

The SEARCA DIARY



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FOR GRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE

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"What SEARCA is today, we owe to the men and women who have worked tirelessly to bring our Center from a seed of an idea to a recognized and accomplished regional institution championing the cause of agricultural and rural development." – Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director

SEARCA celebrates 45 years of excellence

A human resource development program that has produced more than 1,200 PhD and MS degree-holders and almost 14,000 short-term training alumni who are specialists and professionals.

A research and development program under which numerous scientific researches and studies were conducted.

Publication of many books, training manuals, field handbooks, monographs, primers, policy briefs, an international refereed journal, and papers that are now part of the agriculture and rural development literature in Southeast Asia.

These and many more are among the many achievements of SEARCA over the past 45 years.

The Center commemorated its 45th anniversary in a week-long series of events held on 21-25 November 2011.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 3 Filipino plant scientist conferred Dioscoro L. Umali Award
- 4 11 graduate students benefit anew from DAAD-SEARCA scholarship
- 4 SEARCA scholars showcase different flavors of Southeast Asia
- 5 7 Southeast Asians get seed fund grants
- 5 5 Laotians awarded SEARCA scholarships
- 6 DAR, SEARCA implement capacity building program on mainstreaming climate resiliency in ARCs' dev't plans
- 6 UC Working Committee crafts 2012 action plan
- 7 59th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting held
- 8 Snapshots
- 10 Project stakeholders undertake customized benchmarking visit to biodiversity conservation sites
- 10 Second run of online course on climate change completed
- 11 Singaporean Governing Board Member visits SEARCA
- 11 SEARCA officials feted by UPLB Alumni Association
- 12 Technical Workshop on Expanded ASEAN Free Trade Agreement conducted
- 12 SEARCA staff garners special citation in cartoonist contest on biotech
- 13 APAN introduces SEARCA among its Subregional Nodes in Tokyo Symposium
- 14 Alumni Notes
- 15 61 presidents, key administrators of Rajabhat universities visit SEARCA
- 16 SEARCA, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change ink MOU
- 16 SEARCA, RECFON explore prospects for joint regional food safety program

The highlight of the celebration was the conferment of the Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development to Dr. Ramon C. Barba, a renowned Filipino plant scientist whose lifetime work has revolutionized the mango industry in the Philippines and other countries. The DL Umali Award Conferment and Lecture was held on 23 November. (See related story on page 3)

Named in honor of the late National Scientist and the first Director of SEARCA, the DL Umali Award recognizes outstanding Southeast Asians whose works has “exceptionally provided significant positive impact on the development of agriculture and the improvement of the quality of life in the region.”

“SEARCA is now 45 years old, and certainly 45 years of existence is an achievement in itself. The Center has gone through many seasons in the past four and a half decades, and we are blessed that it has survived many challenges and has become a dynamic institution,” Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said in his welcome remarks at the DL Umali Award Conferment and Lecture.

As SEARCA marks its almost half a century of operation in the service of Southeast Asia, it remains confident that it can continue to play a key role in the agricultural and rural development of the region.

Foremost of the SEARCA's achievements is its graduate scholarship program, which was launched in 1968 to produce highly educated manpower in agriculture and related disciplines to help accelerate the development process of SEAMEO member-countries. The graduates have become the pride of SEARCA as many of them have gone on to become leaders and hold key posts in government and academic institutions or noted experts in their respective fields of specialization. As such, they have made significant contributions to agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia.

Also part of the Center's human resource development efforts are training activities crafted to respond to the emerging needs and problems, making them timely and relevant to the SEAMEO member-countries. The latest offerings are on food security, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and biotechnology.

Moreover, in its 2011 meeting in Bali, Indonesia, SEARCA's Governing Board (GB) extolled SEARCA's increasing efforts in institutional development to help young, strategic agricultural schools produce competent graduates to man the agriculture sector of developing countries in the region.

R&D has also been an integral part of SEARCA's institutional activities. Currently, its research initiatives are focused on land and water resources management, biodiversity management for food security, risk assessment, impacts of climate change, technology management, trade and investment, policy reforms, and institutions and support services.

“ WE ARE ALREADY IN OUR 9TH FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND WE WOULD NOT HAVE REACHED THIS MILESTONE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS. NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO LOOK AND THANK THEM FOR CONTRIBUTING IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO WHAT SEARCA IS TODAY. ”

SEARCA's GB also lauded the Center under Dr. Saguiguit's leadership for providing capacity-building support and technical services to relevant government agencies in various initiatives on food security, climate change, and agricultural competitiveness.

Looking ahead, Dr. Saguiguit said “the center remains relentless in its pursuit of agricultural and rural development in spite of the many challenges that abound. We are already in our 9th Five-Year Development Plan and we would not have reached this milestone without the support of our partners and donors. Now is a good time to look and thank them for contributing in no small measure to what SEARCA is today.” (LLDDomingo)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF SEARCA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The five-day celebration of SEARCA's 45th anniversary kicked off with the 2011 SEARCA Photo Contest Exhibit Opening and Awards on 21 November. Three Filipinos topped the contest, while an Indonesian bagged the People's Choice Award. Mrs. Ma. Josefa C. Saguiguit led the ribbon cutting to officially open the photo exhibit.

On 22 November, the officers of the SEARCA Fellows Association of the Philippines (SFAP), led by Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, President of the Southern Luzon State University and of SFAP, had a luncheon meeting at the Center to discuss the year's accomplishments and plan activities for 2012. (See related story on page 13)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and SEARCA also awarded the DAAD-SEARCA grant certificates in a Ceremonial Handover held on 22 November. The Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany was represented by Ms. Natalie Lange, DAAD lecturer at University of the Philippines Diliman. She was joined by two other Philippine-based German academic staff, Mr. Henning Bjoern Lange and Ms. Birte Petersen. (See related story on page 4)

The Ceremonial Handover was followed by a Southeast Asian Food Festival, in which scholars from different countries presented their traditional dishes. The German guests, scholars' advisers, as well as staff and friends of SEARCA came to the festival which featured the cuisines of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. (See related story on page 4)

A mass and blessing of SEARCA officers, staff, and facilities were held on 24 November.

The fifth day of festivities, 25 November, was filled with activities that fostered not only camaraderie among the staff but also social responsibility. Led by Dr. Saguiguit, SEARCA staff and scholars participated in a community outreach activity dubbed “SEARCAlinga” for the benefit of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Ville in Putho-Tuntungin, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. They cemented two pathways totaling 80 meters, painted the GK Ville Chapel, and donated books to the Training Center and roofing materials for 30 houses.

A boodle lunch, billed “SEARCAmayan,” where long tables were prepared with rice and viands on top of banana leaves to be eaten with bare hands, awaited them back at SEARCA.

“SEARCAsiyahan,” a fellowship among SEARCA staff and scholars, capped the day. During this event, the SEARCA Loyalty Awards were conferred to the following: Dr. Saguiguit (35 years); Mr. Nicolas T. Sapin, Messenger (35 years); Mr. Jaime B. Buendia, Plumber (30 years); Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship (30 years); Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head of Management Services Unit (25 years); and Ms. Leah Lyn D. Domingo, Public Relations Specialist (15 years).

THE SEARCA DIARY

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Filipino plant scientist conferred Dioscoro L. Umali Award



Dr. Barba delivers his DL Umali Award Lecture.

Dr. Ramon C. Barba, 72, Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines, was conferred the Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development on 23 November 2011 at SEARCA during a program that marked the Center's 45th anniversary. He is the first Filipino to receive the award.

A renowned Filipino plant scientist, Dr. Barba was recognized for his many contributions that have had unprecedented impacts on agriculture, foremost of which was his breakthrough discovery in 1974 of mango flower induction by potassium nitrate (KNO_3), which made it possible for mango fruits to be available all year round.

A collaboration among SEARCA, NAST, and the Dioscoro L. Umali Foundation (DLUF), the DL Umali Award was presented to Dr. Barba by SEARCA Director Gil C. Saguiguit Jr., DLUF President Nelia T. Gonzales, National Scientist Dolores A. Ramirez representing NAST, and UPLB Chancellor Rex Victor O. Cruz.

Dr. Barba delivered a lecture on his lifetime work, which includes the development of banana micropropagation—a technique that was quickly adopted by corporate banana farms to produce millions of plantlets annually. He also pioneered sugarcane and calamansi tissue culture techniques and worked on propagation of cassava, garlic, and potato. All of these have left an impact on the agribusiness potentials of these commodities in the world market.

The use of potassium nitrate to enable mango to flower at any time of the year is Dr. Barba's most important contribution to agricultural development. It is inexpensive, induces profuse flower production, and allows growers to program fruit production according to market demands, benefitting both farmers and consumers.

In the Philippines, the mango industry ranks next to banana and pineapple. The significant contribution of Dr. Barba's discovery is said to be best seen in the annual income generated from export of mangoes worth more than USD60 million. His research breakthrough has uplifted the lives not only of Filipinos but also of farmers from mango-growing nations around the world.

A multi-million dollar national mango industry built around a private initiative with a PHP500 research budget (in 1969) has been acknowledged as a unique achievement that belongs to Dr. Barba, who is known to perceive simple solutions to complex problems and produce results with minimum resources.

And although Dr. Barba holds a patent for this technology, he has foregone royalties due him so that mango farmers can use it without additional cost.

Dr. Barba has received numerous recognition for his work, including the IBM/DOST Science and Technology Award (1989), Rizal Pro Patria Presidential Award for Tissue Culture, Republic of the Philippines (1980), and The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines for Agriculture (1974). He was likewise recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) through a documentary film in 2008 posted on its website to serve as an educational tool to promote creativity and innovation.

Dr. Barba was born in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He obtained his BS Agronomy (Fruits) degree at then UP College of Agriculture (now UPLB) in 1958. He then served as Graduate Fellow at the University of Georgia in the United States where he earned his MS in horticulture in 1962. With an East-West Center scholarship, he obtained his PhD in horticulture at the University of Hawai'i in 1967. He then returned to UPLB where he taught agriculture until he retired as Professor of Horticulture.

The DL Umali Award, named in honor of the late National Scientist and the first Director of SEARCA, is given to living Southeast Asians whose work have exceptionally provided significant positive impact on the development of agriculture and the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities in the region.

The first DL Umali Award was conferred in 2008 to Dr. Vo-Tong Xuan, an eminent worker in Vietnamese agriculture and rural development. The second was awarded in 2009 to Dr. Charan Chantalakhana, a Thai pioneer in cattle and buffalo genetic improvement. No awardee was chosen in 2010. (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Ramon C. Barba (center) receives the Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award in Agricultural Development on 23 November 2011 at SEARCA during a program that marked the Center's 45th anniversary. The DL Umali Award is presented to him by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from right), SEARCA Director; Mrs. Nelia T. Gonzales (second from left), President of the Dioscoro L. Umali Foundation, Inc.; Dr. Dolores A. Ramirez (leftmost), National Scientist representing the National Academy of Science and Technology; and Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz (rightmost), Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

11 graduate students benefit anew from DAAD-SEARCA scholarship

“Let him who would move the world, first move himself.”

Quoting the famous philosopher Socrates, Ms. Natalie Lange of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) encouraged the recipients of this year’s DAAD-SEARCA Scholarship grant that with their decision to enhance their knowledge and skills, they have the ability to make the change for their country and the world. This was just one of the highlights of the DAAD-SEARCA scholarship grants handover ceremony held on 22 November 2011 at SEARCA.

Ms. Lange expounded that the scholars’ affiliation with SEARCA also enables them to access a wide network of expertise that can help in their future endeavors.

“By reaching out to each other and establishing ties, and overcoming boundaries, we can strive for a progress that all of us will benefit from,” she said.

The DAAD has been a formidable partner of SEARCA for more than 36 years now, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said in his welcome remarks.

He said DAAD helps SEARCA in supporting graduate students from transition countries such as Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste to pursue development-oriented courses in economics, natural sciences, and agriculture.

“We expect that our DAAD- SEARCA scholars will help address current and emerging issues in agriculture and improve livelihoods in their home countries through learnings from their academic programs,” Dr. Saguiguit said.

These words of inspiration were espoused by Mr. Ergilio F. Vicente (MS in Community Development), a Timorese graduate scholar, who affirmed that the scholarship from DAAD and SEARCA can play a key role, particularly in his country, which has experienced a rebirth after decades of political turmoil.

Other graduate scholarship grantees present at the ceremony were Ms. Myint Myint Soe (PhD in Entomology), Ms. Ana Jeannie R. Araujo (MS in Community Development), Mr. Mario Jose Morais (MS in Animal Science),



DAAD-SEARCA scholars with (first row, from left): Ms. Birte Petersen and Mr. Henning Bjoern Lange, both Philippine-based German Academic staff; Ms. Natalie Lange, DAAD lecturer at UP Diliman; and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol (left, second row), SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship.

Mr. Natalino Babo Martins (MS in Animal Science), Ms. Le Thi Thanh Loan (MS in Agricultural Economics), Ms. Khin Thanda Oo (PhD in Horticulture), Mr. Quyen Din Ha (PhD in Community Development), all enrolled at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); and Mr. Rey B. Lara (MA in Urban and Regional Planning), who is studying at UP Diliman.

Ms. Queenie Ann L. Curayag (PhD in Food Science and Technology) and Mr. Daud Samsudewa (PhD in Animal Science), both enrolled at UPLB, were also awarded DAAD-SEARCA certificates but were not present at the handover ceremony.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship, challenged the DAAD-SEARCA scholars who have been chosen through a very rigorous screening process to do their best, “obtain their degrees and make us proud.”

Since 1969, SEARCA has helped produce high-caliber professionals in Southeast Asia through its graduate scholarship program. So far, the DAAD-SEARCA scholarship program has awarded a total of 332 graduate scholarships. A number of their graduate alumni are now occupying leadership positions in various government and international institutions. (JSLaranas)

SEARCA scholars showcase different flavors of Southeast Asia

SEARCA scholars who are studying at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) treated SEARCA officers and staff, their advisers, and guests to a gastronomic adventure in a Southeast Asian food festival at the SEARCA Auditorium lobby on 22 November 2011.

Dubbed as “The Flavors of Southeast Asia,” the event was held in conjunction with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)-SEARCA Scholarships Handover Ceremony, which were both part of SEARCA’s week-long celebration of its 45th anniversary.

For the food festival, eight Southeast Asian countries featured different traditional dishes prepared mainly by the SEARCA scholars. The Thai group



Ms. Lange (rightmost) asks SEARCA scholars from Cambodia and Vietnam about the dishes being served during the Southeast Asian Food Festival.

SEARCA scholars/ to page 12

7 Southeast Asians get seed fund grants

Seven Southeast Asians from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines were awarded Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) grants for 2011. The grantees' winning proposals all focus on research areas that clearly fall under SEARCA's thrusts on promoting more effective natural resource management or strengthening agricultural competitiveness to increase greater food security in the region.

Agricultural competitiveness

Dr. Ari Widyanti, faculty member of Bandung Institute of Agricultural Technology, will conduct a research that aims to analyze attitude and behavior interventions needed to diminish psychological and cultural barriers of food diversification in Indonesia. Her pioneering study is geared towards the testing and formulation of effective behavior interventions across the family, school, and workplaces in support of the Indonesian government's national policy on food diversification as a strategy to help achieve food security.

With the aim of providing inputs on how to better position rubber production in the economy of Lao PDR, Dr. Oudom Phonekhampheng, Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos, will explore the determinants of local farmers' participation in multiple crops production in rubber plantations. Benefit-cost analysis will be used to compare the usual rubber plantation with multi-cropping system. Dr. Phonekhampheng's study intends to show how the mono-cropping system used in rubber plantations could be diversified to fully

realize its dual potential as a source of livelihood and food supply.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nyo Nyo, Professor and Head of the Department of Horticulture, Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar, will conduct value chain analysis of Myanmar's six major horticultural crops (i.e., cauliflower, tomato, onion, grapes, banana, mango) to improve its supply and quality management system. Dr. Nyo's study is timely as it could address the increasing demand for horticultural products of improved quality in the country. Interestingly, her study will focus on Nay Pyi Taw, which is Myanmar's new administrative capital.

On the other hand, Dr. Menandro N. Acda, Professor and UP Scientist 1 at the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), will investigate the feasibility of using agricultural and forestry residues for the production of fuel pellets as an alternative source of bioenergy in the Philippines. If found feasible, Dr. Acda's study would be instrumental in coming up with the technology on how crops and agricultural residues could meet the heating requirements of the residential, agricultural, and industrial sectors. He noted that the Philippines is generating about 2.35 million tons of agricultural and forest residues annually.

Natural resource management

The evaluation of subsistence hunting of wildlife in Bird's Head Peninsula in Papua, Indonesia in relation to human population density, increased road access to forests, and the availability of alternative protein sources is the focus of Mr. Freddy Pattisellanno's research. He is a lecturer at Universitas Negeri Papua, Indonesia. His proposed research will involve field observations

and household surveys to acquire hunting-related information and analysis as input to the planned conservation program.

Mr. Paul Joseph Ramirez and Mr. Niño Alejandro Manalo, both Assistant Professors at the UPLB College of Economics and Management, will conduct research projects on the economic implications and safety nets for mesh size regulations of the siganid fry (*padas*) fisheries in the provinces of Cagayan and Pangasinan, Philippines. The projects are component studies of a regional research funded by the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) in collaboration with the WorldFish Center.

The winning research proposals bested 36 other proposals received from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Proposal review and evaluation were based on their technical soundness and innovativeness, relevance to SEARCA's mission as well as to their country's development goals, proponents' capacity, and potential to access more funds for subsequent activities.

Since the SFRT was launched in 2005, 51 cutting-edge research and training programs out of 277 proposals received from Southeast Asian countries had been granted with start-up funds of up to US\$15,000.00.

The SFRT is open to all Southeast Asians who are graduates of a four-year degree program and preferably affiliated to an institution. Proposed projects should be innovative in responding to a specific theme while addressing SEARCA's program thrusts, and must be accomplished within one-year duration. The closing date of application is August 1 of each year. (CNGRogel/JSLaranas)

5 Laotians awarded SEARCA scholarships

SEARCA awarded a full MS scholarship and four Academic Bridging Program scholarships to young faculty members of the Savannakhet University (SKU) in Lao PDR to study at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) starting second semester of school year 2011/2012.

The scholarships are part of the capacity-building component of the SKU Institutional Development Assistance (SKU-IDA) project implemented by SEARCA in collaboration with UPLB and SKU.

Ms. Othevy Vongmany, assistant lecturer and faculty coordinator of SKU's Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, was awarded a SEARCA

scholarship to pursue her MS in environmental science program under the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management.

Meanwhile, SEARCA's Academic Bridging Program scholarship will enable Mr. Xaygnaket Khouanchay, Ms. Somphonesavanh Sumano, Ms. Vinithsay Vongsenkeo, and Mr. Nounsavadvat Sombounsack to complete a one-semester, non-degree program in their respective fields of interest from November 2011 to April 2012. The academic bridging program is a preparatory program for a master's degree.

SKU is a newly established university that is mandated to respond to the human resource development needs of Savannakhet Province as well the neighboring Khammouane and Bolikhamxay provinces. With this challenge, Dr. Sitha Khemmarath, SKU Vice President for Academic Affairs and concurrently Lao PDR's

representative to the SEARCA Governing Board, sought the assistance of SEARCA and UPLB in developing SKU, which then set off the SKU-IDA project.

The three-year SKU-IDA project has the following main components: (1) human resource development and capacity-building through scholarships for academic bridging, graduate study, and short-term training to strengthen teaching and research capabilities as well as administrative skills; (2) curriculum development; and (3) enhancement of support systems.

Prior to the SKU-IDA project, SEARCA has awarded a total of 34 scholarship grants to Laotians to pursue graduate studies in agriculture and related fields, and seven scholarship grants to undergo the Academic Bridging Program. (JSLaranas)

DAR, SEARCA implement capacity building program on mainstreaming climate resiliency in ARCs' dev't plans

SEARCA supports the initiatives of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Philippines in mainstreaming climate resiliency in the development plans of agrarian reform communities (ARCs) by undertaking a capacity development program for DAR program officers.

The two-phase capacity development program intends to provide selected DAR Program Officers with useful knowledge and tools on how to fine-tune their ARC development plans, taking into account the most pressing climate change issues and concerns in their respective localities.

The first phase of the program was a pre-training online review of climate change, vulnerability assessment, and climate risk planning concepts conducted on 22 August-7 October 2011. The online review was conducted by Dr. Rodel D. Lasco, Philippine Programme Coordinator, World

Agroforestry Centre; Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, Dean, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Chancellor-elect University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); and Dr. Rizaldi Boer, Director, Centre for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia.

The online review is a preparatory activity for the second phase, which is a residential training-workshop on tools in climate resiliency planning held on 11-13 October 2011. The resource persons for the residential training were Dr. Maria Victoria Espaldon, Dr. Rogelio Concepcion, Dr. Severino Capitan and Dr. Oscar Zamora, all faculty members of UPLB, and Dr. Flaviana Hilario of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The capacity development program sought to equip the DAR participants with science-based knowledge and skills for mainstreaming climate resiliency in the development plans of ARCs. It also aimed to develop protocols and templates that would assist DAR in adaptive mainstreaming of similar processes in the remaining ARCs nationwide. (ACCAlalo)



The participants, resource persons, and organizers of the Residential Training-Workshop on Tools in Climate Resiliency Planning for Selected DAR Program Officers held on 11-13 October 2011 at SEARCA.

UC Working Committee crafts 2012 action plan

Members of the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) comprising a UC Working Committee met at Kasetsart University (KU) in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 December 2011 to plan, strategize, and review proposals as well as recommend to the UC Executive Board the priority activities and budgetary requirements for 2012.

The UC Working Committee is composed of Dr. Oscar B. Zamora of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), who served as Chair; Dr. Somsakdi Tabthimthong of KU; Dr. Dahrul Syah of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Indonesia; Dr. Akimi Fujimoto of Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), Japan; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship. Officials and some faculty members of KU's Kamphangsaeen campus attended the meeting as observers.

Aside from the regular components of the UC, the Committee recommended additional sub-categories of UC's regular programs to expand

the opportunities available to the UC students and faculty such as travel grants for various purposes and joint projects to enhance the graduate curriculum in agriculture and natural resources of the member universities in the UC network.

Launched by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in 1989, the UC is a commitment made among leading Southeast Asian higher education institutions to share academic expertise and resources. Today, the University Consortium is an effective network linking strong universities in Southeast Asia, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Japan. (ECCedicol)

59th SEARCA Governing/ from page 7

Development (ICALRD) and Dr. Lourdes V. Tibig of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

The discussants were Dr. Meine van Noordwijk of the World Agroforestry Centre, Prof. Dr. Bustanul

Arifin of the University of Lampung, and Prof. Dr. Istiqlal Amien of the Indonesia Agroclimate and Hydrology Research Institute. On the other hand, Prof. Dr. i. Handoko of the Institut Pertanian Bogor and Prof. Dr. Kurniatun Hairiah of Brawijaya University served as moderators.

The *Southeast Asian Agriculture and Development Primer: Indonesia* published by SEARCA was featured at the seminar-workshop. The primer is authored by Dr. Faisal Kasryno, former Director General of the Agency for Agriculture Research and Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia. (LLDDomingo)

59th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting held

SEARCA's 59th Governing Board (GB) Meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia on 18-20 October 2011. This is the fourth time that the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of National Education (MONE) hosted such meeting since Indonesia joined the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in 1965.

As the highest policymaking body of SEARCA, the GB discussed the Center's strategies and directions in boosting the region's agriculture and rural development sectors through SEARCA's core programs of graduate scholarship, research and development, and knowledge management. The GB is composed of a representative from each SEAMEO member country.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, led the SEARCA delegation to the meeting. With him were Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development; Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head, Management Services Unit; Ms. Edna Lisa A. Albufera, Head, Internal Audit Unit; Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Technical Assistant to the Director; and Ms. Fe D. dela Cruz, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Deputy Director for Administration.

Speakers at the opening ceremony were Prof. Dr. If. H. Mohammad Nuh, DEA, Minister of National Education of Indonesia; Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director; Dr. Bambang Purwantara, Director, SEAMEO Regional Centre on Tropical Biology (BIOTROP); Prof. Hapsoro Tri Utomo, Representative of Indonesia to the SEARCA Governing Board; and Dr. Noorhaizamdin Abdullah of the SEAMEO Secretariat based in Bangkok, Thailand.

This year's GB meeting was conducted concurrently with BIOTROP's 49th GBM also at the Kuta Paradiso Hotel in Bali, Indonesia.

SEARCA welcomed the new GB members, namely:



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (center), SEARCA Director, leads the SEARCA delegation to the 59th SEARCA Governing Board Meeting held on 18-20 October 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. With him are (from left) Ms. Adoracion T. Robles, Technical Assistant to the Director; Ms. Fe D. dela Cruz, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Deputy Director for Administration; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development; Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head, Management Services Unit; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; and Ms. Edna Lisa A. Albufera, Head, Internal Audit Unit.

- Dr. Ngo Bunthan, Rector of Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Cambodia (14 January 2011-13 January 2014), who succeeded Dr. Chan Nareth, former RUA Rector;
- Dato' Dr. Ir. Radin Umar Bin Radin Sohadi, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia, who succeeded Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Nik Mustapha R. Abdullah, former UPM Vice Chancellor; and
- Mr. Denis Ho Mun Tai, Acting Assistant Director, Department of Technical Education, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam (30 June 2011 to 29 June 2014), who succeeded Mr. Ibrahim Bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Senior Special Duties Officer, Department of Schools, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam.

The SEARCA GB also welcomed Associate Professor Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, the new SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) Director who was appointed on 1 April 2011. He succeeded Dato Dr. Ahamad Bin Sipon.

The GB members who were present at the meeting were:

- Dr. Ngo Bunthan;
- Professor Dr. Ir. Suryo Hapsoro Tri Utomo, Director for Research and Community Services, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia;
- Dr. Sitha Khemmarath, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor,

- Savannakhet University, Lao PDR;
- Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños;
- Dr. Prakash Kumar, Professor, Department of Biological Science, National University of Singapore; and
- Dr. Edmundo Viegas, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education, Timor-Leste.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of GB members who could not participate in the meeting. The representatives included:

- Prof. Dr. Bujang Kim Huat, Deputy Dean, UPM School of Graduate Studies, representing Dato' Dr. Ir. Radin Umar Bin Radin Sohadi
- Dr. Thein Lwin, Pro Rector (Admin), Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar, representing Mr. Than Aye, Director General, Department of Agricultural Planning, Myanmar
- Dr. Adul Apinantara, Senior Advisor, Sub-Committee for SEARCA, Thailand, representing Dr. Sasithara Pichaichannarong, Secretary-General, Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand
- Dr. Bunyamin Maftuh, Program Officer II (Evaluation), SEAMES, representing Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul.
- Ms. Maturode Sumranpon, Chief, External Relations Section, Bureau of Cooperation, Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand, also attended the meeting as an observer.

This year's SEARCA GB meeting was also conducted back-to-back with the "Seminar-Workshop on the State of the Art of Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia: Focus on Indonesian Agriculture Sector" on 17 October 2011, at the Kuta Paradiso Hotel in Bali, Indonesia.

The speakers at the seminar-workshop were Prof. Dr. Irsal Las of the Indonesian Center for Agricultural Land Resources Research and



Members of the Governing Boards of SEAMEO SEARCA and SEAMEO BIOTROP, whose meetings were held concurrently in Bali, Indonesia on 18-20 October 2011.

Snapshots



Ms. Violeta Osouchova, EXPERTS II representative from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, visited SEARCA on 7 December 2011 to give an orientation to students, researchers, and academicians on the scholarship opportunities that Europe has to offer through the Exchange by Promoting Quality Education, Research, and Training in South and South-East Asia (EXPERTS II) Project. SEARCA is the Associate Partner of the project in Southeast Asia. A consortium of 20 Partner Universities and six Associate Partners, the EXPERTS project aims to enhance the capacity for international cooperation among its participating partners in South and Southeast Asia and to exchange knowledge and ideas among the Asian and European partners.



Dr. Qiaoqiao Zhang (left), Director, Memberships, Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI) based in the United Kingdom, visited SEARCA on 7 October 2011 to explore prospects for collaboration with Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (right), SEARCA Director, and other SEARCA officers. CABI is a not-for-profit science-based development organization that provides scientific expertise and information on agriculture and the environment. Its areas of operations are publishing, development projects and research, and microbial services.



Mr. Harry Imantho (right), Head of Information Technology and Information Resource Unit, and Mr. Bambang Sulistio (left), Head of Human Resource Management Unit, both of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP), were at SEARCA on 15-17 November 2011 on a staff exchange visit. They were given a series of briefings about SEARCA's programs and activities in general as well as its human resource management operations and knowledge management initiatives.



Dr. Jesus C. Fernandez (rightmost), Deputy Director for Programme and Marketing, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (BIOTROP), led an Indonesian delegation that visited SEARCA on 1 December 2011. With him were six principals and three students of Indonesian vocational agricultural schools who were undertaking a one-week study tour in the Philippines to gain knowledge of various developments in agriculture that will aid in the formulation of competency-based curricula to effectively address the needs of Indonesia agricultural sector. They were given a briefing on SEARCA's programs and activities by Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay (fifth from left), Head, Knowledge Resources Unit, and representatives of SEARCA's programs.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (left), SEARCA Director, and other SEARCA officers, received Dr. Tin Htut (right), Rector of Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) in Myanmar, on 24 October 2011 and gave him a briefing on SEARCA's programs and activities. Dr. Tin Htut expressed the need of YAU, Myanmar's only agricultural university, to improve its capacity to play a major role in the country's agricultural and rural development. In response, Dr. Saguiguit said SEARCA may be able to help YAU through an institutional development assistance program tailored to YAU's particular development needs.



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (rightmost), SEARCA Director, gave Dr. Berthold Seibert (leftmost), Project Director, ASEAN Biodiversity Centre-GIZ Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (ACB-GIZ BCCP), an overview of SEARCA's programs and activities. Also present in the meeting were SEARCA officers, namely (second from right to left): Dr. Mercedesita A. Sombilla, Manager for Research and Development; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management; and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management.



Dr. Saguiguit (center) and Dr. Ruben L. Villareal (right), former SEARCA Director and GKLVB Resource Generation Officer, volunteered to help paint the GKLVB chapel. They were joined by other SEARCA staff, including Ms. Adoracion T. Robles (left).



TOP: Books donated to the GKLVB Sibol School were ceremonially turned over to Ms. Lisa Nabor (center), Vice President of GKLVB Homeowners' Association, by Ms. Ma. Margaritha B. Romero (rightmost), Head of SEARCA's Human Resource Management Unit, and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (leftmost), SEARCA Manager for Knowledge Management.

BOTTOM: Ms. Angela Mae S. Miñas (leftmost), SEARCA Knowledge Management Assistant, reads one of the donated books to the GKLVB children.



Mr. Eugene Philip S. Boone (leftmost) and other SEARCA staff and scholars pass along buckets of cement to pave a pathway in the Gawad Kalinga-Los Baños Ville (GKLVB)—a socialized, self-help housing program for the homeless poor.

Ms. Susan V. Fernandez (right, foreground) and Mr. Eduardo D. Rodriguez, Jr. (left, foreground) also join other SEARCA staff in the bucket relay to cement a pathway at GKLVB.



Mrs. Ma. Josefa C. Saguiguit (front row, second from left) is assisted by Dr. Saguiguit (leftmost); Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba (second from right), Deputy Director for Administration; and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (rightmost), Manager for Knowledge Management, as she cuts the ribbon to officially open the photo exhibit.



SEARCA staff enjoy a boodle lunch, billed "SEARCAmayan" at long tables where rice and viands are laid out on top of banana leaves and eaten with bare hands.



The 2011 SEARCA Loyalty Awards were given to (from left) Ms. Leah Lyn D. Domingo, Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Dr. Saguiguit, Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Mr. Jaime B. Buendia, and Mr. Nicolas T. Sapin.

Project stakeholders undertake customized benchmarking visit to biodiversity conservation sites

SEARCA and the WorldFish Center jointly organized a customized benchmarking visit to biodiversity conservation sites for the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Members of the Ridge to Reef Biodiversity Conservation project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The benchmarking visit were undertaken on 21-24 November 2011 in selected biodiversity conservation sites in the provinces of Palawan and Bohol, with briefing and de-briefing sessions in Cebu City, all in the Philippines. It is one of the priority activities under the SEARCA-led capacity-building component of the Ridge to Reef project to enable the participants to learn about the governance or institutional arrangements, conservation approaches, socioeconomic implications, and sustainability strategies of the selected biodiversity conservation projects in Palawan and Bohol, which they could apply in Misamis Occidental also in the Philippines.

Participants were 14 PSC members who represent the primary stakeholders of the Ridge to Reef project, including the municipalities of Aloran, Jimenez, Panaon, Tudela, Sinacaban, and Don Victoriano, and Oroquieta City; the provincial government of Misamis Occidental; the academe (i.e., Misamis University Community Extension Program and Mindanao State University at Naawan); PETAL Foundation, Inc.; provincial and district offices of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples; Protected Area Management Board of Mt. Malindang Range National Park; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Region 10; and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region 10.

The participants were divided into two teams for the two-day simultaneous visits to Palawan and Bohol. The Palawan team focused on community-



Participants of the benchmarking visit to Bohol listen to 73-year-old Mr. Victor Rondez (rightmost), who still actively leads the Bil-isan Fisherfolk Association, a community organization that manages the Bil-isan Marine Sanctuary in Dauis, Bohol.

based and local government unit-initiated biodiversity conservation projects in Honda Bay and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Puerto Princesa City. On the other hand, the Bohol team obtained firsthand knowledge of the PADAYON (Panglao, Dauis, and Baclayon) Bohol Marine Triangle, Maribojoc coastal resource management projects, and the Loboc Watershed Reforestation Project.

Priority plans identified as a result of the benchmarking visit include: (1) strengthening of the existing bay-wide coastal resource management alliance in Iligan Bay and creating its management council; (2) tapping DENR's technical and financial support to assist in alliance-building; (3) lobbying with the local chief executives and legislative bodies for the appropriation of budget for biodiversity conservation projects; and (4) environmental education and awareness seminars, especially for the policymakers and local government officials. (CBBinondo)

Second run of online course on climate change completed

The second run of the *Online Course on Responding to Climate Risks in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (NRM)* was conducted on 16 October-10 December 2011. It was a joint initiative of SEARCA, SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC), and World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF).

The eight-week online course attracted 11 participants from Lao PDR, Kenya, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Zimbabwe. They represented local, national, sub-regional, and international government and nongovernment organizations.

The participants were given video lectures and engaged in online forums to gain an appreciation of the core concepts and available knowledge-based methods and tools to effectively respond

to the threats of climate change on agriculture and NRM.

Such teaching techniques aimed to approximate the face-to-face learning environment while maximizing the benefits of using the online medium. They were able to replay the video lectures as needed, which addressed any language barriers or learning limitations. In the online forum, they were able to share their own experience and knowledge and ask for further elaboration on the information presented in the lectures.

The online video lecturers included members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), namely: Dr. Rodel D. Lasco, Philippine Programme Coordinator, ICRAF, and Dr. Rizaldi Boer, Executive Director, Centre for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management in Southeast Asia and the Pacific based at Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia. The other video lecturers were Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, Dean, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, and Chancellor-elect,

University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Dr. Margaret M. Calderon, Professor, UPLB Institute of Renewable Natural Resources.

Topics covered by the course included climate change scenarios and how they are made; the vulnerability assessment process; and the different economic valuation tools that can be used to determine the most cost-effective adaptation options. Specific cases that show how climate information was used to inform climate change adaptation (CCA) plans were also presented. As an appreciation course, it provided its participants with enough know-how to better navigate current climate change discourses.

The online forums were facilitated by Dr. Boer and Dr. Calderon as well as other researchers immersed in the study of climate change and its effects, namely: Dr. Florencia B. Pulhin of the UPLB Forestry Development Center and Dr. Jesusita O. Coladilla of the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management. (JVBaruan)

Singaporean Governing Board Member visits SEARCA

Dr. Prakash Kumar, Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Biological Sciences and Country Representative of Singapore to the SEARCA Governing Board, visited SEARCA on 6 October 2011. He was accompanied by Dr. Naweed Naqvi of the Singapore-based Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) with whom he is leading a new joint rice research program between the NUS and TLL in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

The guests were received by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, and Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration. Dr. Saguiguit led the briefing on SEARCA's programs and activities in the context of the Center's Ninth Five-Year Plan, which covers the period from July 2009 to June 2014, and a short tour of the Center's facilities. Preliminary discussions were also made on this year's SEARCA Governing Board Meeting, which will be hosted by the Indonesian Government in Bali, Indonesia on 18-20 October 2011.



Prof. Prakash Kumar (front row, second from right) of the National University of Singapore and Singapore's Representative to SEARCA's Governing Board dons the barong Tagalog, a Filipino traditional formal wear presented to him at the dinner reception tendered in his honor, and poses for posterity with Dr. Naweed Naqvi (front row, third from right) of the Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, Singapore, and members of SEARCA's Executive Committee led by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (front row, rightmost), SEARCA Director, and Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba, Deputy Director for Administration (front row, leftmost).

At the dinner reception tendered for guests, Dr. Kumar expressed his appreciation for SEARCA's work in the region. He also noted the excellent and well-maintained facilities of the Center. He said he is fortunate to have this opportunity to

visit SEARCA as it gave him better understanding of the Center and other matters that are discussed at the GB meetings. Heads of the Center's various units and departments were also present at the reception. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA officials feted by UPLB Alumni Association

Three SEARCA officials were among the recipients of University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association (UPLBAA) awarded at the UPLB Alumni Fellowship and Awards Night held on 9 October 2011 at the EB Copeland Gymnasium, UPLB.

Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, together with his late father, Dr. Gil F. Saguiguit, former

SEARCA founding Deputy Director, and his son, Mr. Gil Antonio C. Saguiguit III, are members of the Saguiguit family who were given the 3 Generations Award. Dr. Saguiguit, Sr. graduated from UPLB in 1947 with a BS in Agriculture (BSA), while Dr. Saguiguit, Jr. completed his BSA in 1974 and MS in Agricultural Economics in 1977. Mr. Saguiguit III obtained his BS in Agricultural Economics in 2011.

Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba (BSA 1971), Deputy Director for Administration, was named Outstanding UPLB Alumnus (Research and Community Service).

The UPLB Chancellor and Country Representative of the Philippines and concurrent Chair of the SEARCA Governing Board, Dr. Luis Rey I. Velasco (BSA 1978, MS 1982), was recognized with the UPLB Distinguished Alumni (University Administration) award.

Other awardees include three SEARCA graduate alumni who were also selected as UPLBAA awardees this year. They are Dr. Chamnian Yosraj, President, Maejo University, Thailand; and Dr. Samakkee Boonyawat, Associate Professor at the Department of Conservation, Faculty of Forestry, in Kasetsart University,



Dr. Francisco F. Peñalba (second from right), SEARCA Deputy Director for Administration, receives the Outstanding Alumnus award conferred by the UPLBAA during the UPLB Alumni Fellowship and Awards Night held on 9 October 2011.

Thailand; and Dr. Carmencita Kagaoan, Head, Institutional Development Division, Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Philippines. (See related story on page 14) (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from right), SEARCA Director, and his son Mr. Gil Antonio C. Saguiguit III (rightmost) accept the 3 Generation Award given by the UPLBAA during the UPLB Alumni Fellowship and Awards Night held on 9 October 2011.

Technical Workshop on Expanded ASEAN Free Trade Agreement conducted

SEARCA conducted a Technical Workshop on Expanded Regional Trade Agreement in the ASEAN: Impact on the Agriculture Sector on 9-10 October 2011 at Apsara Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Funded by the Korea FAO Association (KFAO), the technical workshop was a follow-up activity to the Ninth Policy Roundtable on Building Capacities for Agricultural Competitiveness in Transition Southeast Asia held in April 2011, which focused on "Regional Trade Integration Expansion and its Implications to the Agriculture Sector in Transition Southeast Asia."

In said policy roundtable, CLMV representatives recognized in their country reports that agriculture plays a great part in their economies, but its share in the gross domestic product (GDP) has declined. It was expressed that CLMV need capacity-building support, policies, and programs to equip them for regional trade integration.

The technical workshop intended to develop a concept research proposal that will quantitatively assess the possible impact of an expanded ASEAN/ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) on the agriculture sector and economies of CLMV.



The participants of the Technical Workshop on Expanded Regional Trade Agreement in the ASEAN: Impact on the Agriculture Sector held on 9-10 October 2011 at Apsara Angkor Hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia with Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla (second row, second from right), SEARCA Manager for Research and Development; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (first row, second from right), SEARCA Manager for Knowledge Management; and Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel (first row, third from left), Project Development Specialist, and Ms. Ruby H. Johnson (first row, rightmost), both of the Research and Development Department.

The workshop featured country presentations on the economic/agricultural production and trade performance before and after membership to ASEAN/AFTA; strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of each country as a member of ASEAN; and emerging regional integration issues confronting each country.

There were also presentations on analytical/econometric tools to quantitatively determine the impact and contribution of ASEAN/AFTA on country economies, especially on the CLMV, as well as a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) that can be used to project future impact of an expanded ASEAN/AFTA on CLMV economies.

The resource persons were Dr. Ramon L. Clarete, Professor, University of the Philippines School of Economics; Dr. Yang Jun, Associate Professor and Senior Research Staff, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

On the other hand, the workshop facilitators were Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager; Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Project Development Specialist; Ms. Ruby H. Johnson, Administrative Assistant; and Ms. Karen P. Quillooy, Research Assistant, all of SEARCA's Research and Development Department, and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager of SEARCA's Knowledge Management Department. (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA staff garners special citation in cartoonist contest on biotech

Mr. Maciste B. Alegre, SEARCA General Services Assistant, was awarded a Special Citation for winning as 4th finalist in the Professional Category of BiotechTOONS: A Contest for Cartoonists on Biotechnology, wherein over 75 entries competed in the Professional and Amateur categories. The award was presented to Mr. Alegre along with the other contest winners during the Closing Ceremony of the National Biotechnology Week on 26 November 2011 in Quezon City, Philippines.

The BiotechTOONS was organized by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), SEARCA through its Biotechnology Information Center, and the Philippine International Comics, Cartoons and Animation, Inc. (PICCA). (LLDDomingo)



Mr. Maciste B. Alegre (right), SEARCA General Services Assistant, bags a Special Citation in the Professional Category of BiotechTOONS: A Contest for Cartoonists on Biotechnology. With him in the photo are Dr. Mariechel J. Navarro (left), Manager of the Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology of ISAAA and Ms. Jenny A. Panopio (center), Special Project Coordinator and Network Administrator of SEARCA's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC).

SEARCA scholars/ from page 4

prepared *Miang Pla*, a tasty healthy appetizer with origins in Northern Thailand. The Myanmar scholars served their version of chicken noodle salad or *Kyet Thar Nan Pyar Thote*. The Vietnamese group prepared their famous Vietnamese crispy

spring rolls *Cha Gio*, which came in shrimp and pork variants. Cambodian scholars whipped up a traditional chicken dish seasoned with traditional herbs, dry and fresh chilli, oyster sauce, and coconut milk. Another chicken dish called *Larb Gai* was prepared by the Laotian group. The

Timorese served a three-combination dish of *bife* (beef), *samtun* (fish), and *salada* (vegetable salad). *Sate Ayam* (Chicken satay), an Indonesian dish, and the Filipino favorites – *Pancit Bihon*, *Puto Alsa*, and *Turron de Saba* were served by the food concessionaire at SEARCA. (JSLaranas)

APAN introduces SEARCA among its Subregional Nodes in Tokyo Symposium

Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, SEARCA Manager for Knowledge Management, attended the Symposium 2011: From Post-Disaster Reconstruction to the Creation of Resilient Societies (Programs and Actions on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Asia and Africa) held on 16-17 December 2011.

She presented SEARCA's climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives as subregional thematic (agriculture) node of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), a regional knowledge network established by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as part of its Global Adaptation Network (GAN).

APAN publicly announced the designation of Keio University as Northeast Asian subregional node, along with the other nodes including SEARCA, during the Symposium.

The Symposium also discussed approaches to resilience building through post-disaster reconstruction, green economics and resilient

society in a post-Fukushima era, local communities and resiliency in the face of climate change adaptation, and understanding resiliency through project-based learning.

An important feature of the Symposium was a back-to-back 24-hour workshop by graduate students enrolled in universities in Japan that enabled them to collaboratively propose a model on building community resilience for climate change. (MCHCadiz)



Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (third from left), Manager for Knowledge Management, with Prof. Masataka Watabe (fourth from left), APAN Chair, Keio University; Dr. Young-Woo Park (fifth from left), Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP and Prof. Hironori Hamanaka (sixth from left), Chair of the Board of Directors, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan; Dr. Puja Sawhney (second from right), APAN Coordinator, IGES, Bangkok Regional Centre; and Prof. Wanglin Yan (rightmost), Director, Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Innovators Program, Keio University, and other members of the APAN panel in the symposium.

Alumni Notes/ from page 14

Ms. Gayatri said her SEARCA scholarship was able to open the door to many international academic and professional opportunities.

Now a lecturer at Diponegoro University in Semarang, Indonesia, Ms. Gayatri is expected to start with her PhD program in August 2012. (JSLaranas)

SEARCA FILIPINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Key officers of the SEARCA Fellows Association of the Philippines (SFAP) convened on 22 November 2011 at SEARCA to discuss the year's accomplishments and to plan for 2012 activities. The meeting was held in conjunction with the week-long celebration of SEARCA's 45th anniversary.

Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon, President, Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) and of SFAP, presented the SFAP President's report, which was highlighted by the creation of working committees for membership, networking and resource generation, publication, and education. She expressed that the big challenge to the association is how to sustain the interest of the members to actively participate in SFAP activities.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Samuel S. Mancebo, SFAP adviser and retired professor of UPLB College of Public Affairs; Dr. Ricardo Bagarinao, Registrar of UP Open University; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, SEARCA Manager for Graduate Scholarship and Honorary Member of SFAP.

Dr. Gascon revealed her plans to meet with Filipino alumni in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao as one of her priority activities in early 2012 as SFAP president. She encouraged every SFAP member to visit the website of the alumni at

www.saaf.searca.org and submit updates of their profiles and contact details to SEARCA's Graduate Scholarship Department at SEARCA_grad_alumni@agri.searca.org. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Since the establishment of the graduate scholarship program of SEARCA in 1969, the Philippines has the most number of SEARCA graduate alumni which now stands at 335; this is followed by Thailand (304) and Indonesia (236). (JSLaranas)



SFAP President Dr. Cecilia N. Gascon (right), discusses what has been accomplished by SFAP with Dr. Ricardo T. Bagarinao (left), Associate Professor at UP Open University and SFAP Vice President, and other SFAP members.

ALUMNI NOTES

KASIM APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE



KASIM

Prof. Dr. Musliar Kasim (PhD, Agronomy, UPLB, 1991) has been appointed by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as one of the Deputy Ministers of Education and Culture in October 2011. As part of the Second United Indonesian Cabinet, Dr. Kasim is in charge of the education component of the Ministry, while Dr. Wiendu Nuryanti is in charge of cultural affairs.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister, Dr. Kasim served as Rector of Andalas University in West Sumatra, Indonesia for more than six years.

Dr. Kasim obtained his PhD in Agronomy at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) under the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)-SEARCA scholarship program. He holds an MS and BS from Institut Pertanian Bogor and Andalas University, respectively. (JSLaranas)

SUBADE CONFERRED RANK OF UP SCIENTIST 1



SUBADE

Dr. Rodelio F. Subade (PhD, environmental science, UPLB, 2004), Professor of Economics, University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), was conferred the rank of UP Scientist 1 during

the UP Scientific Productivity Award Ceremony on 28 October 2011 at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The prestigious award bestowed by the UP system is given only to high-caliber scientists who have consistently played a significant role in the development and advancement of the industrialized world through the painstaking generation of new knowledge, new discoveries, and inventions.

Dr. Subade, who recently completed his term as Director of the UPV Institute of Fisheries, Policy and Development Studies, said his PhD degree obtained with support from SEARCA has helped propel him from the rank of Associate Professor to Professor 7, among his other career advancements.

The UP Board of Regents established the UP Scientific Productivity System in 2005 to encourage and reward scientific productivity. The rank of "UP Scientist" is given to deserving scientists and it comes with a monetary reward. (JSLaranas)

3 SEARCA ALUMNI NAMED 2011 UPLB DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



CHAMNIAN

A Filipino and two Thai SEARCA alumni were among the 2011 recipients of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) distinguished alumni award given on the occasion of the university's 93rd Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming.



SAMAKKEE

Dr. Chamnian Yosraj (MS & PhD, animal science, UPLB, 1983 & 1990), President, Maejo University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, was given the Outstanding Alumni Award (Institutional Organization and Development) by the UPLB College of



KAGAOAN

Agriculture, while Dr. Boonyawat Samakkee (PhD, forest resources management, UPLB, 1986), Associate Professor, Department of Conservation, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, was awarded "Most Outstanding Alumnus" by the UPLB College of Forestry.

On the other hand, Dr. Carmencita V. Kagaoan (PhD, environmental science, UPLB, 2005), Head, Institutional Development Division, Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research, Philippines, was recognized by the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management for her exemplary role in the environmental sustainability of agricultural resource management in the Philippines.

These awards are given to UPLB's exemplary alumni for their remarkable achievements and outstanding leadership in their respective fields of endeavor. Coordinated by the UPLB Alumni Association, the college alumni associations nominate and select each year's awardees. (JSLaranas)

PARASO STUDY ON LAGUNA LAKE ESTROGENIC POLLUTION CITED BEST SCIENTIFIC PAPER

The scientific paper of Dr. Michelle Grace Paraso (PhD, environmental science, UPLB, 2011) that revealed the negative effects of estrogen among the male carps in Laguna Lake was cited as best paper during the 48th Philippine Society of Animal Science National and 29th Visayas Scientific Seminar and Annual Convention held on 26-28 October 2011 in Bacolod City, Philippines.

Dr. Paraso's paper is titled "Vitellogenin induction and gonad abnormalities in male common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) introduced in Laguna de Bay," presented the results of her PhD dissertation, funded by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) as part of her full scholarship grant from the Center.

The study, which was conducted in the 2010, revealed that the presence of estrogen, a primary female sex hormone, in the waters of Laguna Lake caused reproductive abnormalities in the male common carp just a few months after their exposure. Signs of reproductive abnormalities include delay in maturation of germ cells and cuts and abrasions in the testis, and the presence of an egg yolk protein precursor called vitellogenin that normally exists in an ovary.

The scientific paper was co-authored by Dr. Severino S. Capitan, Professor, Animal and Dairy Sciences Cluster, College of Agriculture in UP Los Baños (UPLB), who also served as Dr. Paraso's thesis adviser.

Dr. Paraso is currently Associate Professor 2 at the UPLB College of Veterinary Medicine. (JSLaranas)

INDONESIAN GOV'T GRANTS PHD SCHOLARSHIP TO SEARCA ALUMNA



GAYATRI

Just more than a year after graduating from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Ms. Siwi Gayatri (MS community development, 2010), has been awarded a scholarship from the

Indonesian government to pursue her doctoral degree at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Aarhus University in Denmark.

61 presidents, key administrators of Rajabhat universities visit SEARCA

Twenty-two presidents of Rajabhat universities in Thailand visited SEARCA on 18 October 2011. They were joined by 39 other administrators from the different Rajabhat universities.

Their visit is part of a series of study trips to universities and organizations of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

Undertaken by the Rajabhat universities in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the study visits are intended to enable the universities' top officials to exchange ideas with education leaders, administrators of international organizations and universities and study the ways by which ASEAN universities have joined in the building of an ASEAN Community.

SEARCA hosted a program for the Thai contingent wherein the Center and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) gave a joint briefing on their respective programs and activities. Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management, represented Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director. On the other hand, UPLB was represented by Dr. Rita P. Laude, Vice Chancellor for Instruction. They were joined by key officials of their respective institutions.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Panya Kampanit, Vice Chairman of the Meetings of Rajabhat University Presidents

and President of Kanchanburi Rajabhat University, gave a presentation about the Rajabhat universities and their participation in the building of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preang Kitraporn, Chairman of the Meetings of Rajabhat University Presidents

and President of Pkranakhon Rajabhat University, led the discussion among the officials of the three institutions on possible areas for cooperation. They initially identified research and administrator and student exchanges as prospective activities in which Rajabhat universities could collaborate with both SEARCA and UPLB. (LLDDomingo)



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preang Kitraporn (third from right, seated), Chairman of the Meetings of Rajabhat University Presidents and President of Pkranakhon Rajabhat University, asks Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz (leftmost, standing), SEARCA's Manager for Knowledge Management representing Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, about SEARCA programs in which Rajabhat universities may be able to participate.

SEARCA, RECFON/ from page 16

The seminar-workshop viewed food safety in the context of the 1996 Rome Declaration on Food Security and emphasized both public health and trade. Updates on the status of food control systems in the region presented in the seminar-workshop serve as a platform for the exchange of information and experiences on the design and implementation of risk-based farm-to-fork food safety systems.

Since food safety has been the focus of RECFON training courses offered regularly, Dr. Ratna said it would be good to focus on the food security program as a collaborative activity with SEARCA.

As a first step, SEARCA was invited to participate in the next RECFON food safety course to observe how the course is run and have a look at the training modules used. (LLDDomingo)



Dr. Dr. Ratna Sitompul (third from right), Acting Director; Dr. Judhiastuty Februhartanty (second from right), Research and Development (R&D) Manager and Acting Deputy Director for Programs; and Ms. Rindrawati (rightmost), Library Officer, all of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition, are briefed on SEARCA's programs and activities by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (fourth from right), SEARCA Director, together with members of the Management Committee, namely (from left): Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management; Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management; and Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla (partially hidden from view), Manager for R&D.

SEARCA, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change ink MOU



Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. (second from left), SEARCA Director, and Dr. Young Han Kwon (second from right), Director of Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (KACCC), shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in research and capacity development projects on 14 December 2011 at SEARCA. Looking on are Ms. Susan V. Fernandez (leftmost), Head of SEARCA's Management Services Unit, and Dr. Huicheul Jung (rightmost), KACCC Research Fellow.

SEARCA and the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (KACCC) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in research and capacity development projects effective 14 December 2011.

Signatories to the MOU were Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, and Dr. Young Han Kwon, KACCC Director. Witnesses were Ms. Susan V. Fernandez, Head of SEARCA's Management Services Unit, and Dr. Huicheul Jung, KACCC Research Fellow.

KACCC was established by the Korean Ministry of Environment at the Korea Environment Institute

to enhance its ability to develop climate change adaptation strategies.

SEARCA and KACCC have agreed to collaborate in the conduct of research studies on environmental and natural resource management through shared use of existing resources, including knowledge products, and generation of additional resources.

KACCC has over 50 research fellows whose interdisciplinary research capabilities are enhanced by its partnerships with private and government research institutions and universities.

The two institutions also committed to jointly organize learning events on responding to climate

change in environmental and natural resource management.

To advance these goals, SEARCA and KACCC will integrate research and capacity development programs and other related endeavors on climate change adaptation where feasible and cost-effective. They will also promote and facilitate exchange of experts in its programs.

The MOU further binds SEARCA and KACCC "to identify specific research, capacity development, and knowledge management activities they may collaborate on, in cooperation with additional partners, to be covered by separate Memoranda of Agreement." (LLDDomingo)

SEARCA, RECFON explore prospects for joint regional food safety program

SEARCA and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition (RECFON) based in Jakarta, Indonesia have discussed prospects for jointly developing a Regional Food Safety program.

This was the highlight of the visit to SEARCA on 8 December 2011 of Dr. Ratna Sitompul, Acting Director; Dr. Judhiastuty, Research and Development (R&D) Manager and Acting Deputy Director for Programs; and Ms. Rindrawati, Library Officer, all of RECFON.

They were received and briefed on SEARCA's programs and activities by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, together with members of the

Management Committee, namely: Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager for Graduate Scholarship; Dr. Mercedita A. Sombilla, Manager for R&D; Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for Knowledge Management; and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Manager for Project Development and Management.

Dr. Saguiguit and Dr. Cadiz shared the outcomes of SEARCA's Seminar-Workshop on Risk-based Food Control Programs in Southeast Asia conducted in May 2011. Dr. Saguiguit broached the possibility of the two SEAMEO centers collaborating on a regional food safety program that takes off from the gains of said seminar-workshop. Said forum identified the gaps in food safety as well as related problems and issues confronted by countries in the region.

SEARCA, RECFON/ to page 15