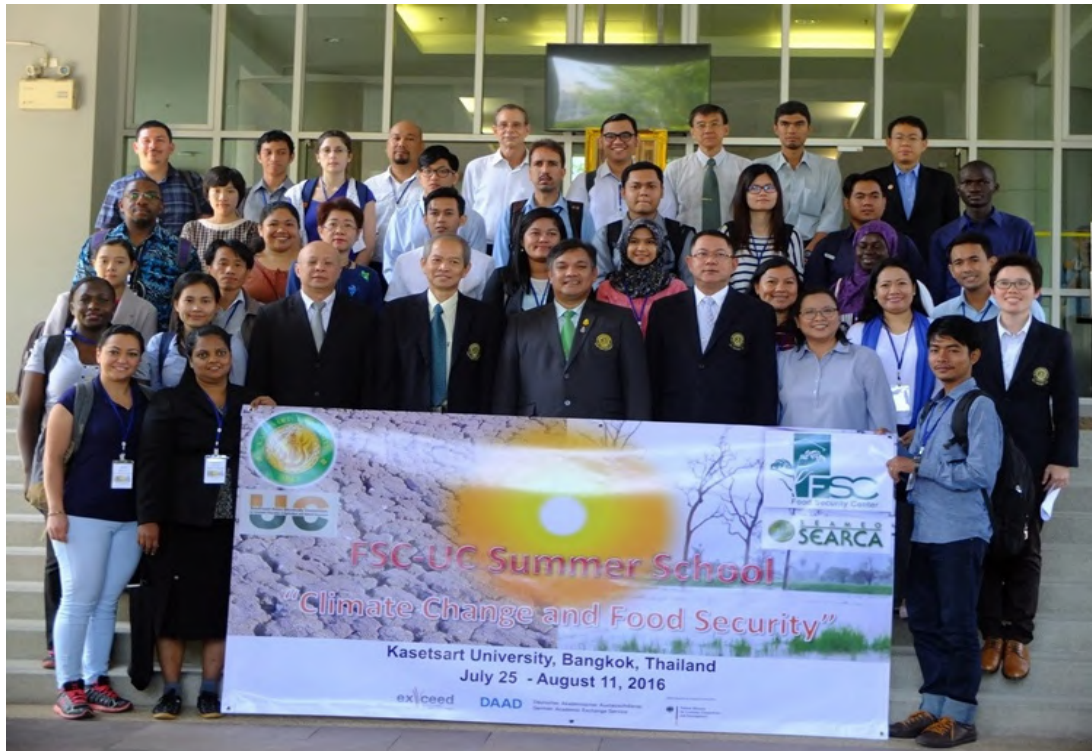


Kasetsart University hosts 2016 Summer School on Climate Change and Food Security



BANGKOK, Thailand -- Kasetsart University now plays host to 28 graduate students and young

faculty members from 15 countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa for the 2016 Summer School on Climate Change and Food Security from 25 July to 11 August 2016.

“As Thailand’s leading university in agriculture and natural resources, we understand how important climate change and food security is, and everyone in this University need to take that into consideration, especially in support of the sufficiency economy, which is now the priority of His Majesty.”

This was underscored by Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, Acting President of Kasetsart University, as he opened the 2016 Summer School on 25 July 2016. For the

first time, the roving summer school supported by the Food Security Center (FSC) of the University of Hohenheim (UHOH), Germany is merged with the summer school implemented by the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC).

Despite being considered as the Kitchen of the World, Dr. Chongrak pointed out that many Thai farmers remain poor. “This means a lot of things still need to be done,” according to the KU President.

For its first week, the summer school will focus on climate change

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Officers and staff from Nagoya University (NU) pose with SEARCA Director and Program heads on 9 March 2016 during NU's visit to strengthen existing ties with the Center.

Officials and staff from Nagoya University and Kyoto University, two of the leading universities in Japan, visited SEARCA on 9 March 2016 to strengthen existing ties and explore possible areas for further cooperation with the Center.

Both delegations were received by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director, who also provided an overview of the Center's programs and activities. Joining Dr. Saguiguit were SEARCA's Program Heads, namely: Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma of the Graduate Education and Institutional Development Department (GEIDD), Dr. Bessie M. Burgos of the Research and Development Department (RDD), and Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz of the Knowledge Management Department (KMD).

Leading the delegation from Nagoya University was Dr. Yoshihito Watanabe, Vice President for International Affairs and Public Relations, who thanked SEARCA for its continued support to their university, particularly in

establishing the Nagoya Satellite Campus at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Dr. Watanabe was accompanied by the Director and technical and administrative support staff of the Asian Satellite Campuses Institute, Professors, and Deans of Graduate Schools of Nagoya University.

The delegation was also updated on the status of the SEARCA-Nagoya University Joint PhD Research Scholarship, which currently has two ongoing scholars from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) of Cambodia. The said scholarship was an offshoot of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for institutional cooperation between SEARCA and Nagoya University signed in December 2014.

Under the standing agreement with SEARCA, Nagoya University is also looking into the possibility of a joint research project with the Center, particularly in the broad area of social sciences including value chain analysis of high-value

commodities, food security, and climate change.

On the other hand, representatives from the Graduate School of Economics of Kyoto University explored the possibility of joining the SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC) as an associate member university.

Kyoto University sees SEARCA and the UC as strategic partners to facilitate joint programs on graduate scholarships and research programs benefitting both the Center and the university, and the Southeast Asian region in general.

The delegation from Kyoto University was composed of Ms. Ayako Fujieda of the Kyoto University –ASEAN Center; and Mr. John Lambino, Mr. Yusuke Arai, and Ms. Yuko Imai, all from the

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris is new UPM Vice-Chancellor

PUTRAJAYA - Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor for Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for a duration of two years, effective January 1, 2016 until December 31, 2017.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini, who is the Director of UPM Corporate Strategy and Communications Office, replaces Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan whose tenure as UPM Vice-Chancellor ended on December 31 last year. She received her formal letter of appointment from Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris expressed her gratitude to Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hj. Ramlan for his leadership qualities and contributions towards UPM while he was the Vice-Chancellor, saying under the latter's tenure, the university had succeeded to maintain its excellence as a leading university at both the national and international levels.

"I also want to express my gratitude to Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh for the trust, opportunity and mandate given to me to continue with the legacy to give the best of services to the university.

"With this appointment, I will strive harder to enhance UPM's achievements as a leading research university in order to steer and bring the image of the country to a higher level, in addition to continuing with the efforts for more successes and academic excellence amidst the challenges, particularly the need for a paradigm shift in enhancing the quality of the nation's agriculture sector," she said.

Formerly UPM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) from December



2008 to November 2013, she was instrumental in the preparations for the university's SWA Accreditation, autonomy and other curriculum-related improvements as well as teaching and learning at UPM.

With her vast knowledge in dealing with issues at both the national and ministerial levels, she has held various positions in the past, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Committee Chairman/Rector (Academic and International) of IPTA from January 2012 to 2013, chairman/member in various other committees at the Higher Education Ministry/ Education Ministry, Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry.

Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris is a renowned scientist in detecting and controlling avian diseases through the commercialization of a "Newcastle" vaccine in 1995 and "fowl pox" culture tissues in 1996 which had penetrated the market in nine countries.

In 2005, she was involved in a joint research in the commercialization

of an important vaccine for chickens to fight against contagious bursal diseases. Her team of researchers also developed several diagnosis kits for fast detection of avian influenza (bird's flu which is a zoonotic disease), 'Newcastle' and 'Mycoplasmosis' diseases.

In 2011, Prof. Aini received the National Academic Award (Anugerah Akademik Negara (AAN) 2010 under the Innovation and Product Commercialization category for her success in the innovation and commercialization of 'Newcastle' disease vaccine (ND V4-UPM).

She was also named as one of 10 researchers for Anugerah Inovasi Negara 2012, Anugerah Alumni Terbilang UPM 2012 and was announced as 2013 Malaysia Best Research Scientist.

The climax of her success was in 2013 when she was absorbed to be an inaugural member of Honour of the World Veterinary Poultry Association, the most prestigious achievement in scientific, training and health teaching on avian as well as leadership community in developing nations.

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and aquaculture with Dr. Sukkrit Nimitkulat from KU's Faculty of Fisheries as resource person. On the other hand, Dr. Jean Rust from Dohne Agricultural Development Institute, South Africa will discuss how climate change affects livestock production on the second week. The final week will dwell on climate smart agriculture to be facilitated by Dr. David Reiser of UHOH.

"Kasetsart University and SEARCA has had a long and strong partnership both at the level of the UC and as strategic partners of FSC. KU initially hosted the FSC Summer School in 2012, which SEARCA also hosted in 2013. Recognizing the value of bringing together students from different countries to learn from experts, share experiences and develop networks, SEARCA conducted its own Summer School in 2014. This was eventually adopted by the UC as another venue to collaborate among its members," remarked Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, SEARCA's Program Head for Graduate Education and Institutional Development.



KU and SEARCA are both founding members of the UC, which was established in 1989. On the other hand, KU and SEARCA are the Asian partners of the FSC since its first phase started in 2009. The project is now on its second phase.

Among the participants of the summer school are eight graduate students from four other UC member universities, namely, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and

the University of the Philippines Los Baños. SEARCA, through its Institutional Development Assistance Program, is supporting six participants from Yezin Agricultural University in Myanmar, Royal University of Agriculture in Cambodia, and Savannakhet University in Lao PDR.



Thai News Network (TNN24) interviews Dr. Cuaresma after the Summer School opening program.



Dr. Chongrak welcomes participants to Kasetsart University

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Graduate School of Economics of Kyoto University. Accompanying them were Mr. Marvin U. Herrera, Professor at the UPLB Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics,

and Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Dean of the UPLB Graduate School.

During both meetings, Dr. Saguiguit also presented the

proposal for the establishment of the Southeast Asian AgriMuseum and Learning Center to which both universities can contribute their technical expertise and resources.



Photo taken during the visit of the delegation from Kyoto University at SEARCA.

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.

32 SEARCA Scholars Complete Study Program



As the academic year 2015-2016 winds down, 32 SEARCA scholars, from 8 countries, finished their respective study programs, from 5 universities in Southeast Asia.

Twenty of these graduates completed their Master's degree, with the rest completing their PhD. Among these are 11 graduates of the Upland Agriculture Fellowships Project supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) still produced the highest number of graduates (20), followed by Universiti Putra Malaysia (3), Chiang Mai University (3), Kasetsart University (2), and Khon Kaen University (2) in Thailand. One scholar each graduated from Institut Pertanian Bogor and Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia.

"Graduate school is both a privilege and a challenge," says Ms. Saranya Sawangphop from Thailand, who completed MS Entomology at UPLB. "SEARCA was able to help provide what I needed to survive graduate school, and I will be

forever grateful for it," expressed Dr. Carlito de Araujo Mali Code of Timor Leste, who finished PhD in Animal Science.

"Do not sit on your degrees, but use it to help improve your country and the region," reminds Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Director during the testimonial luncheon for the SEARCA graduating class of 2016 on 23 June 2016, at the SEARCA headquarters.

Participation in Rice Security Programs in Cailaco and Maliana Sub-Districts, Timor Leste." The award was conferred during CPAF's Annual Recognition Rites on 23 June 2016.

SEARCA's graduate scholarship is open to nationals of SEAMEO member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and

Dr. Chamnian Yosraj (SEARCA alumni MS/PhD Animal Science, UPLB) addresses the graduating class of 2016 during UPLB graduate school recognition rites



Meanwhile, Mr. Micael Soares Dos Santos Martins received the Best Thesis Award from UPLB's College of Public Affairs and Development (CPAF) for his research titled "Community

Vietnam to pursue graduate education in agriculture and related field. Since it was launched in AY1968/1969, the program has granted 1,647 graduate scholarships to date.

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.

University Consortium is the quarterly newsletter of 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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