

Editorial

The third edition of this newsletter is a further part of the South-East-Asian-Germany Inter-Alumni Programme supported by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), 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 technical problems, this third of the NEWSLETTER could not be put on the Internet earlier. Anyway, NEWSLETTERS should make possible an intensive communication between German Universities and Universities in South-East-Asia and, also, between the members of the scientific community in the Region.

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

(Editors)

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SEAG - Symposium 2001

The second SEAG Symposium-cum-Workshop on 'Resource Management: Private-Public Partnership and Knowledge Sharing' was opened on 27th August, 2001 at SEARCA, Los Baños, The Philippines. 50 Alumni from the Universities of Göttingen, Kassel and Marburg came from several countries of the region, including Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and a large contingent from The Philippines. Dr. Soekartawi, SEARCA Deputy Director for Graduate Scholarship and Research and Development, delivered the opening address on behalf of SEARCA Director Ruben L. Villareal. Prof ter Meulen from the University of Göttingen, Prof Röpke from the University of Mar-

burg, Dr. Amini from the University of Kassel and Mrs. Anke Stahl, DAAD further welcomed the guests. The key-note addresses were delivered by Dr. William Padolina, IRRI Deputy Director General for Partnerships, Prof. Dr. Röpke, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, University of Marburg and Mrs. Anke Stahl, DAAD, Germany. Over 30 papers were presented under the four key areas 'Public-Private-Partnership: Chances Bias, and Problems/Resource Utilization, Management and Interdependencies between different Natural Resources (Forestry and Plant Production)/Resource Utilization, Management and Interdependencies between different Natural Resources (Animal Production)/Communication Patterns in Knowledge Sharing: Transfer of Science and Technology.

Future activities under the above four areas were crucial in determining the sustainability of the Alumni Network.

Most of the Alumni members vowed their commitment to follow through with their respective plans. In terms of the interdisciplinary characteristic of the Symposium-cum-Workshop, Prof. ter Meulen, University representative for International Relations of the University of Göttingen said that „time has shown that it is not enough to ask specialists of a single discipline to develop strategies for development within a sector. Different specialists must be involved to be able to foresee all implications of a model so that the strategies for a successful implementation without disturbance of the overall system can be developed.“ (*The SEARCA Diary, Vol. 3, No. 3, Sep. 2001*). From this point of view, the



Symposium focused in its second important part and beyond, i.e., a successful exchange of scientific experiences, on establishing an alumni network for developing different instruments for further communication and interconnection between alumni and their host Universities.

Past 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 (please, s. the evaluation of the Symposium in this edition as well as in our homepage.

(Sia. Amini, ISOS)

Accreditation of the Study in Germany in the Home Country: Alumni's Viewpoint

Deutscher Tropentag 2002: Challenges to organic Farming and sustainable Land Use in the Tropics and subtropics

Conference on Agricultural and Natural Resource Management, Research for Development

October 9 – 11, 2002 University of Kassel, in Witzenhausen

The annual Conference on Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural and Natural Resource Management is jointly organized by the universities of Berlin, Bonn, Göttingen, Hohenheim, and Kassel-Witzenhausen, as well as by the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (ATSAF e.V.), in cooperation with BEAF/GTZ.

DTT2002 will be held in Witzenhausen. It will be combined with a ceremony due to the centenary of the Tropical Greenhouse in Witzenhausen, an exhibition devoted to cucurbits (October, 11) and the Day of the Cultivated Plant (October, 12-13).

The objectives of the conference are meetings, exchange of knowledge and experience and interdisciplinary, scientific discussions on global challenges - to balance the production of sufficient, high quality food for an ever increasing world population and an improved livelihood, health and education of the rural population as well as reduced environment pressure caused by agricultural production. Furthermore, the conference deals with information exchange on new approaches to optimise the utilization of scarce resources like soil, energy and water. In more than 80 oral presentations and over 150 posters, the definition, role and potential of organic and low input farming will be analysed. Further information is available under www.tropentag.de.

(Hans Hemann, CRID)

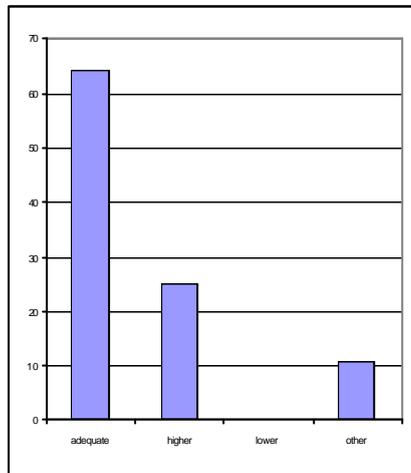


Fig.1: Accreditation in relation to one's own expectations

We asked our alumni to fill in a questionnaire during our symposium-workshop in The Philippines. One of the questions concerned the issue of accreditation of the study in Germany in their home countries.

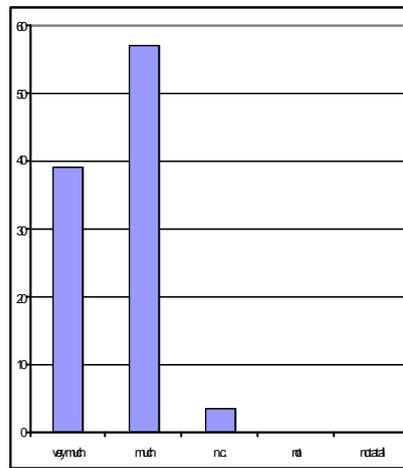


Fig.3: Accreditation in relation to alumni's satisfaction

Furthermore, we asked about the accreditation in comparison with the graduates from their home countries. 65% said it was adequate and 35% even higher (Fig.2).

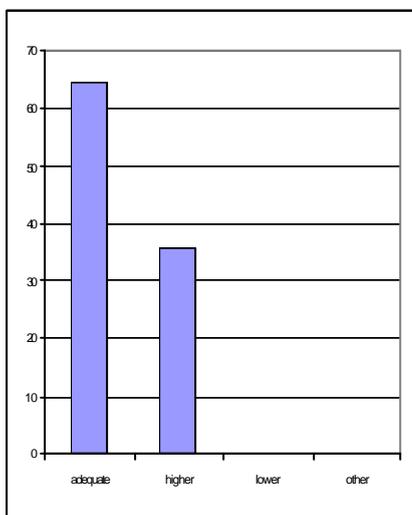


Fig.2: Accreditation in relation to graduates from home universities

Results are shown in these four diagrams. The first question was whether their expectations concerning the value of their education in Germany were met and acknowledged. The majority says that the expectations were adequate. In 25% of the cases even higher (Fig.1).

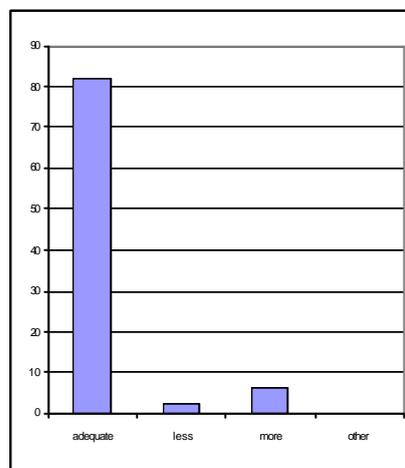


Fig.4: Accreditation in relation to graduates from other countries

Besides, we wanted to know whether the alumni were satisfied with the accreditation. The results are shown in Fig.3. Satisfaction is either very much or much. Only in few cases the comments were missing.

Finally, we asked our alumni to comment the value of education in comparison with graduates from other countries. The results show a high adequateness in almost all cases (Fig.4).

(S. Amini, ISOS)



Alumni Online Database

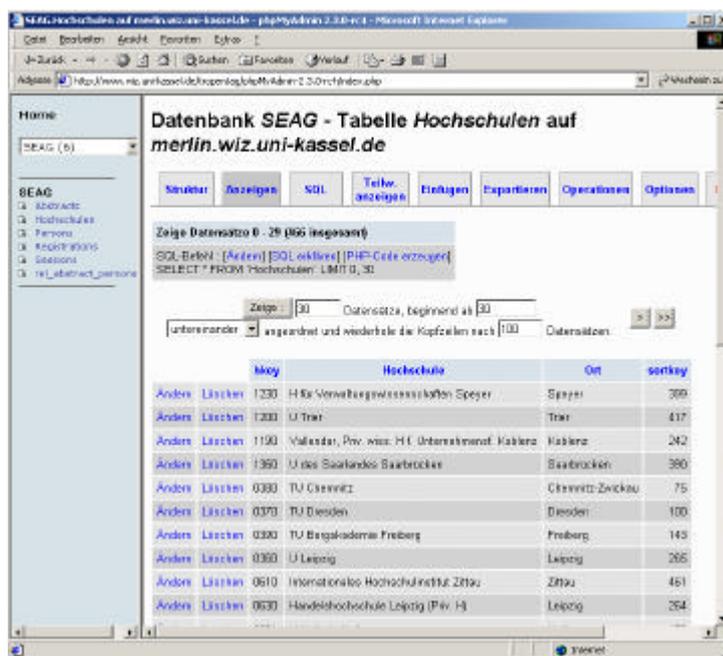
Since the members of the alumni-networks initiated by our alumni-consortium are spread all over the world, Internet based services can facilitate the information exchange within and between these networks tremendously. After the implementation of a homepage for each of the networks as a first step, an online database for common use within the networking projects was installed recently. The advantages of such a database are obvious: There is only one single location, where information will be stored, and - of course given you have the privileges - these data can be accessed and altered from any place in the world where you have access to the Internet. This opens a new dimension in the management of all kind of data related to our alumni networks, hopefully resulting in an even closer and more successful cooperation within and between the networks.

The database management system chosen for this purpose is MySQL, one of the most popular Open Source SQL databases. The SQL part of "MySQL" stands for "Structured Query Language" —the most common standardised language used to access databases. For further technical information, you may refer to the website www.mysql.com. The central part of MySQL is a database server which is installed and maintained at the University of Kassel-Witzenhausen, its name is merlin.wiz.uni-kassel.de (IP: 141.51.230.81).

Of course, in order to use phpMyAdmin, you should be entitled to use our online database. Access can be granted either to an already existing database (e.g. personal information about our alumni) or you may get access to a new, empty database which you may design according to your needs. If you would like to be added to the list of users, please refer to the au-

thor and specify the purpose for which you would like to use the new database within our network.

In order to access the data stored on our database server, each user should use a client-program, which retrieves the information from the server and allows him to view, change or add data to the database. The most universal client is of course a client which can be accessed via your web-browser. For this purpose, the user-interface phpMyAdmin was installed.



With phpMyAdmin you can create, copy, drop and alter tables, delete, edit and add the according fields. phpMyAdmin is designed to communicate in more than 40 different languages and can be accessed via the URL: <http://phpmyadmin.seag-network.de>. Besides the Web-Interface there are several other, platform specific clients, e.g. the products MySQLFront (<http://www.anse.de/mysqlfront/>) or DBTools (<http://www.dbtools.com.br/>) for the Windows-platform or the Gnome MySQL Client (Gmyclient, <http://gmyclient.sourceforge.net>) for Linux platforms, which offer additional features not found within phpMyAdmin. One of the most exciting options of the MySQL-Database is the possibility to retrieve the stored data via a webservice and deliver the contents of the database on your own web-pages. This procedure allows you to create truly dynamic web-pages and can facilitate the maintenance of websites tremendously, since with any update of your database, the according web-page is automatically updated, too. One example of a dynamically created web page

is the page containing the presentations and posters of the forthcoming symposium. This is also the reason why the submission to your contribution to the symposium should be made via our online submission form: any input from this form is automatically stored in our database. Handling the submissions this way, there is no need for us any more to manually update the presentation web page. All necessary data (pdf-version of your abstract, web-version) are automatically created from a Perl-script which is being executed —fed with the data from your input— immediately after you press the Submit-Button. Furthermore, an e-mail message is automatically created and sent to the submitter, allowing him to check his input data immediately after his submission.

Furthermore, another script has been written which retrieves all the abstract data from the online database and compiles them to a small booklet of abstracts which will be delivered at the beginning of the forthcoming conference. As you can see, the concept of the online database offers a lot of opportunities to facilitate the communication process within our network. Hopefully we are able to identify local members who are willing to keep the data of our alumni-database up to date and who are able to introduce and to make use to these new technique within our alumni-network! (Andreas Deininger, SEAG)

Would you like to contribute to our Newsletter?

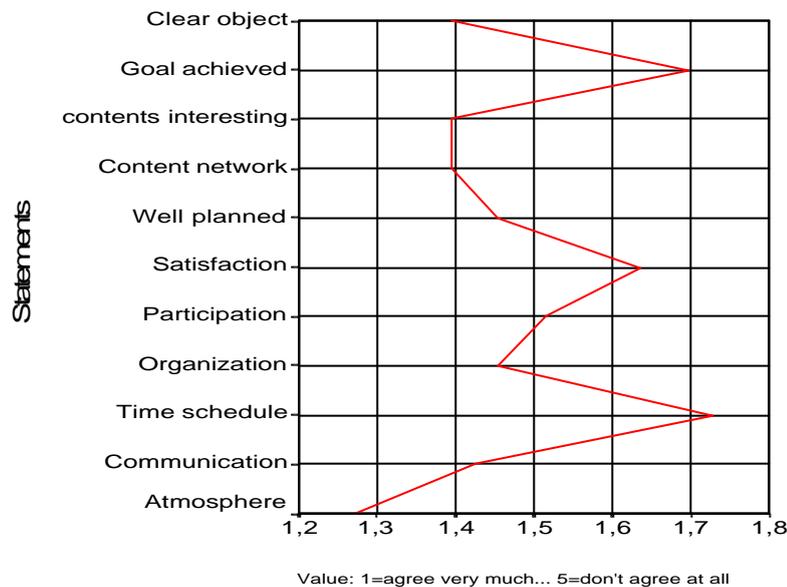
- contributions should not exceed 1,5 pages
- information should be of general interest
- the editorial team reserves its right to select or condense contributions for publication
- contributions which relate to a particular topic of the previous newsletter are particularly welcome
- please add full name and address

Evaluation of SEAG - Symposium 2001

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. Since the symposium followed two closely interrelated objectives, namely the scientific exchange and the networking, it was important to establish whether the objectives of the Symposium were clear to the participants and if so, whether the goals had been achieved at the end of the symposium and whether the results were

ated, what was missing by the participants and which suggestions were put forward for the symposium, which will take place next year.

The results of this evaluation (N=33) are quite encouraging. The average values of the different aspects lie, with a very small standard deviation, relatively high. All values lie below the value 2 (between full agreement and agreement), which is the highest among all evaluations of our alumni-network activities until now. Es-



satisfactory. Furthermore, it was of importance to ask about the perceptions of the participants in terms of contents of the scientific meeting and the networking group meetings. Finally the organisation, plan, the communication pattern and the atmosphere of the symposium were subject to evaluation. Three open questions were put at the end of the questionnaire to find out what was particularly appreci-

pecially interesting are items like excellent organization and the very friendly atmosphere (1.2) of the well-planned symposium-cum-Workshop. All other items e.g. the clearness (1.4) of the goals and achieved goals (1.7) and the communication etc. lie extraordinarily high. This means that the symposium as whole was very successful indeed.

(S. Amini, ISOS)

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Tentative Programme of the next Workshop

Sun 13.10.2002

Arrival

Mo 14.10.2002

8.30

9.30

11.30

12.00

13.30

15.30

Registration

Opening

Break

Keynotes I

Lunch

Keynotes II

Tue 15.10.2002

9.00

Plenary

Presentation of

Papers in

working

groups

Lunch

13.00

14.30

Preparation of

Presentation

Wed 16.10.2002

9.00

Presentation of

Results

Lunch

13.00

14.30

Group Work

Networking

Thu 17.10.2002

9.00

Presentation of

Results

Lunch

13.00

14.30

Recommendations

Evaluation

Fr 18.10.2002

Excursion

Sa 19.10.2002

Steering

Committee, De-

parture

(I. Howe, CeTSAF)



Vietnamese-German Centre at the TU Hanoi