

Bogor Agricultural University aims for International Accreditation

Selected department and units of the Bogor Agricultural University have completed their respective processes for International accreditation. This was reported by Bogor Agricultural University Rector Dr. Ir. Herry Suhardiyanto during the University's Graduation Day for Academic Year 2011/2012, on 29 February 2012.

According to Dr. Suhardiyanto, the Institute of Food Technologist (IFT) of the United States carried out the validation for international accreditation of the Department of Food Science and Technology. On the other hand, the assessor from Australasian Veterinary Boards Council in Australia has

already visited the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Also in the process of international accreditation are the Master's Program for Business Management by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in the US; the Department of Technology for Marine Science by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMEST) in London, the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Biosystems by the Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (JABEE), and the Department of Landscape Architecture by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) in United States.

Meanwhile the accreditation process of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Department of Plant Protection, Department of the Technology of Livestock Production, and Department of Aquaculture are still in progress by ASEAN University Network.

Aside from these initiatives, Dr. Suhardiyanto also mentioned about the University's commitment to quality

management systems according to the international standard. In particular, the Master's Degree Program for Business Management, Office of Quality Management, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Research Center for Coastal and Marine Resources of the Institute of Research and Community Empowerment (LPPM IPB), the Directorate of Educational Administration, Directorate of Human Resources, the Directorate of Career Development and Alumni Relations, Office of Internal Audit, and the University Library are pushing for their respective ISO 9001:2008 Certification.

Moreover, ISO 17025 certification has also been granted for a number of laboratory facilities in the University. Lastly, the Centre for Tropical Horticulture (PKHT) has also been certified as a Center of Science and Technology Leading by The State Ministry of Research and Technology.

Source: IPB News | March 2012

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Regional training workshop on Knowledge Management held

The first training-workshop on Knowledge Management (KM) for the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) was held 29 February to 2 March 2012 in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. Forty-three delegates from various regional centers and the SEAMEO Secretariat gathered at the SEAMEO Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for leveling off on understanding and motivations regarding KM among SEAMEO regional centers. Specifically, the training workshop sought to provide an appreciation of the rationale for designing and applying knowledge solutions in organizations. It also aimed to firm up notions of knowledge partnerships and enable the SEAMEO centers to draw up a joint knowledge management agenda and related actions.

The training-workshop was the first step in the development of a SEAMEO KM System whose design will cut across and harmoniously run among and between all 20 diverse SEAMEO regional

SEARCA scholar inducted into honors society for academic excellence



Daud Samsudewa, a lecturer at the Faculty of Animal Science of the Diponegoro University, Indonesia and currently pursuing his PhD in Animal Science at the University of the Philippines Los Baños as a SEARCA

DAAD scholar, was among the select few individuals who were recognized by the Phi Sigma International Honors Society at the 30th Scholars' Recognition Convocation held at the NISMED Auditorium in UP Diliman on 30 January 2012.

The annual scholars' convocation, sponsored by the Phi Sigma, Pi Gamma Mu, and Phi Kappa Phi International Honor Societies, was established on 21 January 1983 to honor the outstanding seniors of the University of the Philippines System for academic excellence in the biological sciences (Phi Sigma), the social sciences (Pi Gamma Mu), and lastly, in all fields of discipline (Phi Kappa Phi). There were 143 honorees for this year's convocation, 12 for Phi Kappa Phi, 35 for Phi Sigma, and 96 for Pi Gamma Mu.

The convocation was established in the hope that the recognition of outstanding seniors will help the honor societies achieve their objectives, encourage the honorees to strive for excellence in all their endeavors, and serve as inspiration for emulation by other students. (Anne Victoria L. Alcalá)



The Center Directors and their representatives prepare for the workshop session on identifying the basic elements of a SEAMEO Knowledge Management System strategy and program.

centers based in various countries in the region.

In his message during the opening program, Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMES Director, said SEAMEO is in a marathon of 10 years that begins with this first KM training-workshop.

"In the course of the marathon, we need to effectively and strategically harness our mission which, as a result, creates and enhances our ability to contribute to the region and the world," Dr. Witaya stressed.

[See Regional training, p. 3](#)

Regional training, from p. 2

He added that once the SEAMEO centers understand the essence of KM, “we will be able to capture and distribute our organization’s collective expertise and knowledge to create the best possible support for our organization’s strategic goals and objectives.”

“In an organization, KM has a great effect in our decision-making processes and to our actions... we look at information specialists like you to assist the organization and [its members] to seize the knowledge that they create and discover and then make it available to those who would need them,” Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), said in his welcome message during the opening program.

“The information and knowledge we generate in SEAMEO is what drives the organization, unifies it, and gives it relevance particularly when used to address the development needs of the region we are mandated to serve,” Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, said in his opening remarks.

Dr. Saguiguit said the enormous amount of information and knowledge in various fields of specialization of SEAMEO’s 20 centers are useless if not shared with their constituencies and stakeholders in the 11 member countries.

Dr. Serafin D. Talisayon, Director for Research and Development, Center for Conscious Living Foundation and Professor of Knowledge Management, UP Technology Management Center, served as the Training-Workshop Technical Coordinator. In his lectures, he tackled the topics on “Knowledge: the New Wealth of Nations, Communities, and Organizations;” “Aligning KM with Organizational Objectives and Stakeholder Needs;” and “Introduction

to Exemplar KM Practices in Global/Regional Networks.”

On the other hand, Dr. Olivier Serrat, Principal Knowledge Management Specialist, Regional Sustainable Development Department of the Asian Development Bank, served as a resource person and delivered lectures on “Building a Knowledge-centric Organization” and “Designing Knowledge Partnerships Better”.

Mr. Winifredo B. Dagli, and Mr. Garry Jay S. Montemayor, both Instructors at the UPLB College of Development Communication,



Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMES Director, speaks at the opening program of the training-workshop.

served as facilitators during the workshop sessions. Members of the Training-Workshop Management Group from SEARCA were Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Manager for KM, and Ms. Nova A. Ramos, Training Specialist, both of the Knowledge Management Department, as well as many other staff who provided documentation, logistical, and information technology (IT) support.

During the first workshop session, the participants identified and assessed the resources of each center. Two simultaneous workshop sessions were then conducted. One workshop involved the Center Directors or their representatives who brainstormed and discussed the basic elements of

a SEAMEO KM System Strategy and Program. The other workshop involved KM focal persons in each Center who identified and discussed learning and knowledge-sharing mechanisms across Centers.

At the end of the learning event, the participants presented their proposed action plans for the following: (1) Internal KM (KM within each SEAMEO center), (2) External KM (KM between SEAMEO centers and their stakeholders), and (3) SEAMEO-wide KM (KM among and between the SEAMEO centers).

“The SEAMEO Secretariat stands ready to support any future initiatives resulting from this workshop,” Dr. Witaya said.

At the conclusion of the training-workshop, Dr. Saguiguit proposed that at the level of the organization, SEAMEO’s KM efforts may be centered on improving quality of life which will then be the focus of each SEAMEO center’s KM program, depending on their respective expertise, to make information accessible to their stakeholders at all levels.

Noting the need to formalize such agreement among all the SEAMEO centers, Dr. Saguiguit said SEARCA could take the lead in crafting said proposal for approval at the next SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting.

The 43 participants in the First SEAMEO Training Workshop on Knowledge Management included the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) Director and Deputy Directors, 13 Center Directors, and 27 professional and administrative staff.

The training-workshop was jointly organized by SEARCA, through its Knowledge Management Department, and SEAMES. (Leah Lyn D. Domingo)



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in collaboration with the University of the Philippines-Asian Institute of Tourism (UP-AIT) is organizing the 1st National Agritourism Research Conference in the Philippines to be held at SEARCA, UPLB Campus, College, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines on 27-29 June 2012.

It is open to agritourism sector stakeholders in the Philippines such as practitioners, regulators, interest groups, and academics. You are invited to present completed and current research projects related to

agritourism including but not limited to the following:

- > Theory and Practice in the Philippine Agritourism Sector
- > Financing Agritourism Initiatives/ Marketing and Business Development
- > Partnerships and Collaborations in Agritourism Ventures
- > Cultural and Historical Aspects of Agritourism
- > Policy and Regulatory Concerns of Agritourism/Certification/ Sustainability Challenges

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

An abstract of no more than 800 words must be submitted to agritourism@agri.searca.org by May 15, 2012. Abstracts should indicate the complete office address or institutional affiliations and email address/es of author/s. Please take note that while more than one abstract may be submitted, only one abstract per author can be accepted. A Scientific Committee will evaluate and

approve abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Notice of Acceptance will be released on 25-30 May 2012. Authors of accepted papers must submit their full papers by 30 May 2012, which would serve as basis for inclusion in the final Conference Agenda. Selected papers will be considered for inclusion in a book to be published by SEARCA.

For more information, please contact the Secretariat through:

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Hibiscus, from p. 8

“The need for propagating the hibiscus has become popular. With the climate change around us, hibiscus has the potential (uses) for ‘green roofs’ for high-rise buildings or as ornamentals on bare walls,” he added.

Most varieties are also edible, he said. For instance, the roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) is often used as food garnishing and could be manufactured into jam, jelly or juice as a good source of antioxidants.

Magdalita said his group planned to breed a “miniature” variety that could be placed in small bottles as souvenir items. Another project, he said, is to breed the plant as a cut flower that could last without withering for two to three days.

But former Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar posed a question: “What use do science researches and technologies

have if we cannot apply them to our daily lives?”

In 2011, the Villar Foundation donated P1.2 million to the IPB for the propagation of 2,000 mother plants of the hibiscus *Rosa-sinensis* Cynthia A. Villar.

This was after the UPLB last year named the hibiscus hybrid after Villar, who was recognized in the Women in Public Service Series for her contributions to the government and the environment. The variety has bright orange petals, a red eye and pinkish halo.

“I thought I should propagate it in Las Piñas on a large scale for beautification (of the city) to help in tourism,” Villar said.

On March 6, Villar attended the

opening of the 10-meter wide hibiscus propagation mist house in UPLB. The Pph340,000 facility funded by the Villar Foundation would speed up the propagation of the hibiscus varieties than when using traditional sprinklers to water the plants, said IPB researcher Agripina Rasco.

The foundation plans to grow and propagate the plant in the city and develop byproducts that could generate jobs.

“It could be Las Piñas’ city flower,” Villar said.

The IPB was expected to complete the breeding of the 2,000 mother plants for turnover to the Villar Foundation by the end of the year.

Source: Inquirer.net | 21 March 2012

Predicting crop yield seeds international interest

In accord with one of the world's largest seed companies, University of Queensland's (UQ) Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) has bolstered up its ever increasing reputation for high-impact science by co-developing innovative new crop technology.

Prof. Graeme Hammer, director of QAAFI's Centre for Plant Science, with the international seed company Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business, is leading a team of UQ scientists in developing a world-class computer model that assists farmers and scientists to better predict crop yields.

The work uses the Agricultural Production Systems Simulator (APSIM) software platform, developed in Australia through collaboration of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Queensland Government, and UQ.

The advancement of the maize crop modelling capability in APSIM with Pioneer has ushered in fast-tracking more effective breeding of drought-tolerant hybrids. This



Prof. Graeme Hammer, director of QAAFI's Centre for Plant Science



ultimately means that growers worldwide will be better able to meet the increasing demands on agricultural productivity.

With this platform, researchers are able to input many specific characteristics on how experimental plants behave under test conditions, and facilitates prediction of those few that will respond best under drought conditions in the field.

The state-of-the-art modelling capability integrates the latest understanding of crop reactions to drought.

Recently joining a European Commission-sponsored research consortium on DROught-Tolerant Plants (DROPS) are UQ and Pioneer, who have contributed their expertise and state-of-the-art modelling platform for use by the consortium.

To improve drought-tolerance research in maize and other crop plants, DROPS is starting to develop novel tools and breeding strategies.

"Pioneer and UQ scientists will work together with consortium scientists to improve the modelling platform so that it can accept even more traits, thereby increasing the utility of the platform," Prof. Hammer said.

"Members of the consortium will then have access to the resulting advanced modelling platform to facilitate their

further drought research in a number of crops."

Prof. Hammer's research, its focus being the water productivity in cereals, is about the physiology and genetics of complex adaptive traits in field crops. This supports the development of mathematical models of crop growth, development and yield that allow simulation of consequences of genetic and management manipulation of crops in specific target environments. His research capabilities are focused on the major cereal crops: sorghum, maize and wheat.

He works together with plant breeders, geneticists, molecular biologists and agronomists in a range of national and international research projects in both public and private sectors.

To know more about Prof. Hammer's project, you can contact:

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Source: UQ News | 7 February 2012



UGM Lecturer-Researcher develops “Rengginang Maker”

Rengginang is a favorite traditional glutinous rice cracker snack in Indonesia. The production of this snack using a special machine operated manually requires time and patience resulting in low production output.

Ir. Priyanto Triwitono, a lecturer of the Department of Agricultural Products Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), was motivated to improve the efficiency and productivity of rengginang by developing a rengginang maker.

The rengginang machine developed by Triwitono is capable of producing up to two times more rengginang than the manual process. He said that the machine produces 4-5 pieces of rengginang per minute or about 240-300 per hour as compared to 2 pieces per minute or 120 pieces per hour manually. “The capacity of the machine is at least 50 kg per day. With this machine, one kilogram of steamed glutinous rice can produce approximately 110-120 pieces of rengginang,” Triwitono said.

The machine is quite practical and can be operated by anyone, including beginners or non-experts. It is able to make rengginangs with exactly the same size, specifications and texture. Triwitono explained that his machine provides the same amount of pressure regardless of the operator so the rengginang is more solid, not easily broken and retains its shape.

The machine is operated without electricity or fuel, making it cost efficient. According to Triwitono, the working principle of the machine is adopted from that of a bottle lid. He explained that this device

consists of a body/frame made of cast iron, the pole of the iron axle, wooden suppressor, a handle to press the rengginang, a table holder, and a wooden press board containing hard pipe pieces.

He added that to make rengginangs using this

machine, the following procedure should be followed: (1) Place the steamed glutinous rice into the pressing board; (2) Suppress/compact the rengginang by pulling down the handle; and (3) Remove the rengginang from the mold to dry. Mr. Triwitono said that he had developed different shapes of mold for the rengginang such as circle, square, and rectangle.

This rengginang press has recently been mass-produced and is marketed at 2.5 million rupiah per machine.

Source: UGM News | 26 January 2012

Engr. Triwitono supervising the production of rice cracker snacks using the newly developed machine



Photo source: www.ugm.ac.id

UPM bags, from p. 8

research grant and the researchers’ accomplishments at last year’s Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE), the International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), the Exposition of Research and Inventions of International Institutions of Higher Learning (PENCIPTA), and BioMalaysia.

AHIN2012 was organized by the Ministry of Domestic

Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism (KPDNKK) and the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO). The National Intellectual Property Awards are given in recognition of the contribution of researchers and organizations through their intellectual properties towards the economic and socio-cultural advancement of the nation.

Source: UPM News | 28 March 2012

The University Consortium

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources is a program launched on 19 September 1989 by SEARCA.

The idea of having such a program was formed in August 1988 when SEARCA, with convened a meeting of deans of five leading agricultural graduate schools in the region. The deans noted a rising demand for graduate education across all agricultural disciplines and related fields, strong agricultural and demographic pressures, and tremendous growth in education, and agreed to the idea of establishing a University Consortium.

The objectives of the Consortium are:

1. To provide highly trained personnel in agriculture and natural resources for national development of Southeast Asian countries.
2. To promote mutually beneficial cooperation among agricultural universities in the region.
3. To utilize more fully and efficiently the scarce resources and expertise available in each country in the region for top-quality graduate education and research.
4. To stimulate freer sharing and exchange of information, facilities, and expertise among agricultural universities in the region.

SEARCA has served as the Consortium's Secretariat since 1989. Its founding members are Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), both in Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Malaysia; University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in the Philippines; and Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand. Four associate members have been admitted, namely: University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, Georg-August University of Göttingen (GAUG) in Germany, and Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan.

"To be a leader in implementing collaborative strategies for excellent graduate education and cutting-edge research in agriculture, environment, and natural resources for the benefit of Southeast Asia" - this is the vision of the revitalized University Consortium.

The Consortium has five components, namely: student exchanges, faculty visits, research fellowships, professorial chairs, and thesis grants.

University Consortium is a newsletter of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) for the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). It can be downloaded from the UC website at <http://www.uc.searca.org>

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Hibiscus blooms as economic driver

“With the climate change around us, hibiscus has the potential (uses) for ‘green roofs’ for high-rise buildings or as ornamentals on bare walls.”



How about a “gumamela”-flavored juice?

Science researchers and local government officials expect a bustling local economy to blossom from the many colors, sizes and shapes of the gumamela (hibiscus).

“Hibiscus breeding in the Philippines faces a very bright future,” said Dr. Pablito Magdalita, an associate professor from the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños

(UPLB).

Hibiscus, one of the most popular ornamental plants often grown in front of houses, is also referred to as the “queen of the Filipino garden.”

But aside from being a prolific ornamental plant or a child’s concoction for making bubbles from a mixture of water and crushed petals and leaves, researchers are exploring other uses of the hibiscus, particularly for health and wellness.

In a floriculture congress held in Quezon City in February, collectors and gardeners exhibited different varieties of the hibiscus commonly used for landscaping.

Ornamental plant breeding in the Philippines was traced back to 1922 but it showed little progress because of low funding as the government had focused more on food security programs, Magdalita said.

[See Hibiscus, p. 4](#)



UPM Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Saleh Jaafar receives the award on behalf of UPM.

UPM bags National Intellectual Property Awards

For the second time, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) emerged the winner for the Organisation (Government and Private Sector) Category at the 2012 National Intellectual Property Awards (AHIN2012) held at the Sultan Ahmad Shah International Convention Centre (SASICC), Kuantan this April. The award carried a cash prize of RM30,000 and a trophy.

UPM Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dato'

Ir. Dr. Mohd Saleh Jaafar, who received the award in behalf of the University said the award was reward for filing 49 patents with MyIPO and 144 international patents up to 2011. The research product commercialization was able to generate RM32.3mil revenue.

Vice Chancellor Jaafar likewise attributed UPM’s win to other significant factors, including the RM110.27mil

[See UPM bags, p. 6](#)