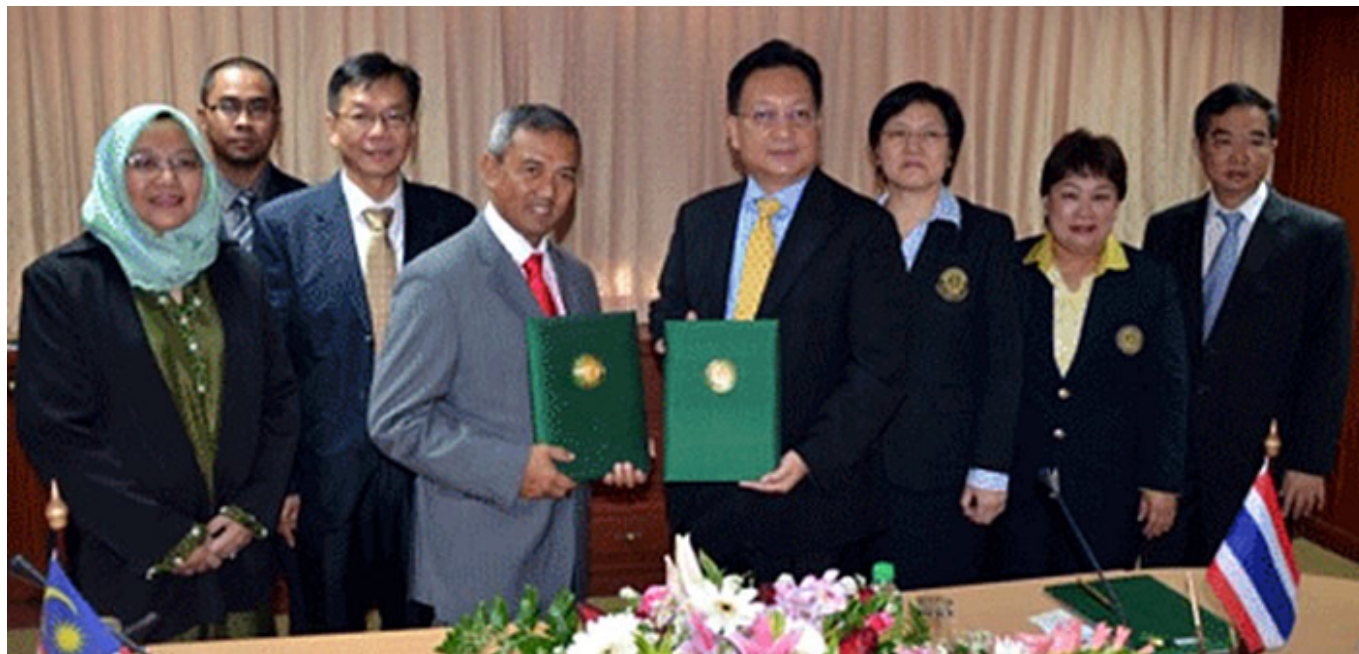


KU and UPM ink accord on dual degree program



YBhg. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan, UPM Vice Chancellor and Associate Professor Dr. Bordin Rassameethes, KU Vice President signed the memorandum of agreement

Thailand's Kasetsart University (KU) and the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) have agreed to implement dual research degree programs, as part of their continuing efforts towards internationalization of graduate education. The program, which will cover both Masters and PhD degrees in areas related to agriculture, food science, forestry, agro-industry and economy, among others, will be rolled out starting

Academic Year 2015-2016 in August 2015.

YBhg. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan, UPM Vice Chancellor and Associate Professor Dr. Bordin Rassameethes, KU Vice President signed the memorandum of agreement which formalized the said collaboration.

Under the dual degree program, graduate students will enroll and will receive certificates or diplomas in both universities. Moreover, graduate students will form an Examination Committee with an Internal Examiner appointed by each University, and an External Examiner who shall be independent of both Universities. Students will also be invited to both KU's and UPM's graduation ceremony.

This graduate degree program is one of the first collaborations inked after the University Consortium members signed the memorandum of

understanding promoting joint and dual degree programs between and amongst members.

"This MoA will also provide a solid platform for gaining new experiences and creating a vast and immense working network via the research collaborations conducted by the two universities, thus, catapulting the students towards a better career future. Malaysian and Thai students will also benefit as local rate fees will be levied on them during their candidature," affirmed Vice Chancellor Ramlan during the MOA signing, which took place on 3 February 2015 at KU, Bangkok, Thailand.

KU and UPM are two of the premier agricultural universities in Southeast Asia belonging to the top 100 Universities, as far as QS world rankings are concerned. Both are members of the University Consortium since the UC's establishment in 1989.

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Masyhuri recognized promoting food security in Indonesia



SUBANG, WEST JAVA, Indonesia
– Dr. Masyhuri, Senior Researcher of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) Center for World Trade Studies and concurrent Coordinator for the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) was one of the recipients of the prestigious Adhikarya Pangan Nusantara medal, an award bestowed to outstanding Indonesians who have

Indonesia's efforts to attain food security, food sovereignty, and food self-sufficiency.

No less than Indonesia's President, Joko Widodo conferred the accolade, which was also awarded to 8 governors and 10 village leaders, during the ceremony that took place in the middle of the rice-paddy dike in the Grand Center for Rice in Subang, West Java, on 26 December 2014.

"With this award, I hope in the

contributed very significantly to future to do more research on food security in Indonesia," acclaimed Masyhuri.

Coincidentally, the UC has resolved to implement a number of collaborative projects to address food security in the region. This include a study on the effects of ASEAN economic integration, trade, and investments on food security in the region, which will be spearheaded by UGM.

SEARCA welcomes 9 more new scholars for Second Semester AY 2014-2015



New SEARCA scholars at UPLB for 2nd Semester 2014-2015

As second semester of Academic Year 2014-2015 commences, SEARCA awarded nine more graduate scholarships to students from Lao PDR (2), Myanmar (4), Vietnam (1), Timor Leste (1), and the Philippines (1). All new scholars are posted at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Six of these scholars are under the Upland Fellowships project supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, under its second cohort. The graduate scholar from the Philippines is under the Graduate Scholarship in Livestock Research and

Biotechnology for the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC-SEARCA scholarship). The scholars from Timor Leste and Vietnam are supported by the regular SEARCA scholarship program.

The Graduate Education and Institutional Development Department (GEIDD), SEARCA's department in charge of the administration and management of the graduate scholarship program, conducted the orientation for the new scholars on 18 February 2015 to ensure that everyone is familiarized with Center policies and guidelines related to their study program and scholarship.

With these, SEARCA has now granted a total of 58 new scholarships for the current academic year, which brings us to a total of 128 current scholars, as of February 2015.

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Dr. Tran Van Dien, Rector, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, and Country Representative of Vietnam to the SEARCA Governing Board, delivering a message during the Opening Ceremonies.

and knowledge management (KM) on CChAM; developed the Umbrella Program on CChAM for SEA 2015 – 2020 in its draft form; mapped capabilities and needs of institutional partners to optimize synergy and support, and maximize benefits; and discussed resource mobilization strategies to implement the program.

The major thematic areas identified for collaboration in the Umbrella Program are the following: Theme 1: Assessing climate change impacts and risks for policy, plans, and investments; Theme 2: Advancing low-carbon agriculture and rural development; Theme 3: Enhancing pro-active adaptation to climate change variability and extremes; and Theme 4: Enabling policies

and governance for climate-resilient agriculture and rural communities. Overall, the draft Umbrella Program on CChAM consists of four thematic areas, 21 sub-themes, and around 70 projects/activities.

SEARCA was represented in the consultation-workshop by its Director Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr.; Program Heads — Drs. Bessie M. Burgos, Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, and Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma; Workshop Technical Coordinator and SEARCA Adjunct Fellow — Dr. Juan Pulhin former Dean and Professor, College of Forestry and Natural Resources University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB); Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Unit Head for Knowledge Resources; Ms. Carmen Nyhria G. Rogel, Program Specialist; and Ms. Rochella B. Lapitan, Program Support Staff.

Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Tuat, Vice President, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam, welcoming the participants.



Dr. Poonpipope Kasemsap, Vice President for Kamphaeng Saen Campus of the Kasetsart University and Executive Officer, University Consortium, facilitated group discussion during the workshop's breakout session.



Dr. Leocadio S. Sebastian, Regional Program Leader for Southeast Asia of CGIAR-CCAFS giving his insights on the umbrella program during the closing ceremonies.

University Consortium GRANTS

For guidelines, application procedures and requirements, please visit

<http://www.uc.searca.org>



FACULTY GRANTS

Faculty Travel Grant for Research

Conduct research in another participating UC member.

Faculty Travel Grant for Conference/Seminar

Participate and present a paper in a conference/seminar organized by another participating UC member.

Visiting Professor Program for Teaching Purposes

Teach a graduate course in his/her field of discipline at another participating UC member.

STUDENT GRANTS

Thesis Grant

Assists the UC graduate student to develop and finish his/her thesis.

Student Travel Grant for Research

Travel for a semester in another participating UC university to conduct his/her research or a portion of it.

Student Travel Grant for Credit Program

Spend a semester in another participating UC university to take courses for credit to his/her program.

SEARCA and Partners hold Regional Consultation Workshop on Climate Change



Guests and participants of the Regional Consultation Workshop towards an Umbrella Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Southeast Asia for an Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development.

HANOI, Vietnam – The Regional Consultation Workshop towards an Umbrella Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CChAM) in Southeast Asia (SEA) for an Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (ISARD) was held at Fortuna Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam on 12-14 May 2015.

The Umbrella Program is envisioned as a platform for convergence and collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels, where institutions can work together, pool resources, and address gaps or move in directions where their joint efforts provide a strategic advantage for climate resiliency in SEA.

It is hoped that the synergy created by the Umbrella Program can produce added value in terms of new knowledge, technologies, capacities, and processes than what is currently being generated by institutions working on their own specific research agenda.

SEARCA spearheaded this regional workshop with partners and co-organizers CGIAR Research on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Southeast Asia Program (CCAFS-

SEA) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and with the support of the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, the University Consortium, and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN).

research and development organizations programs, donor or funding agencies, and the organizing agencies.

At the end of the consultation workshop, participants had a more focused perspective and understanding

SEARCA Director, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. and CIAT Director for Asia Dr. Dindo M. Campilan delivering their opening messages.



The regional consultation workshop was attended by 59 participants from the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources, or the University Consortium (UC), selected partner universities in the Greater Mekong countries, relevant government agencies from Southeast Asia, Non-government organization,

of issues and gaps in climate change policy, research, capacity development, and knowledge management (KM) in the context of Southeast Asia and/or the ASEAN region; agreed on the conceptual framework for collaborative research, capacity development,

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The University Consortium

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources is a network of higher education institutions launched on 19 September 1989 by SEARCA.

The idea of having such a network was formed in August 1988 when SEARCA 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. Two affiliate members joined the network, namely: University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada and Georg-August University of Göttingen (GAUG) in Germany. The Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan joined as an associate member.

The vision of the University Consortium is 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.

The Consortium has five program components, namely: student exchanges, faculty visits, research fellowships, joint scholarships and thesis grants.

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