scholarships would enable them to conduct their dissertation research and complete their doctoral degrees on topics focused on SEARCA's priority thrusts, namely: natural resource management and agricultural competitiveness. The awardees

and their degree programs, study posts, and dissertation titles are:

- Ms. Majah Leah V. Ravago, PhD in Environmental Science, University of Hawaii Manoa; "Sustainable Science for Public Policy: Watershed Management, REDD, and Bypassing the Resource Curse" (REDD stands for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation)
- Mr. Thomas L. Cardente II, PhD in Forest Resources Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); "Development of Management System of Spiked Pepper (*Piper aduncum*) for Watershed Rehabilitation, Livelihood, Development, and Climate Change

Mitigation in Southern Mindanao, Philippines"

- Mr. Anatolio N. Polinar, PhD in Forestry, UPLB; "Early Growth Performance and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Selected Tree Species Inoculated with Mycorrhizae in Degraded Grassland in Southern Leyte, Philippines"

SEARCA began awarding PhD research scholarships in November 2005 to give opportunity to more Southeast Asian PhD students to use the resources and facilities of SEARCA and its network of universities for their research.

These three awards bring to 37 the total number of PhD research scholarships that the Center has granted as of December 2010. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA scholar bags Best Research Paper in UK scientific meeting

Mr. Daud Samsudewa's paper titled "Reproduction Behaviour and Technology in Captivity Breeding for Sustainable Conservation of Timor Deer (*Cervus timorensis*) in Indonesia" bested 23 other papers for the Best Research Paper award at the Indonesian Student International Scientific Conference 2010 held on 3-5 December 2010 at the Indonesian Embassy for the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland in London. The conference theme was *Science, Development and Sustainability*.

Mr. Daud is Lecturer at the Faculty of Animal Science, Diponegoro University, Indonesia and is currently pursuing his PhD in Animal Science at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) under a SEARCA graduate scholarship supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). His winning paper was based on the preliminary research he has conducted for his PhD dissertation at UPLB.

Mr. Daud's research paper will be published in an international publication together with the paper selected as Best Prominent Paper and 10 other excellent papers presented during the conference.

The scientific conference was supported by the Indonesian Embassy for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. (LLDDomingo)



Mr. Daud Samsudewa (left) receives Best Research Paper award at the Indonesian Student International Scientific Conference 2010 held on 3-5 December 2010 in London, United Kingdom.

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College of Economics and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños; "Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in the Philippines: Status, Issues, and Policy Strategies"

- Dr. Januel P. Floresca, Assistant Professor III, Isabela State University, Echague, Isabela; "Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping and Geo-spatial Analysis in Cagayan River Basin, Philippines"

FROM VIETNAM (2)

- Ms. Truong Thi Ngoc Chi, Head, Socio-Economics and Extension Department, Cuu Long Rice Research Institute; "Developing Community-based Farmer Groups with Same Preference in Agricultural Innovation Adoption toward 'One Must and Five Reductions' in Increasing Rice Production Efficiency and Farmers' Welfare in Co Do District, Can Tho City, Mekong Delta"
- Dr. Nguyen Van Song, Head, Department of Resources and Environment Economics, Hanoi University of Agriculture; "Rice Supply and Security in Terms of Sea Level Rise, Conversion of Rice Land to Industrial Land, and Population Growth in the Red River Delta, Vietnam"

The two Filipino grantees were present during the awarding ceremony.

Applications for SFRT grants are received by SEARCA on or before 1 August of each year. (MAFAbad)

Alumni Notes/ from page 12

BUOT PROPOSES UPLB CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT



Dr. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., professor of ecology and systematic botany at UPLB, discusses the role of the university in crafting a sustainable management and conservation strategy for mangrove ecosystems in the Philippines.

Dr. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., a SEARCA alumnus, proposed the establishment of an Estuary Research and Training Center (ERTC) under the auspices of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

A professor of ecology and systematic botany at the UPLB Institute of Biological Sciences, Dr. Buot is also serving as affiliate professor of environmental methods and landscape ecology at the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management. He is also the Dean of the Faculty Management and Development Studies at UP Open University.

Dr. Buot broached the idea of a UPLB ERTC in his seminar as UPLB Centennial Professorial Chairholder delivered at SEARCA on 14 October 2010. He lectured on the status, issues, and concerns on mangrove diversity in the Philippines

and elaborated on the role of UPLB in crafting a sustainable management and conservation strategy for mangrove ecosystems in the Philippines.

The proposed ERTC has a four-fold objective: (1) formulate science-based sustainable management and conservation strategy for mangrove species and ecosystem; (2) prevent species and ecosystem from becoming at risk; (3) monitor and maintain the diversity of native mangrove species and habitat types and prevent encroachment of invasive organisms; and (4) produce appropriate information, education, and communication (IEC) materials and conduct regular IEC activities.

The establishment of mangrove corridors in the country would aid the proposed ERTC in realizing its ultimate goal of providing sustained mangrove ecosystems services, Dr. Buot said.

He stressed that identifying the right species is key to the successful management of the corridors. He said corridor establishment will be a total failure if the right species is not taken into account.

In line with his vision of the ERTC as a multidisciplinary body doing interdisciplinary studies, Dr. Buot also emphasized the role of the local government units and the local community in implementing the strategies to be developed by the ERTC. He also pointed out the importance of sociocultural and politico-economic aspects of ecosystems management vis-à-vis biophysical considerations.



Representatives of 19 higher education institutions in Europe and Asia pose for a souvenir photos of the EXPERTS Project Kick-off Meeting held on 4-5 October 2010, with Prof. Hiltraud Casper-Hehne (third from left, seated), Vice President, Georg-August University of Göttingen; Mr. Clivio Casali (third from right, seated), Programme Manager, Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), Brussels; and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (fourth from right), SEARCA Director.

2.4M euros earmarked for EU capacity-building project for South, Southeast Asia

SEARCA hosted the Kick-off Meeting of a European Union (EU)-funded project called EXPERTS (short for Exchange by Promoting Quality Education, Research and Training in South and Southeast Asia) on 4-5 October 2010 at SEARCA. Through *Erasmus Mundus*, EU has earmarked 2.4M euros for 126 scholarships and exchange grants for nationals of South and Southeast Asia (SSEA).

EXPERTS is aimed at promoting the European higher education system in SSEA countries, enhance the attractiveness of European higher education system in the region, and increase the compatibility of higher education systems in Europe and Asia. It will establish a framework for capacity development of junior faculty staff, undergraduates, postgraduates, and postdoctoral researchers through skills training and upgrading in the fields of engineering and technology, agricultural sciences, environmental studies, business management, and social sciences.

Participated in by 25 representatives of 19 higher education institutions in Europe and Asia, the Kick-off Meeting refined details of the EXPERTS Project, including consortium agreement, grants categorization and distribution, application guidelines and selection criteria, and project work plan and timetable. The countries represented are Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Thailand.

The EXPERTS Project covers seven EU institutions and 13 SSEA universities. The ones in Southeast Asia are Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, Visayas State University (VSU) in the Philippines, and Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand. The Project is primarily implemented by Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany. SEARCA is one of the four associate partners of EXPERTS, which will support the exchanges between the EU and SSEA participating universities.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said “the EXPERTS Project fits nicely with and mirrors the way our Center does things. We rely a lot on partnerships and linkages with different types of institutions and consortia.

With these linkages centered on common interests and concerns come very lively exchanges allowing not only the sharing of resources but of expertise as well. This is articulated through collaborative projects in education, capacity building through short-term training and research which are coincidentally the exact same areas reflected in the EXPERTS Project acronym.”

The 126 grants that the Project plans to provide are for undergraduate (26), master’s (34), PhD (25), and postdoctoral (15) programs as well as staff visits. Through these grants, the Project’s beneficiaries are expected to have broadened opportunities and academic experience.

Target recipients of the grants are categorized as follows:

- Target Group 1: Undergraduate, master’s, PhD, and postdoctoral candidates and academic and administrative staff who must be registered at their home university (partner universities) at the time of application;
- Target Group 2: MS and PhD students and postdoctoral fellows of non-partner universities from Asia as well as graduates of partner universities who are oriented on the topic of the EXPERTS project in research and cooperation.
- Target Group 3: Undergraduate and PhD students belonging to minority groups who provide proposals that increase cooperation and research through innovation in the regions.

The priority fields of studies include agricultural sciences, architecture, urban and regional planning, business studies and management sciences, education/teacher training, engineering and technology, geography and geology, law, medical sciences, natural sciences, and social sciences.

The EXPERTS project is likewise expected to encourage collaborative research initiatives as well as joint degree programs between any of the EU and SSEA institutions.

Dr. Saguiguit said “it is our hope that through this worthwhile Project, SEARCA and all the participating institutions will find new avenues to carry out our respective mandates, thereby allowing us to expand our reach in terms of academic cooperation, development efforts and even cultural exchange.”

As a regional capacity-building organization focused on agricultural and rural development, SEARCA has been providing graduate scholarships and related grants since 1968 to Southeast Asians. To date, SEARCA has awarded 1,305 scholarship grants. (MAFABad)