

Editorial

The second edition of this newsletter that you are holding in your hands is another part of the South-East-Asian-Germany Inter - Alumni Programme supported by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and established in close co-operation with the Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), University of Göttingen, the Institute for Socio-cultural and Socio-economic Studies (ISOS), University of Kassel, Witzenhausen and the Institute for Co-operation in Developing Countries, Philipps-University Marburg (ICDC). Due to some technical problems, the first edition of the NEWSLETTER could not reach all of you and was put only on the Internet. However, NEWSLETTERS should make possible an intensive communication between German Universities and Universities in South-East-Asia and between the members of the scientific community in the Region.

The second edition of the NEWSLETTER is intended to give graduates of the three universities information about the kind of co-operation designed to improve mutual learning, and hopefully future editions will include contributions that cover the scientific and staff development strategies evolved by scientists from the South-East Asian region.

(Editors)

SEAG - Symposium 2000

The first SEAG Symposium-cum-Workshop on 'Sustainable Development in the context of Globalization and Locality: Challenges and Options for Networking in Southeast Asia' was opened on the 18th September, 2000 at the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), Bogor, Indonesia. Over 85 Alumni from the Universities of Göttingen, Kassel and Marburg came from

Website, Homepage, Database / Publications, Newsletter, Proceedings / Scientific Cooperation and Higher Education / University Staff Development.

Future activities under the above 4 areas will be crucial in determining the sustainability of the Alumni Network. Most of the Alumni members vowed their commitment to follow



several countries of the region, including The Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and a large contingent from Indonesia. At the Opening Ceremony, there were over 160 persons including several high ranking representatives of the Indonesian government, IPB, DAAD, the German Embassy in Jakarta, and the GTZ among others. A delegation comprising representatives of the Universities Göttingen, Kassel and Marburg flew to Indonesia beforehand to assist the local Organising Committee in finalising preparations for the Symposium as well as in coordinating the conduct of the 5-day Symposium-cum-Workshop. Over 50 papers were presented under the key areas 'Socio-economic Development, Natural Resources/Animal Production, Natural Resources/Plant Production, Natural Resources/Forestry, Science, Research Teaching and Organisation'. The group discussions under Network Building focussed on the following: Internet,

through with their respective plans.

An election of Founding Members of SEAG took place and ten colleagues were selected, who together with Dr. Andriyono Kilat Adhi will pursue the legal registration of SEAG in Indonesia.

The occasion did not only provide scientists from throughout the Region an international forum where they could present their research work and exchange professional experiences, it also made possible a grand reunion of friends and old acquaintances. Pass students were able to meet with their former Professors and some were even able to set up links for further collaboration in joint research projects. The main objectives of the Symposium cum Workshop (scientific exchange and the building of an Inter-Alumni Network) were met with full success according to the participants themselves in evaluating the Symposium and all look forward to a vibrant and sustainable Alumni Network of the 3 German Universities in the region of Southeast Asia.

(M. Steepersad, CeTSAF)

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Symposium on “Resource Management: Public-Private Partnership & Knowledge Sharing”

Los Baños/Philippines, August 27 to September 1, 2001

With our first symposium on “Challenges for Sustainable Development in the Context of Locality and Globalization” in Bogor we set a broad framework and a wide arena for discussion which we would like to focus further and to deepen in the second year. The sustainable management of natural resources has become one of the major challenges for South-East Asia (SEA) in the 21st century. Facing the global threat of climate change partly caused by deforestation, leading not only to natural disasters such as flooding but also to desertification and confronted with the danger of severe losses of biodiversity, successful resource management strategies need to be elaborated for *all* SEA-countries. This implies not only those countries that will still strongly depend on the primary sector for overall socio-economic development in the future (such as Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam) but industrializing nations, too, where decreasing oil and gas reserves coincide with fast urbanization, changes in lifestyle and an increasing demand for energy (e.g. Indonesia, The Philippines, Thailand). What is more, all of the societies concerned increasingly acknowledge the manifold direct and indirect values and benefits of nature, of an intact landscape and biodiversity not only for medical and agricultural purposes but for recreation, leisure or cultural identity as well. Thus, the development of coherent and comprehensive natural resource management strategies is an interdisciplinary challenge which requires interdisciplinary exchange and co-operation between natural and social sciences and which goes far beyond the accumulated theoretical and methodological knowledge of single disciplines. It is an overall objective of the planned symposium to provide a broad forum for the exchange of experiences between agriculturalists, biologists, botanists, engineers, forestry, fishery or range management specialists with economists, anthropologists, sociologists, geographers etc. to support them in their ambitious tasks either in government agencies, organizations of civil society, the private sector or in the education system when striving for a sustainable resource management may it be on a local, a regional, a national or even on an international level.

How to create innovative public-private partnerships in this process remains an unresolved challenge. Public-private partnership has become a buzz-word worldwide while its manifold implications and problems pertaining to applied research or

to policy and programme implementation have not yet been tackled adequately. There is no doubt that on the one hand the liberalization of product and factor markets in Asia (land and tenancy markets, credit and labour markets), the clearer formulation and enforcement of property rights in physical and intellectual resources (individual and group rights in forests, marine resources, irrigation schemes, genetic resources, etc.), the improvements in the rule of law and legal security during the last decade have created new strong incentives for the private sector to increase long-term investments in the protection of natural resources. On the other hand, many conceptual problems and externalities linked to natural resources still remain (how to measure and to value their benefits, how to exclude free-riders?) giving some natural resources the character of a

national level (national parks and reserves, sectoral approaches) or even on an international level (large river systems, global commons such as rain-forests).

There is a growing consensus that in the new century sustainable resource management will only be achieved if the exchange between locally and globally existing knowledge can be increased further. Of course, globalization has facilitated and better protected international technology and knowledge transfer (though often one-way north-south oriented). But underway locally generated and indigenous knowledge handed down for generations has often been systematically neglected in research and application, a knowledge on technologies and social organization which often is more appropriate, closer to end users and cheaper in its implementation. How to make better



public good for which markets do not (yet) exist or are not well functioning. In these cases the state and its agencies plus organizations of civil society have to play the leading role to establish efficient and effective resource management systems. Many alumni working as researchers, administrators and business agents will share their broad experiences of institutional requirements, new technologies, of the mechanisms of collective action and people's participation, of adaptation processes in dynamic socio-economic systems for sustainable resource management, either in private, communal or state property regimes and either on a local level (irrigation, peri-urban informal settlements, village forests), on a regional basis (watershed management, social-forestry, marine fisheries, range management, land use planning, etc.), on a

use of existing complementarities between the two, how to make use of indigenous knowledge for environmental education and awareness creation, how to protect this knowledge for the sake of the local population and give them an equal share in case it can be used for economic purposes (medical and agricultural research)? These are guiding questions which will be deepened through keynote addresses, plenary papers and in particular in the planned working groups during the symposium.

(M. Kirk, ICDC)



About SEARCA (SEAMEO)

SEARCA or the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture is one of the centers of SEAMEO. SEAMEO member countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. SEARCA is mandated to respond to the high level agricultural human resource needs of the SEAMEO member countries through graduate education and training as well as undertaking research and development activities to accelerate agricultural and rural development in the region.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has provided scholarships assisting 99 MSc students and 90 PhD students from the region to obtain academic degrees at regional and international universities collaborating with SEARCA. The Center for Tropical and Subtropical

Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF) at the University of Goettingen has had a long standing cooperation with SEARCA within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding. Through this collaboration CeTSAF has granted nine scholarships to students of the region (fellows of SEARCA) to pursue MSc courses in tropical agriculture and forestry at the University of Goettingen. Both institutions are committed to joint activities in securing funding for the expansion of this programme.

SEARCA has expressed its willingness to host the second international SEAG-Symposium-cum-Workshop to be held in Los Baños end of August 2001. Prof. Dr. Soekartawi, Deputy Director, SEARCA is responsible for the preparation and the organization of the 5-day Symposium-cum-Workshop. SEARCA Alumni are also invited to actively participate.

(D. Mai, CeTSAF)

SEAG Proceedings

The proceedings of the International Symposium –cum – Workshop: Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization and Locality: Challenges and Options for networking in Southeast Asia held in Bogor, Indonesia from the 18th –22nd September, 2000 are published on the Internet at

<http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/seag/index.html>

The Internet Publication, 304 pages with the content of the three groups:

Socio-Economic Development (11 Papers), Natural Resources with the Subgroups Plant Production, Animal Production and Forestry (21 Papers) and Science, Research, Teaching and Organisation (7 Papers) is opened by the thematic address: “Sustainable Development in an Innovating Economy” by Jochen Röpke, Marburg.

The abstracts of the presented papers are available in a printed version from the Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia, (ISOS)

Learning About Alumni-Networking in Southeast Asia

Probably many of you remember that we asked you to fill in a questionnaire on our symposium in Bogor last year. The results of this survey will be put on the SEAG-Homepage very soon so that everybody can read it in its full length. Here, in the second edition of our NEWS-LETTER, I would like to demonstrate only one of the interesting results of the survey concerning the ranking of universities in different countries:

We were very interested to know about the attitude of our alumni to the value of higher education in some selected countries relevant for the Southeast Asian situation. It was clear to us that the target group would rank their host country's universities at a

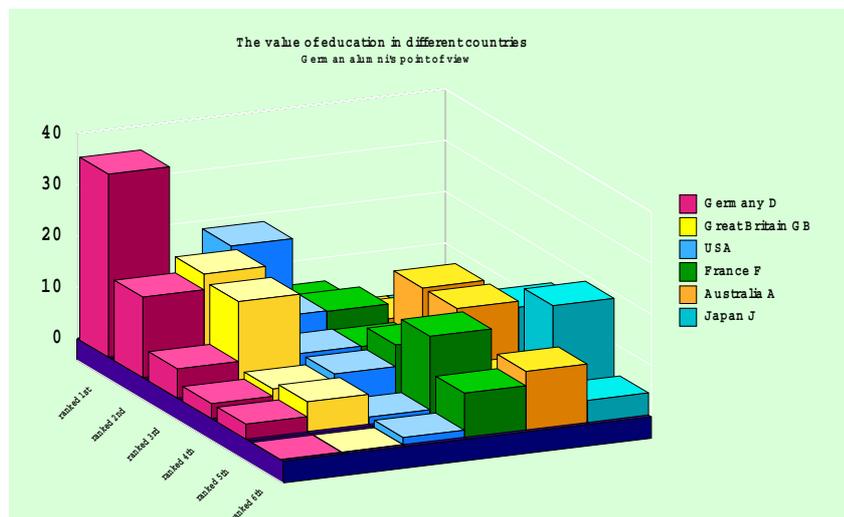
higher level. However, it was interesting to know about the ranking of the universities in different countries, which does not mean an objective value according to objective factors but according to the existing feeling of our alumni. The question was:

“On the following scale, a rough value of higher education (+) to (+++) is stated. Please enter from your point of view the value of higher education for Germany using the symbol D/France F/USA/Great Britain GB/Japan J and Australia A.” The results of this question are demonstrated in the figure below. As expected, the German higher education is ranked the highest. However, comparing these results with results from a similar survey in the Egypt-

Arab-Region shows that studying at a host university does not necessarily lead to a definitely better ranking as the table below shows:

Country	weighted ranking (Indonesia)	weighted ranking (Egypt)
Germany D	330	175
Great Britain GB	240	139
USA	201	223
France F	170	99
Australia A	169	-
Japan J	151	-
Russia R	-	47

(S. Amini, ISOS)



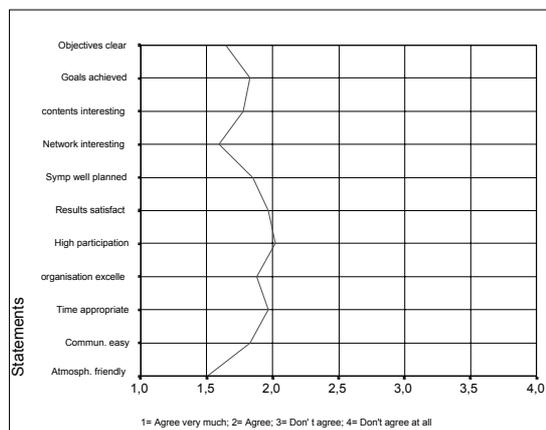
Would you like to contribute to our Newsletter?

- contributions should not exceed 1.5 pages
- information should be of general interest
- the editorial team must reserve the right to select or condense contributions for publication
- contributions which relate to a particular topic of the previous newsletter are particularly welcome
- please add your full name and address

Evaluation of SEAG - Symposium 2000

Subsequent to the Symposium – cum – Workshop and before the closing ceremony, the alumni were requested to evaluate the Symposium by filling in a questionnaire, that had been prepared to ask about the perceptions of the participants.

The results of this evaluation (N=59) were quite encouraging. The average values of the different aspects lie, with a very small



standard deviation relatively high (s. fig.). Especially interesting is the clearness of the symposium's objectives at the beginning, which seemed not to be very easy from the organising committee's viewpoint. It was clear to the participants that the symposium aimed at the establishment and maintenance of a network in favour of scientific and

organisational co-operation between individuals, universities and societies of different cultures and in accordance with the objectives of the supporting institution, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). High values of the atmosphere of the symposium, of the contents of the networking and the clearness of the objectives are impressive, whereas the

participation of the participants, the time schedule and the results lie lower from the participants' point of view. The figure visualizes the profile of the evaluation in terms of the aggregated statements mentioned in the questionnaire once more.

The participants appreciated very much the special attention and the full dedication of the organising committee and „the great job“ that they had done (37x), the relevance of the presented papers (16x), the

agenda and the comprehensive approach of the symposium (8x), the web-based collaboration and networking (7x), the achievement of goals in a short time (5x), the accommodation and the food (9x), internationality/ regionality (3x), involved organisations (2x). On the SEAG-Homepage, you can read the full paper about the evaluation. *(S. Amini, ISOS)*

SEAG-WWW-Homepage

Internet based services can facilitate the information exchange within the SEAG-Inter-Alumni-Net tremendously. One of the most, if not the most important of these services is the World Wide Web (WWW). Accordingly, a WWW-Site for the South-

East-Asia-Germany Alumni-Network (SEAG) has been set up, which can be accessed via the URL <<http://www.seag-network.de>>. This site, which is supposed to be a platform for dissemination and exchange of information within the SEAG-Network, is constantly expanded and updated. From the start page, one can access the following information:

- **General Information:** This section informs about background and objectives of the SEAG-Network. Beneath, a leaflet and even a small slide show can be found.
- **Symposia:** Constantly updated information about program, presentations and further details of upcoming symposia, the next to be held in the Philippines in September 2001. There is also the possibility to submit presentations for this conference and to register one's participation online. For previous symposia (currently the symposium in Bogor in September 2000), both abstracts and full papers of all presentations given can be accessed online.



Tentative Programme of the next Workshop

Sun 26.8.2001	Arrival
Mo 27.8.2001	8.30 Registration
	9.30 Opening
	11.30 Break
	12.00 Keynotes I
	13.30 Lunch
	15.30 Keynotes II
Tue 28.8.2001	9.00 Plenary
	Presentation of Papers in working groups
	Lunch
	13.00 Preparation of Presentation
	14.30
Wed 29.8.2001	9.00 Presentation of Results
	Lunch
	13.00 Group Work
	14.30 Networking
Thu 30.8.2001	9.00 Presentation of Results
	Lunch
	13.00 Recommendations
	14.30 Evaluation
Fr 31.8.2001	Excursion
Sa 1.9.2001	Searca
	Steering Committee, Departure

(I. Howe, CeTSAF)

- **Newsletters:** All newsletters are available in two formats, one optimised for reading online and one designated for printout.
- **Discussion-list:** Explaining the principle of the discussion-list SEAG-L, this page also includes an online form for subscription and links to the archive of previous postings
- **Links:** This section provides a list of several useful links pointing to web resources concerning the South-East Asian region. One can even add his/her own website or other useful resources to this list.
- **Miscellaneous:** There are several other services, including a message board for posting messages of interest; this service is open to all SEAG-members. Beneath a chat room and a guest book can be found.

In order to facilitate information retrieval, a search engine for the contents of the SEAG-Home was set up, the search-database also includes the full text of the conference proceedings. So make use of this offer and visit the SEAG-website at <http://www.seag-network.de>

(A. Deininger, SEAG)