

# UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

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

## Germany Meeting Tackles New and Future Directions for the UC

The 15-year-old University Consortium (UC) needs repackaging, that is, a redefining of objectives, depth, breadth and focus in light of present demands in agriculture education and human resource development in the Southeast Asian region. This was the major decision made by the 15 UC Executive Officers, Coordinators and representatives of the seven out of UC eight members and the UC Secretariat from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Canada, and Germany represented during the 17<sup>th</sup> UC Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held at the Georg-August University of Goettingen and Gerbards Hotel, in Goettigen, Germany on 17-19 November 2004.

The decision was made after lengthy deliberation on the results of the UC Evaluation conducted by an external team to look at the network's accomplishments, impact, and value-adding aspect in the region (see related article on page 2). Among the possibilities presented by the evaluation team on the UC's future—that is, expansion, improvement, status quo, or abolition—the UC Executive Board chose "improvement" as the way to go for the network in the immediate future.



The participants of the 17th University Consortium Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting held on 17-19 November 2004 at Gerbards Hotel in Goettingen, Germany. (SEARCA Photo)

Following the decision, the group immediately did a SWOT analysis for the UC—an exercise to determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of organizations. The group then identified five overarching goals for the UC, namely: 1) enhancement of agriculture, environment and natural resources; 2) ecologically/environmentally sustainable development; 3) internationally competitive agriculture production; 4) natural resource management; and 5) food security and poverty reduction. In the next five years, food security and poverty

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# UC Evaluation Study Completed

The conduct of the University Consortium (UC) Evaluation Study, which was approved by the UC Executive Officers and Coordinators in October 2003, was completed in August 2004 and its results were presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> UC Executive Officers and Coordinators Meeting in Goettingen, Germany.

The evaluation study of the UC was implemented with the following objectives: 1) to review and evaluate the accomplishments of the UC vis-à-vis its original mission and objectives; 2) to evaluate the impact of the UC's programs and activities at the individual, institutional, and regional levels; 3) to evaluate the organization, management and implementation of its programs; and 4) to make recommendations for improvement of the UC toward regional and international relevance.

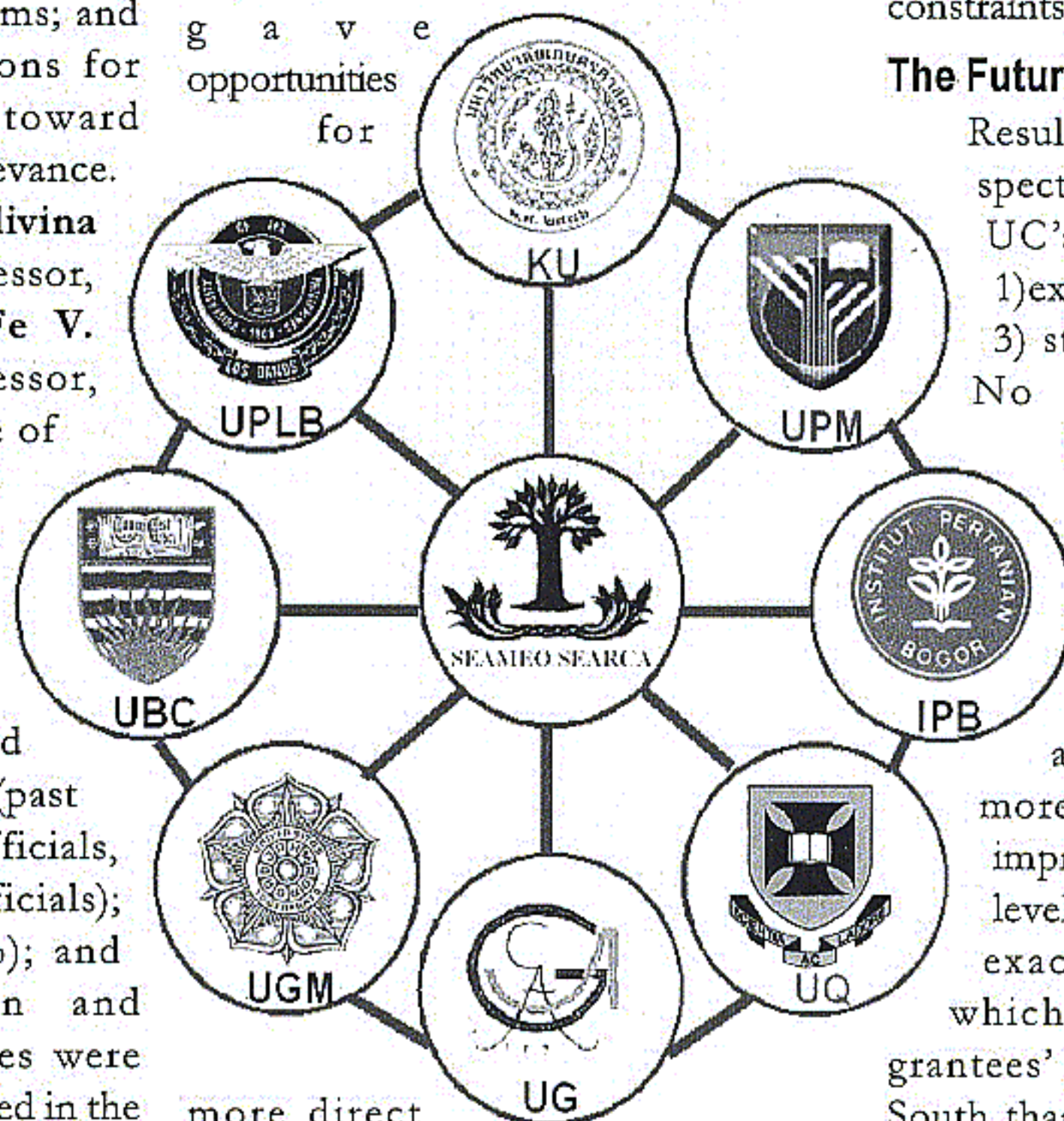
A team headed by Dr. **Ledivina V. Cariño**, University Professor, and Dr. **Maria Fe V. Mendoza**, Associate Professor, both of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, was commissioned to conduct the evaluation study.

The study design included interview of key informants (past and present Consortium officials, grantees, and SEARCA officials); sampling of grantees (10%); and analysis of organization and management. Questionnaires were distributed to grantees identified in the sample from Kasetsart University (KU), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and University of Queensland (UQ). Respondents from University of British Columbia (UBC) were contacted through email and

were also requested to fill out the survey forms.

## Achievements of the UC

Results of the evaluation study showed that benefits of the UC that accrue to the member universities and academe include introduction of new courses, new methods and applications, publications out of research activities, and more research breakthroughs. It was confirmed that the value for money has been significantly positive for UC members. More marked benefits were evident on the individuals as gleaned from promotions, awards, and increased involvement in activities at the national, regional, and international levels. To the country, region, and the world, involvement of the universities in the UC gave opportunities for



more direct application of methods used at the local and national levels, more involvement in public service activities, more regional orientation in teaching and research, development of networks, increased invitations to conferences, development of new courses for another country, and development of friendships across

national borders.

Findings of the study also showed that the development of the University Consortium idea is an achievement in itself and that cooperation and exchange were strengthened by the mutual trust developed among its members.

Furthermore, the study established that from 1989 to 2002, SEARCA was the major financier of the UC activities, although UC members have made annual contributions to the UC pool of funds and have been sharing the cost of running the UC. In 2003, the SEARCA Governing Board reduced SEARCA's counterpart contribution to the UC to only US\$10,000 per year in view of the fund constraints presently faced by SEARCA.

## The Future of the UC

Results of the study generated a spectrum of possibilities for the UC's future, as follows: 1) expansion, 2) improvement, 3) status quo, and 4) abolition.

No one among the UC members opted for abolition or status quo. On the option of expansion, the respondents commented, "the advantage of inclusion of

more associate members is to improve the quality and funding levels. The disadvantage is the exacerbation of the trend, which is already evident, for grantees' preference for a North-South than a South-South exchange. This could mean a centrifugal dispersion of Southeast Asian talent, or perhaps a permanent brain drain thus reversing some of the gains of the UC." The option of improvement was seen by most respondents as "the way to go" for the UC.

See UC Evaluation, p. 10

# Surimi Waste Water Yields Serum for Cell Culture in Immunology Research

Waste water from minced fish used to make imitation shellfish called surimi may be a source of serum for the culture of cells used in immunology research on dreaded diseases such as cancer and AIDS (Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome).

This was the finding of Dr. Fransiska Rungkat-Zakaria, a University Consortium (UC) Research Fellowship grantee from Indonesia, in a study she conducted at Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand from 30 January to 30 July 2003. Her research is titled "Substitution of Fetal Bovine Serum in Hybridoma and Lymphocyte Cell Cultures by Fish Serum Prepared from Surimi Waste Products."

Dr. Zakaria, Associate Professor at the Department of Food Technology and Human Nutrition, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), explored the possibility of using fish serum from surimi waste products as substitute for fetal calf serum in hybridoma cell

culture. Surimi is manufactured from lean, white-fleshed fish. The name "surimi" comes from a Japanese word meaning "minced fish."

Dr. Zakaria's research used waste water collected after decapitating, scaling, mincing and washing shortfin lizardfish (*Saurida micropectoralis*) and black-stripe goatfish (*Upeneus tragula*) from a surimi factory in Bangkok, Thailand. The study also used two types of hybridoma cells, one producing IgG anti-chikungunya (105) and the second producing antibody

anti-dengue virus (H2), were sourced from the US-NAMRU-2 laboratory in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For her research, Dr. Zakaria closely collaborated with Dr. Wanchai Worawattanama-teekul, Head, Department of Fishery Products, KU, who also assisted her in cooperating with some private firms in Thailand for the use of their facilities for her laboratory work.

## Fetal Bovine Serum Substitute

Hybridoma cells are hybrid cells resulting from the fusion of a lymphocyte and a tumor cell. Hybridoma cell culture is the main technology used in immune cell biology research and they are also used to culture a specific monoclonal antibody used in diagnostic analyses and specific compound identification.

Dr. Zakaria explained that the use of fetal calf serum as

a supplement in the culture media for growing hybridoma cells has made the process extremely costly. Her research aimed to provide an alternative source of animal culture media that would reduce production costs in animal culture techniques. Her research also intended to show the potential value of surimi waste from Thai processing plants as well as provide an ideal solution to waste management problems of such fish processing plants.

## Promising Results

Results of the study demonstrates that surimi wash water from the factory has potential value in substituting FBS in hybridoma cell culture for the production of monoclonal antibody. This could mean less cost in antibody production. It is also an important innovation on fish waste handling. Nevertheless, the specificity of the constituents, particularly the proteins and growth factors, and exploration of other fish



Dr. Zakaria presents the results of her study at SEARCA on 19 February 2004. (SEARCA Photo)

## Weed Science Fellowship Conferred on UBC Professor

A professor of plant science and agroecology at the University of British Columbia (UBC) was named 2004 Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America.

Dr. Mahesh K. Upadhyaya, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, UBC and University Consortium Coordinator, received this honor in recognition of his hard work and dedication to the profession of weed science.

Dr. Upadhyaya's primary research interests include effects of ultraviolet-B radiation on plant growth, development, and plant-plant interaction; as well as weed seed dormancy and seed banks. (LLDDomingo, with report from Reach Out Newsletter, Spring 2004 Issue)

See Surimi Waste, p. 10

## Malaysian Professor Visits UPLB, UQ

A Malaysian grantee of the University Consortium (UC) faculty exchange program attended the a national conference on animal production in the Philippines and gave several lectures on prediction of rumen microbial protein yield for livestock in Gatton, Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Liang Juan Boo, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), visited the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia in October and November 2003, respectively.

### Los Baños Visit

Dr. Liang came to Los Baños, Philippines on 22-25 October 2003 to attend the *2003 Annual Conference of the Philippines Society of Animal Production*. While in the country, he also met with senior officials of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and discussed the support and participation of ILRI project members at the *11<sup>th</sup> Asian-Australasian Animal Production (AAAP) Congress*, which was held in September 2004 in Kuala Lumpur.

### Queensland Tour

While at UQ on 2-18 November 2003, Dr. Liang spent most of his time



Dairy researchers at UQ shared with Dr. Liang Juan Boo the experiences of the UQ Gatton dairy herd in confronting the challenges posed by the hot and humid tropical conditions in Queensland. (Photo from UQ)

giving presentations on the use of urinary purine derivatives for prediction of rumen microbial protein yield for zebu cattle and water buffaloes to small groups of researchers in the UQ Gatton campus.

Dr. Liang was also able to discuss with researchers at UQ on how to improve the nutritive value of feed resources for livestock. The presence of anti-nutritive factors in tropical forages is an important factor that adversely affects the nutritive value of these valuable sources of local feeds. Dr. Liang reported that anti-nutritive factors, particularly tannin, was found to lower the digestibility and consequently the utilization of the recently introduced psyllid-resistant *Leucaena* in Malaysia. He said the procedure of tannin analysis

is complicated, particularly the extraction of internal tannin standard for the analysis of the materials of interest. In his visit to UQ, he had the opportunity to discuss this issue with several scientists who have long experience in this research area. He was also able to visit UQ laboratories and several ongoing research on the improvement of *Leucaena* forages through breeding and selection at the university farms.

Dairy researchers at UQ also shared valuable lessons from Queensland experiences in addressing the challenges of dairy production in the hot and humid tropical conditions. Dr. Liang reported that the challenge is even greater now that the market has been opened to free competition from imported milk and milk products from the more efficient temperate countries under trade globalization. Northern Queensland, he noted, has enjoyed significant success in its dairy production in the past two decades, primarily because of better feeding and management. He also noted that Queensland has recently deregulated its milk prices to prepare itself for the new market challenges.

Several renowned UQ scientists in the field of tropical pasture production, tropical dairy production,



The 2003 Annual Conference of the Philippines Society of Animal Production attended by Dr. Liang Juan Boo was held at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. (SEARCA Photo)

See Malaysian Professor, p. 5

## UBC Researcher Tests Fire's Power to Restore Native Plants

For the past five years, Mr. **Andrew MacDougall**, PhD candidate at the Department of Botany, University of British Columbia (UBC), has been conducting controlled burn experiments to find out whether low-intensity fires will help native plants regenerate in the rare ecosystem of the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve in Duncan, British Columbia, Canada. The project aims to better understand the causes and effects of plant invasion on native species and to test possible strategies for managing the ecosystem by re-introducing controlled burning, which had been a traditional practice of the first settlers prior to European immigration.

According to Mr. MacDougall, the oak preserve is a hot spot for biodiversity in Canada since Garry oak ecosystems are found only on Vancouver Island, the nearby Gulf islands, and Fraser Valley. These ecosystems support 91 species that belong to the list of the country's species at risk.

The 18-hectare Cowichan preserve



*Mr. Andrew MacDougall's study tested possible strategies for managing Garry oak ecosystems by introducing controlled burning as earlier findings have shown that forest fires have led to the evolution of ecosystems in Canada. (Photo copyright by Parks Canada/R. Grey)*

is the most intact remaining example of said ecosystem in Canada. However, Mr. MacDougall reported that since the area has not been subjected to fire in more than 150 years, invasive grasses and other introduced species have flourished and choked the native plants. He said this also makes the preserve

generate large amounts of highly combustible plant litter, which increases the risk of forest fire.

The one-square-meter patches of ground that Mr. MacDougall burned in past years have begun to produce results. He noted the significant increases in the growth and reproduction of many native plants. He added that the fire management techniques applied have gotten rid of the invasive grasses and thus significantly

reduced the huge amount of plant litter that could fuel a large, destructive wildfire in the forest.

The study also revealed that instead of driving biodiversity decline, habitat fragmentation that resulted from high abundance of invasive plants had improved the ability of native species to recolonize invaded areas. It was found that the invasive species could only dominate by default rather than by competition.

Mr. MacDougall said the study is expected to continue for another five years, but the initial results have proven that larger scale, rotational controlled burns are a conservation option that could help lower the risk of forest fires. (LLDDomingo, with reports from *UBC Reports*, Vol. 50, No. 6)

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MALAYSIAN, from p. 4

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and animal welfare were invited by Dr. Liang to lead the sessions on topics in their respective fields at the 11<sup>th</sup> AAAP Congress in September 2004.

To date, the University Consortium has awarded 105 faculty exchange grants, 15 of which were given to Malaysians. (LLDDomingo)

### UPM, IPB Have New UC Coordinators

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) each has a new Coordinator for the University Consortium (UC).

The new UC Coordinator of UPM is Prof. Dr. **Gulam Rusul Rahmat Ali**, who is Deputy Dean (Science of Engineering), School of Graduate Studies, UPM. Dr. Gulam takes over the post of Dr. **Shamsher Mohamad bin Ramadili**, Deputy Dean, School of Graduate Studies, UPM, who has been appointed as the Director of UPM's Sports Academy effective 1 January 2004.

On the other hand, the new UC Coordinator of IPB is Dr. Ir. **Ma'mun Sarma**, who is Director, Office of International Programs, IPB. He took over the post of Prof. Dr. **Dondin Sajuthi**, former Director, Office of International Programs, IPB. (LLDDomingo)

## UC Professorial Chair Lecture

# Two UPLB Scientists Present Ecological Approaches to Disease Control and Plant Growth Enhancement

Two faculty of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), who were awarded the University Consortium (UC) Professorial Chair, gave lectures on ecological approaches in controlling club root disease and in enhancing and regulating plant growth at UPLB on separate occasions in January and February 2004.

Dr. Virginia C. Cuevas, Professor, Environmental Biology Division, Institute of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, UPLB, delivered her lecture on 30 January 2004, while Dr. Erlinda S. Paterno, Professor, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, UPLB, gave her lecture on 27 February 2004.

### Control of Club Root Disease

A specialist in Mycology and Plant Ecology, Dr. Cuevas presented her research titled "Ecological Approach in the Control of Club Root Disease." In her lecture, she said club root is the most damaging

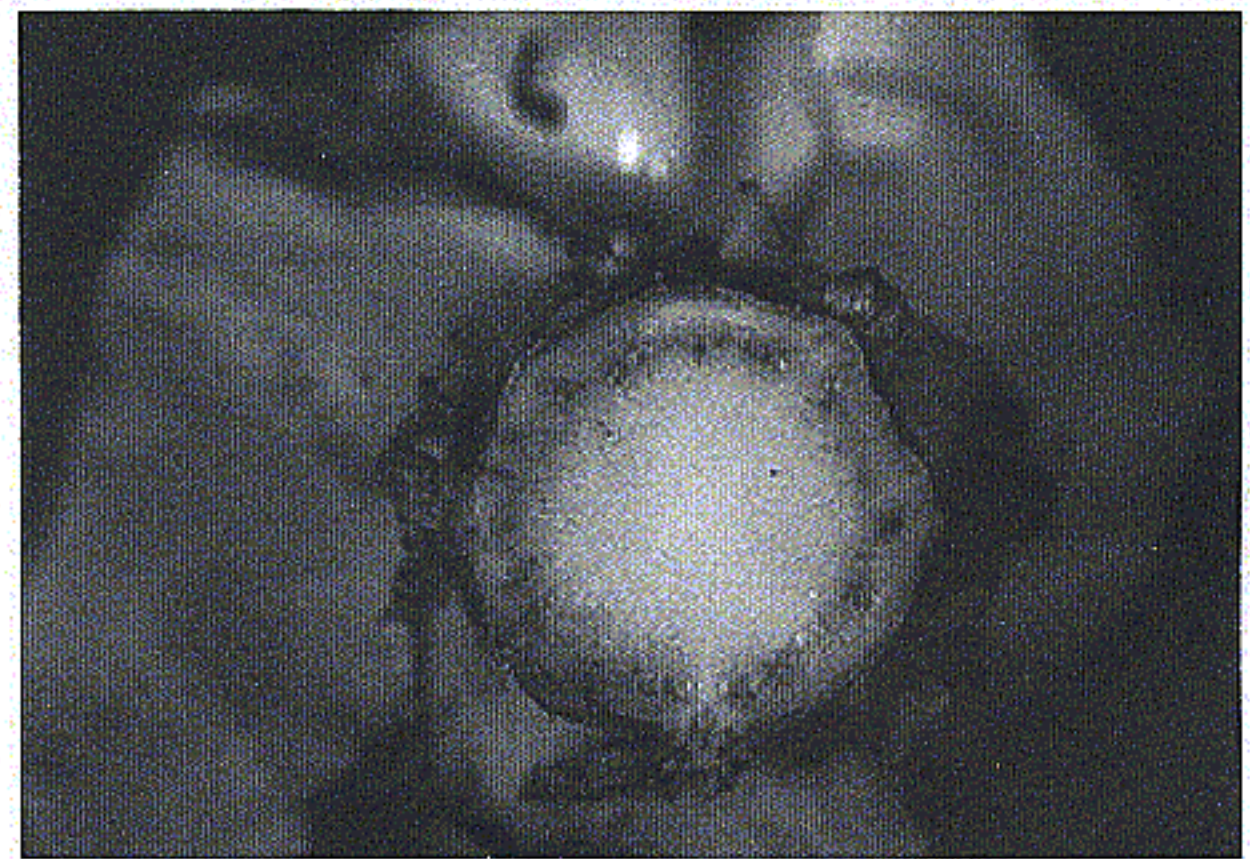
disease of cabbage, as high as 70 percent incidence, and infected plants do not bear marketable heads. Since the parasite cannot survive in soils with mean annual temperature above 25°C, in the Philippines club root disease is found only in the Cordillera region, which is the biggest supplier of cabbage in the country.

Using an ecological approach, the study of Dr. Cuevas centered on improving the acidic soil pH through the use of compost either alone or in combination with lime

and the use of biocontrol/biofertilizer agent, *Trichoderma*. Her study showed that the key to the successful control of the club root disease is soil fertility management. All soil amendments must be applied at least two weeks before seedling transplant.

### Soil Bacteria Boost Plant Growth

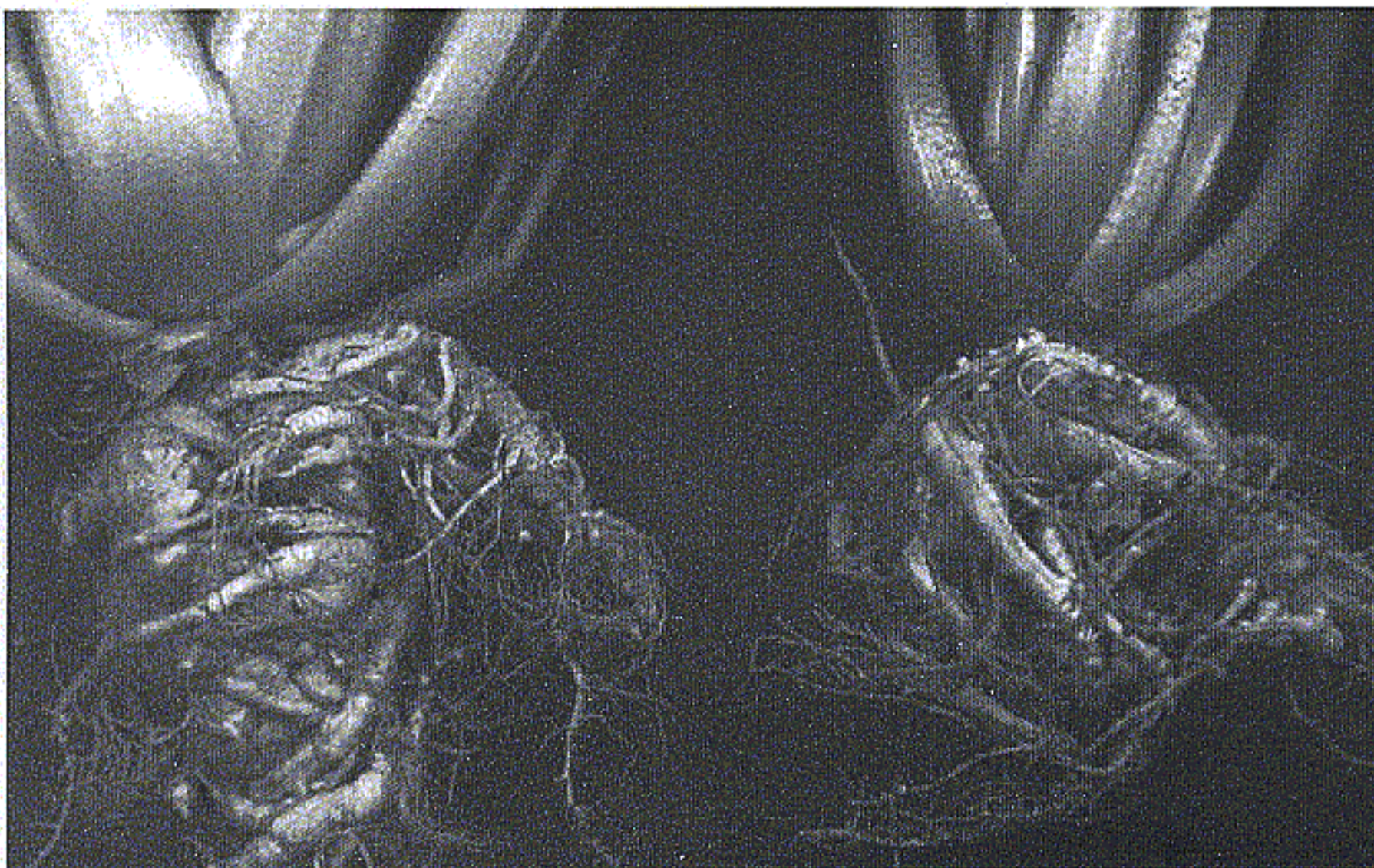
On the other hand, Dr. Paterno discussed her research on "Enhancement of Plant Growth and Production of Plant Growth Regulators



Internal symptoms of club root disease on cabbage. (Photo from the Old House Web)

by *Soil Bacteria*." She explained that increasing demand for low-input agriculture and growing concern on the use of environmentally damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides have boosted interest in soil microorganisms as important biological resources for improving sustainability of crop production. She said studies have shown that bacteria thriving in plant roots, called plant-growth promoting bacteria (PGPB), have considerable impact on plant growth, development, and productivity. This plant-bacteria association can help plants established in marginal lands, protect plants from diseases, and promote plant growth.

While her previous studies showed significant increases in dry matter yield of plants inoculated with PGPB, Dr. Paterno had perceived the need to determine the mechanism of action of these bacteria which can



Club root disease on Chinese cabbage. (Photo from the Old House Web)

See Two UPLB, p. 8

## UPLB Researcher Reveals Boon Factors in Philippine Grassland Reforestation

Key factors that would determine the success or failure of grassland reforestation in the Philippines were presented by Dr. **Leonardo M. Florece**, Associate Professor, School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), in his lecture, titled *"Determinants of Successful Grassland Rehabilitation in the Philippines,"* on 17 June 2004.

According to Dr. Florece, reforestation of grasslands and other marginal areas in the country has been an important development agenda of the Philippine government since the 1970s to improve their productivity and ecological integrity. He said the issue of environmental degradation and food security can be addressed with appropriate and testable rehabilitation strategies. However, for the past decades, rehabilitation of these areas has been very slow because of the hostile nature of the environment coupled with social, technical, financial, administrative, and political constraints.

### Modes of Reforestation Governance

Dr. Florece conducted a study that documented and analyzed three modes of reforestation governance, namely: reforestation by administration, and community-based and private/family reforestation. His study showed that reforestation by administration is the preferred mode among the staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for continuous protection and maintenance activities, and proper monitoring and evaluation of established plantations. Nevertheless, he said "reforestation by private individuals must also be given emphasis to ease the financial burden on the part of the government, but land tenure

security must be assured, including access to future wood projects."

### Factors for Success or Failure

In his lecture, Dr. Florece presented the biophysical, social, political, economic/financial, and technical factors that determined the success or failure of grassland reforestation.

The biophysical factors included competing plants, diseases, pests, other animals, and man, while the physical factors were soil acidity, proper timing of planting, use of drought-resistant species, and mulching.

The social factors for success included unity and awareness among members of people's organizations, acceptability of reforestation project to the community, and local people's participation in the project.

The political factors included endorsement of local officials, coordination of the DENR with the

local government unit (LGU), and infrastructure and financial support from the LGU.

The economic/financial factors identified by DENR staff included timely release of funds for reforestation, adequate funds for reforestation, and financial transparency.

Findings of Dr. Florece's study showed that technical and managerial capabilities are not primary requirements for successful rehabilitation efforts as initiatives by private individuals in making productive abandoned or marginal lands abound in the uplands. However, DENR staff expressed that proper training of project staff is the most important technical factor for an agroforestry project to succeed.

### People's Participation is Key

In conclusion, Dr. Florece's study showed that "despite the infertility of grasslands, successful reforestation could be achieved under any mode of reforestation governance as long as the

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See UPLB Researcher, p. 8

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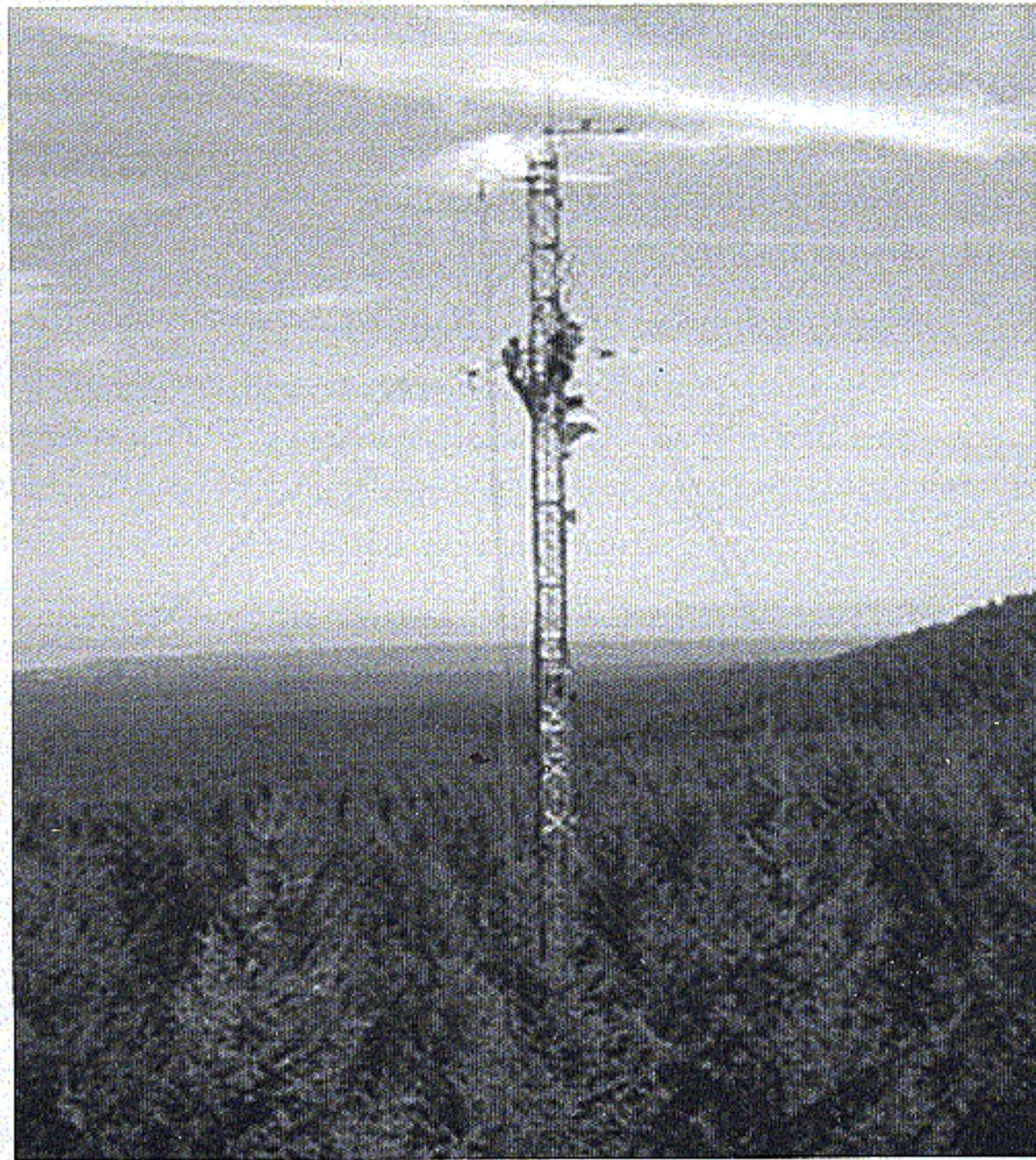
Rehabilitation of grasslands and other marginal areas in the Philippines has been slow in the past decades because of the hostile nature of the environment. (Photo from JIRCAS)

# UBC Professor Wins Biometeorology Award

A long-time professor of biometeorology at the University of British Columbia (UBC) won the 2004 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biometeorology from the American Meteorological Society.

After more than 30 years of research into the energy, water, and carbon balances of forest and agricultural crops at UBC, Dr. **T. Andy Black**, Professor, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, UBC, was honored for his exceptional contributions to the teaching and research of forest biometeorology.

A faculty of UBC since 1969, Dr. Black belongs to the Biometeorology and Soil Physics Group of UBC, which is among the



Year-round measurements of carbon dioxide fluxes are taken on tall towers at seven forested sites in Canada. (Photo from UBC Biometeorology Group)

temperate and southern boreal forests of Canada, and to determine the impact of climate change and disturbances on their annual carbon budgets. To achieve this goal, year-round measurements of carbon dioxide fluxes are taken on tall towers at seven forested sites in Canada.

Investigating the role in the Earth's climate of these heat and vapor changes resulting from respiration of forests, Dr. Black's research will provide information to policymakers to enable them to make informed decisions on issues pertaining to climate change, Kyoto Protocol, and environmental policies.

Dr. Black's work in his field is world-renowned and has received numerous awards in

Canada and around the world. (LLDDomingo, with reports from *Reach Out Newsletter*, Spring 2004 Issue)

first to use micrometeorological techniques to measure heat and water vapor fluxes above forests. The main

research goal is to better understand the processes controlling carbon dioxide fluxes above and within west-coast

## TWO UPLB, from p. 6

be used as basis for strain improvement and development of inoculation technology. Hence, the research she presented focused on identifying, quantifying, and optimizing the conditions for the production of plant growth regulating substances (e.g., auxin derivatives, cytokinins, gibberellins, and gibberellin-like substances). Characterization of the bacterial strains capable of producing these substances was also done. According to Dr. Paterno, bioassay showed that several PGPB produced gibberellins. Also, she reported that formulations of PGPB were packaged into an easy-to-use solid-based inoculant. In preliminary trials, positive results were obtained in the use of PGPB in the rooting system of stem cuttings of

## UPLB RESEARCHER, from p. 7

people involved have diligence, patience, and commitment to achieve common objectives."

He said successful rehabilitation could be achieved even with limited forestry knowledge and financial support does not always guarantee local participation as experienced by community-based and family initiatives. He stressed, however, that social preparation or community organizing must be properly instituted. (LLDDomingo)

Mussaenda and Hibiscus and in the growth promotion of Dendrobium.

To date, the University Consortium has awarded 111 Professorial Chairs, 83 of which were granted to Filipinos. (LLDDomingo)

## SEARCA GRANTS, from p. 9

awarded one-year graduate scholarships to Ms. **Lotis A. Monzales**, Filipino, to support her MS in Veterinary Medicine program at UPLB and to Ms. **Khin Myo Thant**, a Myanmar national, who is pursuing her MS in Agronomy at UPLB also. These one-year scholarships are also funded by the DAAD.

To date, SEARCA has awarded 1,093 scholarships to Southeast Asian nationals and eight scholarships to Timor-Leste nationals. (LLDDomingo)

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## UBC Dean Awarded Honorary Doctorate

The Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of British Columbia (UBC) and UC Executive Officer, Dr. **Moura Quayle**, was awarded a Doctor of Science *honoris causa* by the University of Guelph in recognition of her outstanding academic leadership, contributions to landscape architecture, and work on agricultural issues in contemporary society.

As a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and a member of Environment Canada's National Science and Technology Advisory Board, Dr. Quayle has lectured widely both nationally and internationally. An alumna of Guelph University, Dr. Quayle has remained committed to a strong connection between the academe and issues of land, food, and community. (LLDDomingo, with reports from *Reach Out Newsletter*, Spring 2004 Issue)

### GERMANY, from p. 1

reduction have been identified as the primary goal, with the following strategic priorities: 1) sustainable management of natural resource systems; 2) food and agriculture policy and agribusiness development; 3) biotechnology in agriculture; 4) food and health, and 5) information and communication technology (ICT), bioinformatics, and data management in agriculture.

Mechanisms and processes enumerated by the group to carry out a capacity-building program to address the primary goal of food security and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia include student exchanges, faculty exchanges for

## SEARCA Grants Seven New Graduate Scholarships

SEARCA has awarded five graduate scholarships to Cambodian (1), Myanmar (1), Filipino (1), Vietnamese (1), and Timor-Leste (3) nationals to pursue their MS programs at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Full scholarships for two-year MS programs were awarded to Mr. **Pheak Sothea**, Cambodian, MS in Community Development; Mr. **Dam Viet Bac**, Vietnamese, MS in Forestry; Ms. **Maria Isabel Da Silva**, Timorese, MS in Agronomy; Mr. **Carlito M. Code De Araujo**,

teaching and research, thesis support, international conferences, collaborative/joint programs, short courses and workshops on skills building, communication/information exchange, external interactions and linkages, strategic alliances with funding agencies, and establishment/development of an Endowment Fund for the UC.

A workshop of UC coordinators to refine guidelines for funding, grants administration, operating procedures, and policy guidelines will be held in March 2005 at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). The 18<sup>th</sup> University Consortium Executive Officers Meeting will be held at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in September 2005, with a possibility for a back-to-back conference on a relevant topic among the priority focus of the UC identified earlier.

Participants to the meeting were Dr. **Agus Dwiyanto**, Vice Rector for Business and Collaboration, Dr. **Mulyadi**, Director of Graduate Studies, and Dr. **Masyhuri**, Chairman, Master of Agribusiness Management Program, all from UGM, Indonesia; Dr. **Ma'mun**

Timorese, MS in Animal Science; and Mr. **Joao Boavida Da Cruz**, Timorese, MS in Agronomy. All of them began their graduate programs in November 2004.

Mr. Sothea's scholarship is co-funded by the ASEAN Foundation and SEARCA, while that of Mr. Bac is supported in full by SEARCA. On the other hand, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) funds the scholarships of the Timor-Leste nationals.

In addition, SEARCA also

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See SEARCA Grants, p. 8

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**Sarma**, Director for International Programs, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia; Dr. **Aini Ideris**, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. **Gulam Rusul Rahmat Ali**, Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies, both from UPM; Ms. **Phacharavadee Paerattakul**, Director of International Affairs Office, Office of the President, Kasetsart University, Thailand; Dr. **Mahesh K. 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, University of Queensland, Australia; Dr. **Gode Gravenhorst**, Director, Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), Dr. **Winfried Manig**, Professor, CeTSAF, Dr. **Uwe Muuss**, Managing Director, CeTSAF; and Ms. **Myrtle Seepersad**, Programme Coordinator, CeTSAF, all from Georg-August University of Goettingen, Germany; Dr. **Arsenio M. Balisacan**, Director; and Dr. **Editha C. Cedicol**, Manager, Graduate Scholarship Department, both of SEARCA. (ECCedicol)

## UQ Offers New Certificate of Agriculture

Starting in 2005, the University of Queensland (UQ) will offer the Queensland Certificate in Agriculture Program, a new tertiary education program that introduces students to all aspects of animal and plant production, modern farm operation, and business management.

According to Dr. Roger Swift, Executive Dean, Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science (NRAVS) and University

Consortium Executive Officer, said the program is unique and offers a great opportunity for more students to pursue a university education. He said the program is an excellent way to learn through a combination of theory and practical experience.

Dr. Swift explained that the program is designed to meet student needs for a relevant and accessible education program and the agriculture, horticulture, and animal

industries' need for skilled employees.

The certificate program comprises four skills-based courses and four theory-based courses spread to two semesters so that full-time students can complete the program in one calendar year.

Graduates of the full eight-course program shall be awarded two qualifications: 1) a UQ-accredited Queensland Certificate in Agriculture; and 2) a Vocational Education Training (VET) Certificate IV in Agriculture issued by the UQ Gatton Registered Training Organization. Those who will complete only the four skills-based courses shall receive a VET Certificate III in Agriculture.

The Queensland Certificate in Agriculture program will debut on 28 February 2005. (LLDDomingo, with reports from *UQ News Online*, 22 November 2004 Issue)



*The sandstone mural sculpture titled "The Adaptation of Agriculture in Queensland" at Central Walkway of the UQ Gatton campus reflects the university's dedication to making agricultural education program accessible to as many people as possible. (Photo from UQ)*

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### UC EVALUATION, from p. 2

In light of the findings of the study, the evaluation team recommended that the UC-SEARCA relationship be a partnership for collaborative and cooperative research, training, and similar programs. It was also suggested that improvements identified be put together in a Strategic Planning Workshop of the UC Executive Board in the context of its knowledge of regional needs and forecasts.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> UC meeting, it was agreed that a workshop of UC coordinators to refine guidelines for funding, grants administration, operating procedures, and policy guidelines be held in March 2005 at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia. (LLDDomingo)

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### SURIMI WASTE, from p. 3

species as sources of fish serum, other cell cultures and other microbe and tissue culture, might be interesting to study to ensure the potential of FS as a substitute for FBS and as supplement for other culture media.

Dr. Zakaria presented the results of her study at the SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series held on 19 February 2004 at SEARCA.

While conducting her research at KU, Dr. Zakaria also served as student advisor and taught special topics in cell culture and fish waste handling.

To date, the University Consortium has awarded 11 Research Fellowships, four of which were granted to Indonesians. (LLDDomingo)

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### UQ GATTON, from p. 12

#### Heritage Tour

On 22 August 2004, a heritage tour that draws on a rich tapestry of stories to guide staff, students, and visitors through the Gatton campus' 107-year history was officially launched by Dr. John Hay, UQ Vice Chancellor and UC Chief Executive Officer.

The heritage tour was launched at the Foundation Building, which originally opened in 1897 as the Administration Building and served in various academic capacities, only briefly halted in 1942-1944 when it was requisitioned as an Army Field Hospital. The building reverted to its original role when the American troops departed in 1944.

Today, UQ Gatton asserts that it offers the best programs in agribusiness, agriculture, animal studies, environmental management and horticulture in Australia. (LLDDomingo, with reports from *UQ News Online*, 18 August 2004 Release)

## What is SEARCA?

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the "centers of excellence" of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), an intergovernment body founded in 1965 to promote cooperation among Southeast Asian nations through activities in education, science, and culture.

SEARCA was established in 1966 primarily

to help SEAMEO member countries to produce highly trained manpower in agriculture and related sciences, and to undertake research and development activities aimed at accelerating agricultural and rural development in the region. These goals are imbedded in the SEARCA vision, which is to be *Southeast Asia's leader in the science and practice of agriculture and rural development*. SEARCA's mission is to strengthen institutional

capacity in agricultural and rural development through graduate education, research, training, and knowledge exchange.

SEARCA is hosted by the Philippine government on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Los Baños, Laguna, 65 km southeast of Manila. It is supported by donations from SEAMEO member and associate member states, other friendly governments, and various international donor agencies.

## 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 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. Three associate members have also been admitted: University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada, and Georg August-University of Göttingen (GAUG) in Germany.

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

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## UQ Gatton: 107 Years in the Making

The center for agricultural studies in the University of Queensland (UQ) is its Gatton College, now referred to as simply "UQ Gatton," which is located about 100 km west of the UQ main campus in Brisbane and five minutes' drive from the rural town of Gatton.

The year 2004 marks its tenth year as a UQ campus and its 107<sup>th</sup> as a tertiary education institution.

"The Gatton campus has been around, under one name or another and now as part of the University of Queensland, since 1897," said Ms. Janelle Zahmel, Campus Manager, UQ Gatton.

### UQ Gatton's Beginnings

In 1990, Queensland Agricultural College (QAC) merged with the University of Queensland to form the UQ, Gatton College.

Although QAC was predominantly a center for study in agriculture and horticulture in Queensland, its educational role has expanded to include teaching and research in food science and technology, environmental and wildlife management, and tourism management as early as 1967.

From the beginning, the postgraduate research program of Gatton College had complemented the 97-year history of QAC undergraduate training with an emphasis on applied studies and skills development.

Gatton College has provided opportunities for multidisciplinary research with strong links to industry. Research strengths at Gatton College emphasize the applied and integrated orientation of its academic programs, with many research collaborations with UQ departments at the St. Lucia campus in Brisbane. This cooperation between the two



The UQ Gatton Heritage Tour was launched in 2004 at the Foundation Building, which had originally opened in 1897 and reopened (as shown at left) in 1996 after its extensive restoration. (Photo from UQ)

campuses was strengthened with the establishment in 1997 of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterinary Science, based at Gatton College.

### The Transformation Continues

A decade after the establishment of UQ, Gatton College, its name was changed again to UQ Gatton after the University Senate approved key recommendations in a

landmark report by Dr. Ted Brown, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, launching a "forward-looking plan to develop UQ Gatton as an international center of excellence in teaching, research, and extension, with a \$13 million funds injection and proposals for new courses and centers, and increased student numbers."

See UQ Gatton, p. 10

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