

# UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

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

## UC welcomes Tokyo University of Agriculture as associate member

The University Consortium (UC) welcomed the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), Japan as its fourth associate member. This took place at the 19<sup>th</sup> University Consortium Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held on 6-7 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. The University Consortium has now nine members.

The TUA, which was founded in 1891, takes pride in its continuing contribution to agricultural development in Japan as well as to Southeast Asian countries through education and research.

A number of Japanese and Southeast Asians are currently engaged in the academic exchange, research and educational activities at TUA. These are carried out through the Society for Agricultural Education-Research Abroad, which was established by TUA in 1978.

Other societies established by TUA are the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science in 1978 and the International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Science in 1994. TUA has signed academic cooperation agreements with Kasetsart University in



*The 115-year-old Tokyo University of Agriculture takes pride in its continuing contribution to agricultural development in Japan and Southeast Asia through education and research.*

Thailand, Institut Pertanian Bogor in Indonesia, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and Hanoi Agricultural University in Vietnam. (ECCedicol)

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## KU hosts 19th UC Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting

Kasetsart University (KU) hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> University Consortium Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting on 6-7 November 2006.

The UC Executive Board deliberated on the application of the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan as associate member effective November 2006. It also studied the possibility to set up a pool of fund for training and leadership projects. The Board also discussed the development of project proposals to attract donors and philanthropists and the conduct of a UC workshop early 2007 to come up with a long-term plan and develop the proposal for UC projects. It likewise conferred on the implementation of UC activities within the limits of the UC resources during the short-term period, to include faculty visits/exchange with joint seminar as output, faculty training for joint research advising, and workshop of graduate school deans to share information on graduate school systems and curricular programs.

The Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) will be the host of the next UC meeting tentatively scheduled on the first week of November 2007.

Participants to the meeting were Dr. **Edhi Martono**, Vice Director of Graduate Studies, Dr.



*The participants of the 19th Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held on 6-7 November 2006 at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.*

**Susanto Somowiyarjo**, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, and Dr. **Masyhuri**, Chairman, Master of Agribusiness Management Program, all from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia; Dr. Ir. **Muhammad Achmad Chozin**, Vice Rector, Dr. Drajat Martianto, Vice Dean, Graduate School, and Dr. **Ma'mun Sarma**, Director for International Programs, IPB, Indonesia; Dr. **Hasanah Mohd. Ghazali**, Deputy Dean, School of Graduate Studies, and Dr. **Ghizan Saleh**, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, both from Universiti Putra Malaysia; Dr. **Wattana Swanyatiputi**, President, Dr. **Thanwa Jitsanguan**, Vice President for International Affairs, and Ms. **Phacharavadee Paerattakul**, Director of International Affairs Office, KU, Thailand; Dr. **Mahesh Upadhyaya**, Associate Dean, Faculty of

Agricultural Sciences Graduate Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada; Dr. **Roger Swift**, Executive Dean, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Director, Gatton College, and Dr. **Richard Williams**, Coordinator, Faculty International Programs, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Australia; Dr. **Luis Rey I. Velasco**, Chancellor and Dr. **Cristeta N. Cuaresma**, Secretary of Graduate School, University of the Philippines Los Baños; Dr. **Arsenio M. Balisacan**, Director; and Dr. Editha C. Cedicol, Manager of Graduate Scholarship Department, both of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA). (ECCedicol)

## Five UC faculty awarded SEARCA travel grants

SEARCA has awarded travel grants to faculty members of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The travel grants enabled the two Indonesians from IPB and UGM and three Filipinos from UPLB to present papers in international conferences on topics along the Center's twin thrusts of natural resource management and promotion of agricultural competitiveness toward food security and poverty reduction in the region.

The Indonesian grantees, their institutional affiliation, title of paper, and title of conference are:

- Dr. **Budi Setiawan**, Chairman, Graduate Program of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Institut Pertanian Bogor, presented his paper titled "Effectiveness of Pitcher Fertilization System on Bush Pepper Plants" at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Micro Irrigation Congress held on 10-15 September in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and

- Mr. **Ahmad Maryudi**, Lecturer and Researcher, Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Gadjah Mada, will present his paper titled "Assisting Small Community Forest Growers Benefit from Certification" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Southeast Asian Natural Resources and Environmental Management Conference on 21-23 November 2006 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Meanwhile, the grantees from UPLB, and the titles of their paper and

conference attended are:

- Dr. **Damasa M. Macandog**, Associate Professor, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) presented her paper titled "Modelling the Dynamics and Impacts of Agroforestry Adoption on Landscape Changes in the Uplands of Southern Philippines Using Multi Agent System (MAS) and Role Playing Game" at the Conference on Patterns and Processes in Forest Landscapes: Consequences of Human Management on 10-15 September 2006 in Bari, Italy;

- Dr. **Asa Jose U. Sajise**, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, UPLB, will present his paper titled "The Ecological and Economic Aspects of the Multifunctionality of Agriculture," at the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) to be held on 15-18 December 2006 in New Delhi, India; and

- Dr. **Josefina T. Dizon**, Associate Professor, Institute of Community Education, College of Public Affairs, UPLB, will also present her paper titled "Households' Willingness to Pay for Protected Area Conservation" also at the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the ISEE.

The SEARCA Travel Grant is open to any Southeast Asian national working in a development-oriented institution or a graduate student of a reputable university in Southeast Asia is eligible to apply for the grant, which is up to a maximum of US\$1,200.

Intended to benefit qualified agriculture and agriculture-related professionals, social scientists, and graduate students, the travel grant provides limited support to qualified applicants who will present scientific/policy papers in international or local scientific fora. The topic of the paper must be along the thrusts of SEARCA and has regional relevance.

The travel grant aims to promote the dissemination of scientific knowledge/information vital to agriculture and rural development. It also enables grantees to find a venue for discussing with other scientists and scholars developments in their respective disciplines. SEARCA may also produce articles or publications out of the grantee's presented paper, whenever appropriate and feasible.

The SEARCA Committee on Travel Grants evaluates applications on a quarterly basis. The committee convenes every third week of the last month of every quarter. Applicants must make sure that the dates of travel must fall at least within the quarter following the evaluation period. (LLDDomingo)

### *CeTSAF invites, from page 5*

may fax in advance their application and supporting documents to (63-49) 536-7164 before mailing.

The deadline for application is **1 November 2006**.



## Seven Southeast Asians get UC thesis grants

The University Consortium awarded thesis grants for School Year 2006-2007 to seven Southeast Asian nationals pursuing their graduate programs at Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Indonesia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia; Kasetsart University (KU), Thailand; and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Philippines.

The UC thesis grant provides a limited amount of funds to assist ongoing graduate students of any of the Consortium members and associate members in the preparation and production of the thesis/dissertation manuscript.

The UC thesis grantees from IPB are Ms. **Nor Sholekhah Damayanti**, MS in Biotechnology, and Mr. **Lalu Solihin**, MS in Tropical Marine Resources. Ms. Damayanti's thesis is titled "Determination of Minimal Allergenic-Pollen Concentration for Injection Immunotherapy Application," while Mr. Lalu's thesis is on "Economic Vulnerability of Resources Uses in Small Island Region (Case Study in Tourism Area of Gili Indah, West Nusa Tenggara Province)."

Pursuing their graduate programs at UPM are Ms. **Sri Rahayu**, PhD on Tree Improvement, and Ms. **Tunung Robin**, MS in Food Safety and Microbiology. UC thesis grants were awarded to Ms. Rahayu for her dissertation titled "Effect of Genetic Variation on Growth and Gall Rust Disease Resistance in *Falcataria moluccana* (Miq.) Barneby & J.W. Grimes in Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia," and Ms. Robin for her

thesis titled "Isolation and Characterization of *Salmonella* Species from Street Foods and Clinical Samples."

*Isolation and characterization of Salmonella species from street foods and clinical samples are the main objectives of the thesis of a UC grantee from UPM.*



The lone UC thesis grantee from KU is Ms. **Sureeporn Khemmook**, MS in Watershed Management. Her thesis is titled "Differences in Soil Moisture Content and Water Availability in Various Water Systems under Different Land Use Types in Andaman Sea Coast: A Case Study of Ban Tung Soong Village in Krabi Province, Thailand."

The thesis grantees from UPLB are Ms. **Joy Elaine P. Kaligayahan**, MS in Chemistry, for her thesis titled "Extraction and Characterization of Inulin and Fructooligosaccharides from Yacon [*Smallanthus sonchifolius* (Poepp. & Endl.) H. Rob] and

Arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea* L.)" and Mr. **Rico C. Ancog**, MS in Environmental Science, for his thesis titled "Expansion of Environmental Users' Fee System to

Households for Enhanced Water Pollution Control in Laguna de Bay."

To qualify for the grant, the thesis/dissertation of the applicant must be in line with the UC's strategic priorities, namely: sustainable management of natural resource systems; food and agriculture policy; biotechnology in agriculture; food and health; information and communication technology, bioinformatics; and data management in agriculture.

To date, 180 students of UC members have availed of thesis grants. (LLDDomingo)

## CeTSAF invites applications for MSc scholarships

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF) of the Georg-August University of Goettingen, Germany is inviting applications from qualified Southeast Asians to pursue two-year MSc scholarships in Tropical and International Forestry at CeTSAF.

Applicants must submit the following requirements: (1) Filled out CeTSAF application form (may be downloaded from SEARCA's website, [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org)); (2) certified or original copy of transcript of records for BSc in Forestry or related fields; (3) two letters of reference; (4) certification of employment (minimum of 2 years); (5) letter from home institution (preferably not a university) stating that the applicant will be able to resume his/her service upon completion of the MSc program at CeTSAF; (6) curriculum vitae; and (7) certification of English proficiency. The age limit for applicants is 36 years.

Applicants are requested to send their applications and original documents to SEARCA c/o The Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department, SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, Philippines via courier or any fast mail service. To facilitate evaluation, applicants

See CeTSAF invites, p. 3

## KU Consortium Coordinator participates in Asian university administrators workshop

Ms. Phacharavadee Paerattakul, Director, International Affairs Division, Kasetsart University (KU) and University Consortium Coordinator, presented two research papers at the "University Administrators Workshop: Enhancing the Quality of International Activities of Asian Universities" held on 16-17 March 2006 at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

The papers presented were titled "Experience with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between KU and Partner University" and "Roles of International Affairs Division in Developing Internationalization of KU."

In Ms. Paerattakul's paper on KU's experience with MOUs signed with partner universities, she said that KU has collaborative activities with less than 40 percent of the 200 universities and institutes with which KU has an MOU. To tackle the inactive memoranda, KU's International Affairs Division conducted a study to review the memoranda in terms of validity, content, and commitment.

To identify the key factors to active linkages with its partner institutions, the study classified the memoranda into five categories, namely: "active memoranda," "recently signed memoranda," "activity declining



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memoranda," "zero growth memoranda," and "invalid memoranda." The factors identified as key to the success or failure of collaborations based on MOUs are geographical factor, partner university reputation, language barrier, budget constraint, effective liaison, and university policy.

Meanwhile, in her paper on the roles of KU's International Affairs Division in fostering increased internationalization of the university, Ms. Paerattakul reported that the research analyzed the current status of students enrolled in Thai universities, including KU, international education trends in Thailand, case studies in international universities and related theoretical frameworks, as well as Thailand's national social and economic development plan and policies. She said the research showed that the standard of

See KU Consortium, p. 8

# UPLB Prof reveals method to recover growth hormones from coconut water

Dr. Ernesto J. del Rosario, Professor, Institute of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), gave a lecture on "Recovery of Growth Hormones from Coconut Water Using Micellar-enhanced Ultrafiltration" on 30 June 2006. His study was conducted under the SEARCA Professorial Chair Program.

Coconut water is an important by-product in the manufacture of desiccated coconut, but it is largely unutilized. Since it is usually dumped into bodies of water after partial treatment, coconut water significantly contributes to environmental pollution.

*ultrafiltration is a pressure-driven process wherein small molecules permeate through a semi-permeable membrane while solute molecules of high molecular weight are retained in the feed stream*

However, coconut water is composed of simple sugars, sugar alcohols, and growth-promoting substances or growth hormones such as indole acetic acid, kinetin, gibberellic acid, abscisic acid, and 1,3-diphenylurea. A suitable

*" the study used two sets of polyamide ultrafiltration membranes from polycaprolactam (nylon 6) to concentrate the growth hormones of coconut water "*

separation method may recover the growth hormones of coconut water for agricultural and other applications.

said this modified process is called micellar-enhanced ultrafiltration (MEUF).

Dr. Del Rosario's study used two sets of polyamide ultrafiltration membranes from polycaprolactam (nylon 6) to concentrate the growth hormones of coconut water through MEUF in the presence of a zwitterionic, cationic, or anionic surfactant



In his lecture, Dr. Del Rosario described ultrafiltration as a pressure-driven process wherein small molecules permeate through a semi-permeable membrane while solute molecules of high molecular weight are retained in the feed stream. He explained that adding a surfactant above the critical micelle concentration allows retention of small molecules by entrapment in micellar aggregates that do not pass through the membrane. He

by means of a tangential-flow ultrafiltration set-up. Dr. Del Rosario revealed that ultrafiltration membranes were prepared from cellulose acetate and used to recover growth hormones in coconut water by means of MEUF in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulfate, a surfactant that was added.

Dr. Del Rosario was among the four UPLB professors awarded the SEARCA Professorial Chair for Academic Year 2005/2006. (LLDDomingo)



# 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 the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), with funding from Winrock International, 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), 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 also been admitted: University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, Georg-August University of Göttingen (UG) in Germany, and Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA) in Japan.

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

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# SEARCA Director reappointed

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) reappointed Dr. **Arsenio M. Balisacan**, economist and professor, as Director of the Philippine-hosted Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research (SEARCA).

Starting 14 July 2006, Dr. Balisacan will serve for a second term of three years. Singapore's Minister of Education and President of SEAMEO Council, H.E. **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, issued the reappointment letter upon the unanimous nomination of the Governing Board of SEARCA and endorsement of the Philippine Department of Education.

For his second term, Dr. Balisacan expressed his commitment to providing

leadership to SEARCA in a rapidly globalizing Southeast Asia, especially on the challenges to Southeast Asian agriculture brought about by global and regional liberalization and integration. He also saw the need to focus on maximizing value-adding returns and intensifying the regional relevance of SEARCA's programs. He also committed to deepen the implementation of new initiatives as part of SEARCA's Eighth Five-Year Plan, which the Center's Governing Board approved in 2003, and continue building up a solid financial base for SEARCA's sustainability.

Professor of economics at the University of the Philippines Diliman and former Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Research of the



**BALISACAN**

Philippine Department of Agriculture, Dr. Balisacan is a highly recognized expert on poverty and development in Southeast and East Asia. He currently serves as President of the Philippine Economic Society and the Human Development Network, and Chair of the Board of Advisors of the Asian Institute of Management-Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides. (ARObmerga)

**University Consortium-UBC  
Scholarship for Student Exchange  
School Year 2006-2007**

Spend a semester at UBC  
and gain the experience  
to last a lifetime

- Open to any qualified graduate student of members of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC), namely:
  - Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia
  - Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
  - Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia
  - Kasetsart University, Thailand
  - University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines
  - University of Queensland, Australia
  - Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany
- Provides financial support up to maximum of \$7,300 for one semester at UBC

Send inquiries and applications to the UC Secretariat:  
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University of British Columbia, Canada

Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC)

## *KU Consortium, from page 5*

internationalization has not yet been identified. Moreover, she revealed the six components and 33 indicators identified by the research, which serves as the guideposts for the International Affairs Division in developing relevant strategies to enhance internationalization of KU in the next decade. (LLDDomingo/*Nonsee Newsletter* Vol. 12, No. 3)