

UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

A quarterly newsletter of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources

University Consortium concludes 24th Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) held its 24th meeting on 13-14 September 2011 at the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by 20 delegates representing 8 out of ten member universities of the UC, namely: UGM, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of



Delegates of the 24th University Consortium Executive Board Meeting pose for their group photo at the Universitas Gadjah Mada on 13-14 September, 2011.

the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand, University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan, and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture

(SEARCA) based in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines. Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., Director, and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Graduate Scholarship Department

See University Consortium p. 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Cambodian biodiversity executive pursues doctoral dissertation through TUA-SEARCA Grant **page 2**

UPLB recognized as top performing school **page 3**

UPM Vice Chancellor receives ASIA'S Best B-School Award

IPB opens 48th anniversary celebration with orphans **page 4**

UPLB 'White corn' variety to fight diabetes, hunger **page 5**

UGM's Faculty of Agricultural Technology envisioned as International Center of Excellence

Tokyo University of Agriculture visits Kasetsart University **page 6**

Filipino scholar at UQ says degree opened doors to global opportunities **page 7**

The University Consortium **page 8**

Radio Republik Indonesia plays vital role in Indonesia's agricultural development

UGM inaugurates 1530 Graduates

UPLB faculties awarded TUA-UC Scholarship

Moises Dorado and Angelina Felix both from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) were awarded the Tokyo University of Agriculture - Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (TUA-UC) Scholarship for Dissertation Doctorate Degree effective June 2011.

Mr. Dorado is an associate professor from the College of Engineering and Agro Industrial Technology and

concurrent Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension of the University. On the other hand, Ms. Felix is an assistant professor of food and nutrition from the College of Human Ecology.

With the TUA-UC scholarship, both Dorado and Felix can complete their doctoral dissertation

See UPLB faculties p. 2



Cambodian biodiversity executive pursues doctoral dissertation through TUA-SEARCA Grant

the guidance of Dr. Misuhiro Terauchi, his main adviser in the University.

His research will focus on the impact of eco-tourism on the local community livelihood as well as biodiversity conservation in Cambodia.

With the popularity of Siem Reap and Angkor Wat among other destinations in the country, the eco-tourism sector of Cambodia is one of the growing sectors in the country. With such a backdrop, this study can help establish and enhance the policy support for livelihood development and conservation of biodiversity in the country, according to Ratanak.

The TUA-SEARCA Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship is open to all SEAMEO member countries. The qualified applicants must:

1. Be a researcher with full-time employment at the university or

research institution.

2. Be a holder of a master's degree in agriculture or related fields.
3. Have produced at least two peer-reviewed scientific papers in scholarly journals at home or abroad and have served as first author of at least one of those papers.
4. Have already made a substantial progress in a research project which will deserve a doctorate degree in three years.
5. Not be more than 48 years of age at the start of the program.

Details about the scholarship grant can be found at SEARCA website at <http://www.searca.org>.

Another Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) - SEARCA Scholarship for Doctoral Dissertation was awarded, this time to Mr. Ou Ratanak from the Kingdom of Cambodia. Mr. Ratanak is the deputy director of the Biodiversity Office, Department of International Convention and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment.

Through the TUA-SEARCA Scholarship, Ratanak can complete his dissertation at TUA within three years with

UPLB Faculties p. 1

at TUA within three years. In particular, the program allows the grantee to stay in TUA for one month every year to consult with his/her assigned academic adviser in order to complete their respective research works.

Through the provision of the scholarship, the Dissertation Doctorate Program for agriculture and natural resources aims to contribute to the enhancement of agricultural research and development in Southeast Asia. It is open to researchers of UC member universities.

Details about the program can be found in the UC website <http://uc.searca.org>. At the same time, inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager, SEARCA Graduate Scholarship Department at ecc@agri.searca.org or gds@agri.searca.org.



Dorado



Felix

Launched in 2010, the TUA-UC Dissertation Doctorate Program is open to researchers from any UC-member universities. Information about the program can be found in the UC website at <http://uc.searca.org>

UPLB recognized as top performing school

UPLB has claimed top spots again, this time in the professional board examinations for agriculturists, nutritionists-dietitians, and veterinarians, earning the title of being the top performing school for all examinations.

Among the schools that had graduates take the board exam for agriculturists and veterinarians, UPLB is the lone top performing school and one of only three for the nutritionists-dietitians exam.

UPLB garnered a passing rate of 98 percent (118/120) for the agriculturists board exam where the national passing rate is 37 percent. Seven UPLB examinees took positions in the top 10. The board examination for agriculturists was given in 11 cities all

over the country.

The University again garnered an impressive 100 percent passing rate with all 75 examinees successfully hurdling the professional board exam for nutritionists-dietitians. Four examinees captured spots in the top ten.

UPLB also dominated the veterinarian licensure examination results with class valedictorian Jussiaea Bariuan making it to the top three passers. UPLB was the only university recognized as the top performing school with 40 or more examinees and at least 80 percent passing rate.

Source: UPLB News | 31 August 2011



IPB opens 48th anniversary celebration with orphans

Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) opened the celebration of its 48th Anniversary with a philanthropic endeavour which benefited about 800 orphans from 17 villages around the campus on 18 August 2011. IPB Rector, Prof. Dr.Ir. Herry Suhardiyanto spearheaded the event, which was also attended by the University's deans, faculty members, as well as village and community leaders.

While the University will further establish its networks and collaborations to meet its goals and objectives, the Rector said that they also recognize the need to continuously give back to the community to which it belongs. The generosity of a number of donors enabled IPB to increase the number of beneficiaries every year.

According to the Vice-Chairman of the Anniversary Committee, Dr. Rinekso Soekmadi, this year's theme "Bogor Agricultural University innovation towards a new era in agriculture" shows the role of the University in the development of Indonesia.

During the same occasion, Mining company PT. Antam Tbk, headed by its Director General Mr. Deni Maulasa, MM turned over a Campus Bus to the University Rector. Aside from this donation, PT Antam will also provide scholarships for 50 (fifty) students from West Java and build a student dormitory.

UPM Vice Chancellor receives Asia's Best B-School Award



Dato 'Ir. Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi receives ASIA'S Best B-School Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education.

Universiti Putra Malaysia's Vice Chancellor Dato 'Ir. Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi was conferred an Asia's Best B-School Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education.

Asia's Best B-School Awards aim to recognize the top business schools and academicians among 29 Asian countries identified by the CMO Advisory Board and the Advisory Council of World Brand Congress.

Awarding ceremonies were held in Suntec, Singapore on 22 July 2011.



UPLB 'White corn' variety to fight diabetes, hunger

Growing white corn, as an alternative staple food, with more yield and cheaper costs can help reduce rice importation.

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) is funding a seed production program for white corn to enhance food security and help reduce the cases of diabetes in the country.

The Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) produced the high-yielding "IPB Var 6" white corn, which is "nearly comparable to commercial white corn hybrid," said Dr. Artemio M. Salazar, deputy director and network head of the National Corn RDE (Research, Development, and Extension) Network.

White corn could become an alternative staple food to those living in upland areas since growing corn is easier than irrigation-intensive rice and it will curb the cases of diabetes among urban dwellers, said Salazar.

Compared to white rice, white corn has low glycemic index (GI), which means white corn takes slower to digest and it releases glucose gradually into the blood stream, thus lessening the risk of diabetes. It is also rich in protein, lysine, tryptophan, fiber and antioxidants.

"This is the perfect food for diabetics," Salazar said.

At present, one in five Filipinos in Visayas and Mindanao eat white corn

as their staple food so there is still need to educate the public about its health benefits and why it is a better alternative to white rice, he added.

"By introducing an alternative to the market, we can lower the demand for rice. We can definitely grow white corn with more yield and at cheaper costs so we would no longer have to import rice," he said.

Based on the national corn testing, the IPB Var 6 yields an average of 5.84 metric tons (MT) per hectare in Luzon; in Visayas, 5.45 MT per hectare, and in Mindanao, 4.47 MT per hectare.

Under phase one of the project, the DA released P15 million for the seed production program under which a total of 10,000 bags (180,000 kilos) of white corn was produced, each bag containing 18 kilos. The second phase, funded with P25 million, produced about 22,000 bags or 396 kilos of white corn.

Half of these seeds produced have been distributed to DA's regional offices while the UPLB institute will produce foundation white corn seeds to propagate

the corn in other regions.

DA will release P7 million annually over the next five years for continuing seed production.

"You don't need capital-intensive irrigation facilities because corn grows where ever there is rain. The only other thing we have to provide those in uplands who have not much to eat is the corn mill," Salazar said.

Salazar said the UPLB also developed a mobile mini corn mill which costs around P100,000, which is far cheaper than high capacity machines worth millions of pesos.

This "corn mill for the barrio" can process 100 kilos of corn grains per hour and in eight hours, it can produce enough food for 1,000 people in the barrio, assuming consumption of 300 grams a day.

Source : RDENews UPLB | July 2011





Faculty of Agricultural Technology aims to be an international center of excellence in the agroindustry sector by 2012.

UGM's Faculty of Agricultural Technology envisioned as International Center of Excellence

In line with the vision of the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) to be a world-class research university, the Faculty of Agricultural Technology aimed to be an international center of excellence in the agroindustry sector by 2012.

This was revealed by Dr. Ir. Djagal W. Marseno, dean of the Faculty during his annual report, as part of the 48th Anniversary celebration of the Faculty on 19 September 2011. Dr. Marseno furthered that the vision can be realized through the missions of academic development trilogy of building a healthy organization, professionalism, and international cooperation.

“The Faculty of Agricultural Technology is currently working to strengthen the cooperation and the internationalization of the Faculty toward becoming a center of excellence in the field of agroindustry,” Marseno said.

Within the past year, the Faculty of Agricultural Technology established a number of cooperations, both nationally and internationally. One of those is with Ehime University which has been going on for three years. The cooperation is in the form of student exchange, research, and the initial opening of joint degree program for graduate programs. Assessment of joint degree program opportunity is also conducted with

Kasetsart University. “Two ministries of agriculture, from Namibia and Timor Leste, had visited Faculty of Agricultural Technology to explore the possibility of cooperation in the field of irrigation and management. In 2011 there are 86 institutions that establish cooperation with us,” he added.

Along with the increased networks and collaborators, there was also an increase in the number of new students who enrolled in academic year 2011/2012. As of date, the Faculty of Agricultural Technology has 83 civil servant lecturers and 14 honorary ones, 15 of whom are professors, 52 are doctors and 30 masters.

Field researches also increased in the year, from 86 titles (2010) to 95 titles (2011) or up approximately 10.5 percent despite a decline in research funding. The increase is also complemented by a slight increase in the number of scientific publications in the form of journals, posters, national and international seminars.

“These numbers are relatively small compared with the number of researches and faculties. Therefore, the number of publications should be increased given the publication is one of the criteria assessed in the lecturer’s work load,” Marseno said.

Source: UGM News | 22 September 2011

Tokyo University of Agriculture visits Kasetsart University



On 22 July 2011, faculty members and students from the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan, visited Thailand’s Kasetsart University (KU) under the Student Exchange Program of the two universities.

In the photo, Dr. Prompilai Buasuwan, assistant to the Vice President for International Affairs, welcomed the TUA delegation at the KU Golden Jubilee Building after the group visited the Faculty of Business Administration.

Source: KU International Affairs Division News | 23 August 2011

Filipino scholar at UQ says degree opened doors to global opportunities

Jaime Manalo IV, a Filipino scholar of the Australian Leadership Awards, said that his Master in Communication (Communication for Social Change) degree at the University of Queensland opened a lot of doors for him. Prior to his acceptance at UQ, Mr. Manalo has never been overseas. A year after applying for the said degree, Mr. Manalo was travelling to different parts of the world. He was able to go to London to present his research paper on e-readiness assessment of five top rice-producing provinces of the Philippines at the International Conference on Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D). There, he had the rare opportunity to meet his hero, Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web.

His paper, "Theorising ICT4D in Philippine Agriculture: Deriving from trends, setting directions", was a finalist in the Best Paper competition during the 24th National Rice Research and Development Conference in the Philippines. The same paper was also highly commended when it was presented in the "Regional Conference on New Media for ASEAN Development" held at the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University in Thailand.

His degree at the UQ also enabled him to go to Central Vietnam to conduct his practicum with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. According to Mr. Manalo, the internship in Vietnam was very challenging but he has learned so much from it. It gave him new perspectives and skills in cross cultural communication and every assignment challenged



him to learn and grow.

Mr. Manalo, who is now working at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, returned to Brisbane on 20 July for his graduation. He plans to complete his PhD at UQ so he can attain his dream of teaching at the University of the Philippines.

The Master of Communication (Communication for Social

Change) is convened by the Centre for Communication and Social Change, the only centre in Australia that specializes in Communication for Social Change through collaborative research, postgraduate programs, consultancies, professional development courses, and an annual award.

Source: University of Queensland

University Consortium p. 1

Manager, represented SEARCA as Associate Member and Secretariat in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed UC's accomplishments in 2010 and discussed the network's directions and programs in the coming years. A working group was formed to recommend strategies, new programs and activities that will further strengthen the collaborative undertakings of its member universities in agriculture and related disciplines, as well as highlight the UC's relevance in the region. A number of UC members submitted proposals of activities for consideration in the Board meeting. The working group composed of

representatives from UPLB, IPB, KU, TUA and SEARCA was also tasked to evaluate the proposals.

The UPM will host the 25th UC Executive Board Meeting tentatively set in November 2012. The UC was established in September 1989 by SEARCA as a response to the growing demand for graduate education across agricultural disciplines and related field.

At present, the UC has five regular program components namely: student exchange, faculty exchange, research fellowship, professorial chair, and thesis grants. (ECCedicol)

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.

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Radio Republik Indonesia plays vital role in Indonesia's agricultural development

Within developing countries, radio still proves to be the most effective mass media and this was once more emphasized during the dialogue entitled "The Role of Radio in the Agriculture Development," in line with the celebration of Radio Day held on 13 September 2011 at the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia. Dr. Ir. Amirudin Saleh of the Department of Communication and Community Development, Faculty of Human Ecology (FEMA) in IPB stressed that Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI), the state-owned radio network, can act as a conduit for the people to air their interests to the government and should not only broadcast "top-down radio programs."

"Radio has an important role to increase the community awareness, to provide information as well as function as the social control. RRI as the Public

Broadcasting Institute (Lembaga Penyiaran Publik) can be the source of reliable information, as well as the facilitator and the mediator for public. As the national media with its extensive networks and accessibility, RRI is expected to find solutions for the community problems," said Dr. Amirudin.

Agricultural information such as eel farming or pest management may not attract commercial broadcasting companies established to gain profit. However, these are the types of information that are needed by many agricultural communities explained

Dr. Amirudin. In the future, RRI will come up with more interactive programs where listeners can directly ask the invited resource persons relevant questions on agriculture and related subject matters.

From: Bogor Agricultural University News
| 19 September 2011



UGM inaugurates 1530 graduates

Study Program, Faculty of Medicine who is the youngest graduate at the age of 19 years 7 months 14 days old; and YanuarKurniawan of Accounting Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business who got the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.99.

UGM Rector Prof.Dr. Ir. Sudjarwadi in his message reminded the graduates to always give significant contribution to society by striving to become leading

scientists. "All it takes for this nation is a leading scientist who is able to create jobs and work successfully," said the Rector. In building a civilization, the Rector identified three vital elements, namely faith, science, and culture.

"Always continue the lifelong learning to apply and develop science, to give benefit and happiness," he conveys.

Source: UGM News | 22 August 2011

Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) inaugurated 1530 graduates on 8 August 2011.

Among the outstanding graduates in the commencement exercises were Berthin Saragih of Mechanical Engineering Study Program, Faculty of Engineering who was recognized for completing the course in just three years and seven months; Elisabeth Adina Utami of the Doctor of Education

