

University Consortium to implement more projects in 2013

The Executive Board of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) conducted its 25th meeting on 19-20 November 2012. With the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) as host, the gathering was held at the School of Graduate Studies 2, headed by its Dean, Prof Dr Bujang Kim Huat, and concurrently UPM's coordinator for UC.

Prof Dató Ir Dr Mohd Saleh Jaafar, UPM's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, welcomed the delegates in the opening ceremonies, attended by representatives from the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia, Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand, University of



annual conference back-to-back with the UC annual executive board meeting, and the development of an umbrella research framework on food security by the UC. The UC Executive Board also discussed ways and means to revitalize the UC and to review the guidelines for accepting new members including the new category of affiliate members.

The 26th UC Executive Board Meeting is

tentatively scheduled on 19-21 November 2013 to be hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

The following attended the meeting: Dr. Somsakdi Tabtimthong and Dr. Poonpipope Kasemsap from KU; Dr. Yoichi Sakata and Dr. Hironobu Shiwachi from TUA; Dr. Nastiti Kusumorini and Dr. Alinda Fitriani M. Zain, IPB; Dr. Masyhuri from UGM; Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, Dr. Oscar B. Zamora, and Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. from UPLB; Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol from SEARCA; and Dr. Bujang Kim Huat from UPM.

The UC was established in September 1989 through SEARCA's initiative as a response to the growing demand for graduate education across agricultural disciplines and related field. UC's Executive Board is the policy-making body of the consortium. It is responsible for setting directions, developing new policies and programs, generating resources to support and promote UC activities which focus on promoting education and research collaboration among the UC members.

the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), Japan, and UPM.

As a highlight of the Opening Ceremonies, a memorandum of agreement between SEARCA and UPM was signed in connection with a three-year joint graduate scholarship project, which shall commence in Academic Year 2012-2013 (see related article).

In his speech, SEARCA Director Dr Gil C Saguiguit, Jr underscored that such alliance "can bolster the collective effort to promote agricultural and rural development in our part of the world."

Taking off from these collaborations, Dr Saguiguit likewise expressed hope that "continuing ties will evolve into a higher plane including joint research and development undertakings, scientific fora and conferences on emerging development issues in agriculture, knowledge management, and student and staff exchange programs not only with our Center but also with the member universities of the University Consortium."

Highlights of the meeting included the agreement among UC members to develop double degree programs, the possibility of an

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EXPERTS III kicks off in Bogor, Indonesia



EXPERT III Kick-off participants at the Andi Hakim Nasoetion Auditorium, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia

Representatives of the EXPERTS Consortium met in Bogor, Indonesia for the EXPERTS I and II Meetings and EXPERTS III Kick-off Meeting on 29 October to 1 November 2012. The University of Göttingen, Germany, organized the meeting with the host institution, Institut Pertanian Bogor.

Mr. Netra Bhandari, International Programme Coordinator of the Georg August Universität Göttingen in Germany, welcomed the participants to the meeting as well as over 300 students and faculty members from various universities in Indonesia who gathered at the Andi Hakim Nasoetion Auditorium to attend the EXPERTS Promotional Program during the opening day of the meeting.

Present in the EXPERTS meeting were representatives from the 7 European partner universities, namely: Katholieke

Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; Masaryk University, Czech Republic; Politecnico di Torino, Italy; Uppsala University, Sweden; University of Göttingen, Germany; Universidad Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and University of Turku, Finland, as well as the 13 South and Southeast Asia partner universities, namely: Khulna University, Bangladesh; Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan; Nanjing University and University of Science and Technology of China, China; Delhi University and Pune University, India; Kathmandu University, Nepal; University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Bogor Agricultural University (IPB Bogor), Indonesia; Kasetsart University, Thailand; and Visayas State University, The Philippines

Aside from consortium partner universities, EXPERT also has six Associate Partners, namely: AGRINATURA, Czech Republic, COIMBRA Group, Belgium and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, Compostela Group of Universities, Spain, Jesuit Refugee Service-Asia Pacific, Thailand and Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan and SEARCA.

During the meeting, the Consortium participants discussed the mobility program, administrative concerns and promotion and visibility of the EXPERTS Project. The group also discussed possibilities for regional cooperation with other consortia as well as

identified other avenues for collaboration and strategies for sustainability of the network activities. The IPB was designated as the Joint Coordinator of the EXPERTS Project that will closely coordinate with the Coordinator in University of Göttingen, Germany.

On the third day of the meeting, the participants took time out to visit the President's Palace, the Bogor Botanical Garden, the Safari Park, and the Tea Plantation.

EXPERTS, is a European Union (EU)-funded project that aims to enhance the capacity for international cooperation among its participating countries in South and Southeast Asia (SSEA) and to exchange knowledge and ideas among the Asian and European partners. This project places an emphasis on research and cooperation, establishing collaborative framework for human resource development through training and upgrading the skills of junior faculty staff, undergraduates, postgraduates and post doc researchers by specified learning objectives in the field of engineering and technology, agricultural sciences, environmental studies, business-management and social sciences. The implementation of individual mobilities, with special emphasis on research initiatives, will provide students



Mr. Netra Bhandari, International Programme Coordinator of the Georg August Universität Göttingen in Germany delivers his welcome remarks

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Twelve UPM researchers among top Malaysian scientists

Twelve out of the 27 Malaysian researchers conferred the Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) 2012 were from the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). The award was given by the Fellowship of the Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM) on 24 November 2012 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The UPM Professors who were conferred the title were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sham Badlishah Darman, Faculty of Food Science & Technology; Prof. Dr. Oi Lai Ming, Prof. Dr. Tan Wen Siang, Prof. Dr. Tan Soon Guan, all of Faculty of Biotechnology & Biomolecular Sciences; Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Shariff Mohamed Din, and Prof. Dr. Mohd. Hair Beja, both of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; Prof. Dr. Mohd Adzir Mahdi, Faculty of Engineering; Prof. Dr. Zobir Mohd Hussein, and Prof. Dr. Mohd. Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman, both of Faculty of Science; Prof. Dato' Dr. Nik Muhamad Ab Majid, Faculty of Forestry; Prof. Dr. Rahinah Ibrahim, Faculty of Design & Architecture; and Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Idrus, Faculty of Agriculture.

Besides unveiling the TRSM 2012, the prestigious joint annual programme organized by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) also announced three senior Fellows and 24 new Fellows among Malaysian scientists. Among them were UPM's Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Prof. Datin Dr. Faridah Hanum Ibrahim; Director of Putra Science Park, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Shariff Mohamed Din; and Director of the Institute of Mathematical Research, Prof. Dato' Dr. Kamel Ariffin Mohd. Atan.

Also present at the ceremony was UPM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris.

The TRSM awards scientists working in Malaysia who excel in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and who are recognized nationally and internationally. The nominees should also be actively involved in research for the past five years and have contributed to the development of STI for at least 10 years.

Source: UPM News | 24 November 2012

Herry Suhardiyanto gets second term as IPB Rector

The Board of Trustees (BOT) of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) has recommended incumbent Rector, Prof. Dr. Herry Suhardiyanto for a second term. In the BOT's plenary session on 29 November 2012, Prof. Herry earned majority of the votes from the BOT members.

Even before the election, Dr. Suhardiyanto has already committed to working with his fellow candidates towards a progressive university.

"The three of us are ready to synergize our agendas for the advancement of our beloved university, as we understand that current issues on food, energy, the environment, economic development, and poverty alleviation are great challenges for the nation. These are very relevant to the core competencies of IPB as the nursery of science, technology, and innovation," said Dr. Suhardiyanto, during the BOT's Executive Meeting on 27 November 2012.

"The graduates of IPB are characterized by entrepreneurship; they are ready to respond those challenges," Dr. Suhardiyanto added.

Born in Banjarnegara, Central Java, Indonesia on 10 September 1959,



Prof. Dr. Herry Suhardiyanto gets majority of BOT members' votes to earn him a second term as IPB Rector

Dr. Suhardiyanto completed his undergraduate degree program in agricultural technology from IPB, his Master's Degree from Kochi University, Japan, and his Doctorate Degree from the Ehime University, Japan. During his first term, IPB successfully developed a number of cutting-edge projects, which earned for the University the reputation of being the most innovative campus in Indonesia.

Dr. Suhardiyanto's second term covers the period 2012-2017.

Source: IPB News | 29 November 2012



Twelve UPM Professors conferred the TRSM award were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sham Badlishah Darman, Prof. Dr. Oi Lai Ming, Prof. Dr. Tan Wen Siang, Prof. Dr. Tan Soon Guan, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Shariff Mohamed Din, Prof. Dr. Mohd. Hair Beja, Prof. Dr. Mohd Adzir Mahdi, Prof. Dr. Zobir Mohd Hussein Prof. Dr. Mohd. Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman, Prof. Dato' Dr. Nik Muhamad Ab Majid, Prof. Dr. Rahinah Ibrahim and Prof. Dr. Zulkifli Idrus.

SEARCA and UPLB collaborate to hold global conference on climate change



This was a challenging reality reiterated by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr in his message before the more than 150 participants of the “International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Food and Environmental Security,” on 21-22 November 2012 at Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

And while many institutions have focused their resources on this emerging concern, Dr. Saguiguit emphasized the need to integrate efforts and “strategically pursue initiatives that can make the most impact.”

It was likewise for this reason that SEARCA, joined forces with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) to conduct the said global conference on climate change which convened researchers, academics, policymakers, planners, development workers and other professionals from as far as Fiji Islands, Germany, Canada, Egypt, Costa Rica, Africa, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

Other event partners were the DAAD-EXCEED funded Food Security Center of the University of Hohenheim, Germany, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Environment Programme, and Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), and German

Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)-Philippines through the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Serving as a platform for exchange on the latest knowledge on climate change impacts and adaptation linked to food security and environmental sustainability, the conference had four plenary presentations and 44 papers presented in four parallel sessions on the following themes: Status, Prospects, and Practices on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture, Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability, Climate Change Adaptation and Agriculture, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, Systems and Tools for Analyzing Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability, and Regional and South-South Collaboration in Research and Development. The hope is for these new knowledge and experiences in climate change science and adaptation strategies, disaster risk reduction, climate risk management, climate change adaptation planning and management, and vulnerability and impacts assessment tools to be upscaled to benefit the majority of Southeast Asia and other regions that are bearing the brunt of adverse climate

change effects on food and environmental security.

Dr Paul S. Teng, senior fellow of SEARCA and the Center for Non-traditional Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, as well as dean of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, National Institute of Education, Singapore then delivered his keynote speech for the said event. He underscored the importance of dealing with climate change effects in a multi-sectoral, multi-lateral, multi-disciplinary but integrated approach, to reduce food insecurity, which can be felt in both rural and urban areas.

Meanwhile, Dr. William D. Dar, Director General of the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), asserted that the biggest challenge facing human civilizations today is caused by a “rising perfect storm” including climate change, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, food crisis, energy crisis and population explosion.

Aside from Dr. Teng and Dr. Dar,

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plenary presenters included Dr. Seishi Ninomiya, Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Agro-ecosystem Services of the University of the Tokyo; Dr. Reinhold G. Muschler, Latin American Chair for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity of the Center for Agricultural Research and Higher Education (ARHE); and Dr. Juan M. Pulhin, Dean and Professor at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), UPLB.

A panel on Networking for Research and Development (R&D) and Capacity Building on Climate Change and Food and Environmental Security highlighted the availability of networks in various regions that will support R&D and capacity-building activities; and availability of opportunities to join capacity-building and training courses in some networks thru counterpart-funding. Some recommendations include strengthening of collaborations across agencies (public and private; local, national and global scales) in R&D and/or education sectors and mainstreaming of research findings in the local and national governance systems to ensure sustainability of the networks. Panelists included Ms. Hiroko Kodaka,

Associate Program Manager, Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN); Dr. Maria Victoria Espaldon, Chair, UPLB IdPCC and UPLB Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension; Dr. Ninomiya; Dr. Herminia A. Francisco, Director of the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA); and Dr. Berthold Seibert, Project Director, ASEAN Biodiversity Centre-GIZ Biodiversity and Climate Change Project (ACB-GIZ BCCP).

In her closing remarks, Dr. Puja Sawhney, Regional Coordinator of APAN, committed APAN's continued support of networking and capacity development activities on climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region, and said it will strengthen the partnerships nurtured through SEARCA in this conference.

The following SEARCA Program Heads also participated in the conference: Dr. Ma. Celeste Cadiz, Knowledge Management Department, Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Graduate Scholarship Department, and Dr. Bessie M. Burgos, Project Development and Management and Officer in Charge, Research and Development Department.

The final plenary session gave emphasis on

the importance of networking towards a more integral research and development, as well as capacity building on climate change. The said global conference was expected to initiate and strengthen collaborations across agencies both public and private, at the local, national and global scales.

The International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Food and Environmental Security directory of participants, souvenir program, photos and conference presentations are available for downloading at:

<http://icciafes.searcabackup.org/download.php>

some photos can also be found at the SEARCA Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/seameo.searca>

or the UPLB Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/UPLBResearch>



1. More than 150 participants from as far as Fiji Islands, Germany, Canada, Egypt, Costa Rica, Africa, Japan, and Southeast Asia converge to attend the global conference on climate change. 2. UPLB Chancellor Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz gives his message at the opening ceremonies. 3. Dr Paul S. Teng, as Keynote Speaker. 4. Dr. William D. Dar, Director General of the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). 5. Dr. Seishi Ninomiya, Professor at the Institute for Sustainable Agro-ecosystem Services of the University of the Tokyo. 6. Aside from four plenary sessions, 44 papers were presented in four parallel sessions.

Agricultural HRD Challenges tackled in Tokyo International Symposium

Challenges to agricultural human resources development were examined during the International Symposium on “Human Resource Development in Agricultural Science: Towards Fostering Japanese Researchers to Play an Active Role in International Agricultural Research” organized by the International Cooperation Center for Agricultural Education (ICCAE) based in Nagoya University, Japan. The symposium was held in Tokyo, Japan on 9 November 2012 and was attended by professors and key officials from different Japanese agricultural universities, as well as from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan Intellectual Support Network for Agricultural Science (JISNAS), and private sectors. The symposium was part of project on the same theme by the MAFF.

Dr. Akira Yamauchi, Director of ICCAE and professor of Nagoya University Graduate School of Bio-Agricultural Sciences, expressed the need for Japanese universities to beef up efforts in internationalization of education and enhance the capacities of Japanese graduates and young scientists/researchers to be able to compete for technical jobs as well as management of research projects at the international level. It was the general observation that most Japanese graduates of agriculture are technical specialists and are very good at doing research.

Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Program Head of the Graduate Scholarship Department of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), served as one of the symposium resource speakers and panelists. Other speakers and



International Symposium on Human Resource Development in Agricultural Science
ESSAM Office, Chiyuda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

panelists were Mr. Osamu Koyama, Director of Research Strategy Office of JIRCAS; Mr. Teruyoshi Kumashiro, Director General, Rural Development Department of JICA; Dr. Kazuo Ogata, Professor of Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kyushu University; Mr. Naoyuki Takada, President of Katagi Foods Co, Ltd., Dr. Satoshi Ishikawa, Associate Professor of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, and Dr. Shuichi Asanuma, Professor, ICCAE, Nagoya University.

Some challenges to agricultural HRD that were highlighted during the symposium include the following: aging agriculture research/scientific and academic staff; high staff turnover; wide age and qualifications gap in the succession hierarchy; low budget for research and training activities; outdated curricula not addressing agricultural HRD needs of the times; outmoded research and academic facilities; agriculture as a profession is not attractive to students; agriculture graduates are not well-equipped with knowledge, skills and attitudes to compete globally. The review of curriculum, training and conferences, study tours, academic mobility, mobilization of alumni, and short-term

attachments in projects such as SEARCA's institutional development assistance projects with Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR are some options presented by Dr. Cedicol at the symposium. The need to forge alliances with other networks and strategic partners as well as to put more budgets in collaborative research projects were noted by the representatives of Japanese agencies.



Dr. Akira Yamauchi, director of ICCAE and professor of Nagoya University Graduate School of Bio-Agricultural Sciences, Japan

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from SSEA regions with mobility for a broader choice of opportunities for study experience in EU institutions. EXPERTS I held its Kick-off Meeting at SEARCA in the Philippines in October 2010, while the kick-off meeting for EXPERTS II was held at the Royal University of Bhutan in Paro, Bhutan in September 2011. (Read more about the Project at www.searca.org/experts-consortium). (Editha. C. Cedicol)

The University Consortium

The Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources is a network of 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. 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.

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

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UPM-SEARCA joint graduate scholarship project launched

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia and SEARCA formally signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for a three-year joint graduate scholarship project that will benefit nationals of Southeast Asia starting in Academic Year 2012-2013. The signing ceremony was held on 19 November 2012 at the School of Graduate Studies 2, UPM Serdang campus, in conjunction with the 25th University Consortium Executive Board Meeting on 19-20 November 2012 which was hosted by UPM. Signatories to the MoA are Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Saleh Jaafar, UPM's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director.

The project shall provide one matching UPM-SEARCA scholarship for every one full scholarship from SEARCA for qualified nationals from the eleven member countries of SEAMEO who will pursue their Masters or PhD degrees at UPM. The eleven member countries are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

Prof. Jaafar expressed UPM's appreciation for yet another mode of cooperation that will increase the number of beneficiaries among agricultural human resources in Southeast Asia, and at the same time strengthens the link between UPM and SEARCA. On the other hand, Dr. Saguiguit said that SEARCA



Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Saleh Jaafar (second from left) and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr. pose for a photo after signing the UPM-SEARCA MOA. With them is Dr. Editha C. Cedicol (extreme left), SEARCA's program head for Graduate Scholarship and Dr. Bujang Kim Huat (extreme right), UPM's dean, School of Graduate Studies

views this new collaboration as an important building block to strengthen institutional ties with UPM, which has been one of the study posts of SEARCA scholars since the early 1980s, and which is highly regarded as one of the prime academic institutions for the agricultural sciences in Southeast Asia. He expressed hopes that the continuing ties will

evolve into a higher plane including joint research and development undertakings, scientific forums, and conferences on emerging development issues in agriculture, knowledge management, and academic exchange programs not only with SEARCA but also with the members of the University Consortium.

5 more Southeast Asians benefit from UC 2012 Grants

As the third quarter of 2012 comes to a close, the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) has awarded more grants to Southeast Asians affiliated with Kasetsart University (KU), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), conferring more than US\$11,000 in grants, as of date.

In particular, Mr Saktyanu Kristyanto Dermoredjo (PhD agricultural economics, UGM) and Ms Roxanne Almendral Banalo (MS environmental science, UPLB) have been awarded the UC Student Thesis Grant. On the other hand, Ms Warabhorn Boonyarat (PhD computational chemistry, KU) has been awarded the UC Student Travel Grant for Research which shall provide travel funds to conduct a portion of her dissertation at University of Queensland (UQ) on 1 February-30 June 2013.

Meanwhile, two faculty members from KU and UGM were also awarded the Faculty Travel Grant for Research and Faculty Travel Grant for Conference, respectively. Dr Jureerat Leesmidt, Associate Professor in Microbiology is scheduled to work with

Dr Jan Engelstaedter, School of Biological Sciences at UQ on 7-20 April 2013 on "The applications of evolutionary biology between genetic systems and plant-microbe interactions for agricultural benefits."

Dr Masyhuri, Head of UGM's Center for World Trade Studies will present his paper "The Impact of Cooperatives Membership on Paddy Farmers' Welfare in Lampung Province, Indonesia," at the International Conference on Cooperative Enterprises: Key to Sustainable Economic and Social Progress, organized by UPLB's College of Economics and Management and to be held at SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna on November 8-10, 2012.

With the aforementioned awardees, the Consortium has been able to confer a total of 11 of these new grants since January 2012. The 2012 UC Faculty and Student grants aim to expand the academic and research opportunities available to UC faculty members and graduate students. Application requirements and other details about these programs and the Consortium can be found in the UC website at www.uc.searca.org.