

DIWPA News Letter

No.16

Message from the new Secretary General of the DIWPA: *Where do we go?*

-Kanehiro Kitayama-

On behalf of the DIWPA Secretary Office, I send to you the warmest greetings. I was elected as the new Secretary General in the last Steering Committee meeting. You may find the minutes of the meeting in this newsletter issue. I would like to take this opportunity to send several messages from the DIWPA Office. One of the most important recommendations that the Steering Committee has suggested is the organization of the meeting for the later half of the year 2003 to report early results of IBOY. Upon this recommendation, the DIWPA Office has started preparation to organize the meeting as an international symposium. Originally, the year 2005 was designated as the ABS year (Asian Biodiversity Summit) to report IBOY results. We will, however, organize the first meeting in 2003 because of pressing issues of biodiversity loss and alarming rates of global change.

The DIWPA Charter clearly stipulates our mission as follows: "To promote the sustainable management and utilization of biodiversity in the western Pacific and Asia region through the development of regional programs of collaborative research focused on the inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity and its role in ecosystem process." As it says, we are required to seek the linkage of our results with the development of common regional policies in biodiversity in one way or the other. Participants of IBOY are aware of that each observation site is, in reality, surrounded by man-made landscape of lesser degree of naturalness. Recent developments in IGBP

studies (which is our sister program) suggest that ecosystems (either natural or man-made) are mutually more intimately interconnected than ever thought, and this occurs through fluxes of water, dusts, gases and other materials. Biodiversity must be being influenced by the land use changes of surrounding areas. Furthermore, the degradation of biodiversity must be being transmitted across ecosystems, but merely we are not aware of or do not know how to detect. How will we be able to integrate our biodiversity observation in each research site, which is merely a spot within changing landscapes, into the reality of human dominated globe? The synergy of biodiversity research and global change studies must be sought. We need to start how we can accomplish this goal in the 2003 symposium.

In this March, just before the Steering Committee meeting, I had a chance to join the IBOY training course organized by the DIWPA (Prof. M. Toda and his crews from the Hokkaido Univ.) on Mount Kinabalu, Borneo, one of the IBOY core sites. Many local technicians and young scientists cheerfully conducted the observation in dense tropical rainforests. It was such a delighted chance to see how the standardized methods of DIWPA were being disseminated and how well the spirits of DIWPA to help local scientists in capacity building were accepted. We still have ample time before the symposium. I hope that more sites conduct IBOY observations and report results in the forthcoming symposium. Wish you a joyful biodiversity observation!!!

Biodiversity Research Methods: Now available thru Kyoto University Press!

The standardized manuals of biodiversity observation for the DIWPA-IBOY have been published as book through

the Kyoto University Press. The same contents are still available at <http://ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~gaku/iboyindex.htm> and can be downloaded.

DIWPA Steering Committee

Meeting Minute

Date and time: 10:00-17:00 on March 12, 2002

Place: Conference room of the Center for Ecological Research, Kyoto University, Japan

Attended by

Chair: Hiroya Kawanabe

Steering Committee: Jiro Kikkawa (on behalf of Nigel Stork), Ma Keping, Chou Chang-Hung, Marika Tuiwawa, Arie Budiman, Lee In Kyu, Yuri Zhuravlev, Channa Bambaradeniya, Dieter Mueller-Dombois

Secretary Office: Tohru Nakashizuka, Takakazu Yumoto, Toshi Nagata, Takeshi Matsubara, Kanehiro Kitayama

External advisors: Takashi Kohyama, H. Simbolon, R. Yatsu, Norio Yamamura

(Steering Committee Members absent: Maryati Mohamed, Miguel Fortes, Oleg Timoshkin, Peter Ng)

Minutes

1. New Steering Committee members introduced (refer to the attached list) and welcomed by the Chair.

2. New Secretary General and Secretaries approved (refer to the attached list)

K. Kitayama was recommended and approved to be the new Secretary General. T. Nakashizuka will serve as a SC member of DIVERSITAS.

Upon approval of the new secretaries, several suggestions to reduce the administrative burden of the Secretary General and Secretaries were advised (Mueller-Dombois). Electing a liaison officer was suggested to reduce the administrative burden and it was also suggested that the support from Center for Ecological Research be reinforced (Kikkawa). Concerns of serving for the Secretary Office on a voluntary basis were raised and a suggestion to secure funds to employ secretaries was made (Kohyama).

3. Progress report of IBOY

Progress of IBOY was reported by K. Kitayama: Biodiversity observation was started in Japan, Russia, Taiwan, and Malaysia as of March 2002. A fund was granted from the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science to several Japanese taxonomists and ecologists to promote biodiversity research in SE Asia and to generate a biodiversity database, in which IBOY is considered one of three core project areas. With this fund and also with a

collection of other funds, the following progress was made. Protocol manuals for forest, freshwater, coastal and insular ecosystems are being published, and are being publicized through the DIWPA web site. Prof. Toda and colleagues made sets of equipments for sampling forest arthropods according to the manual and distributed them to DIWPA-IBOY sites in Russia, Korea, Japan, China, China-Taipei, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. Also Prof. Toda offered training courses in Tomakomai for several persons who were responsive for local observations in Russia, Korea, Japan, China and China-Taipei to teach procedures for sampling, sorting and managing specimens and data. They also visited several sites in Malaysia and Indonesia for the same purposes. As a product of this trip, a taxonomy training course for Coleoptera (beetles) and a field biology course are being planned at Cibinong and Gunung Halimun, Java in 2002, in collaboration with the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), an Australian DIWPA-IBOY team and probably Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Similarly, Lakes Baikal and Biwa are being investigated as freshwater sites. well-known examples of “hotspots” of rich and unique biodiversity. Particularly, the littoral zone (believed to be the most species-rich and greatly diversified, owing to high primary productivity and extensive topographic heterogeneity) is a major target area in these lakes. The identification of sampled organisms and their ecological measuring are under study.

Following New Candidate sites were suggested by SC members:

Beijing Forest Ecosystem Res. Sta. (warm temperate deciduous forest) and Changbaishan Forest (temperate), China, Forest

Donghu Lake Station, Fresh water, Wuhan China

Nanjenshan Forest, Taipei

Ravilevu Forest Reserve, Fiji

Kahana Valley Ahupua‘a, Island of O‘ahu, USA (Hawaii)

Sinhanraja tropical rainforest, Sri Lanka, Dr. Channa Bambaradeniya (fauna)

Prof. Nimal Gunatilleke (flora), Prof. Savitra Gunatilleke (flora)

Data Clearing House: Establishment of data clearinghouses was proposed by T. Yumoto.

Two or three data clearinghouses (forest, freshwater, and coastal) need to be established. In his proposal, the clearinghouses treat modified (processed) data only but not raw data. In the case of insect collections, data at order level are needed for early analyses. Specimen and

raw data should belong to each country of origin. Construction of a website to demonstrate IBOY data is needed. However, deciding the locations of clearing houses still need negotiation and consensus among member sites.

As an urgent task, a simple software to keep track the whereabouts and taxonomic status of biological specimens collected from IBOY sites is needed. Data working group of DIWPA may need to be revived and invent the software, which needs to be distributed to each site, get tested and feedback to the data management system and clearing houses as soon as possible.

4. Field Biology Course (FBC) : T. Yumoto reported the FBC of 2001, and those planned for 2002.

Forest ecosystem FBC was conducted successfully in Pasoh, Malaysia, in September 2001. Coastal ecosystem FBC was conducted in Shirahama, Japan, in June 2001. Next FBC for training young students and technician is being planned at Halimun National Park, Java, Indonesia. Another training course with emphasis on the identification of coleoptera is being planned also in Halimun in conjunction with the aforesaid FBC in cooperation with BioNet International and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

As related activity, Channa Bambaradeniya reported that FBC is being planned in Sri Lanka this year. A strong collaboration from DIWPA is requested for.

5. DIVERSITAS Science Plan (handout materials distributed):

Reorganization of DIVERSITAS program and three core projects that were proposed by the chair of DIVERSITAS were reported by T. Nakashizuka. Against these new movements, concerns were addressed by a few committee members that current DIWPA and IBOY activities actually include all three core elements. Moreover, the understatement of DIWPA activities by DIVERSITAS were seriously concerned.

China will hold a regional biodiversity meeting this summer upon a request from the DIVERSITAS Head Office to vitalize regional biodiversity research. It has been approved that DIWPA will be a co-organizer of this meeting.

DIVERSITAS was recently added as a partner of international research programs (IGBP, IHDP, WCRP). Currently, there are no core offices of these international programs in Asian countries. The possibility of locating a core office for DIVERSITAS needs to be considered and

in this regard DIWPA and Asian countries may play a leading role (T. Kohyama).

The briefing of APN was given by Dr. Yatsu, the Director. APN supports networking of Asian and Pacific countries in environmental research. Biodiversity will be an emphasis area of the next APN programs. The missions of DIWPA meet the APN's interests. It has been recommended to send funding proposals to APN.

6. Post IBOY Programs: Free discussions were conducted.

A preliminary workshop to report ecological data of IBOY by all participatory sites was proposed for the end of 2003. This workshop is recommended to hold before the APBS (Asia Pacific Biodiversity Summit originally proposed for 2005) to keep the momentum of IBOY and keep the enthusiasm of participants. Secretary Office is suggested to seek funds and prepare for the 2003 meeting.

As to the long-term perspectives beyond the IBOY, several suggestions were made including the maintenance of selected core IBOY sites as LTER, inclusion of human dimensions in the program, collaboration with Millennium Assessment project, emphases of traditionally managed ecosystems in IBOY, diversity of species interaction, relation between cultural diversity and biodiversity and multi disciplinary research. The dissemination and expansion of IBOY beyond 2002 and listed sites are another possibility. Concrete visions and goals of DIWPA beyond IBOY need to be stipulated by 2004 and to accomplish this holding a workshop is suggested.

Drafted by Kanehiro Kitayama
Read thru by Tohru Nakashizuka

Member List of DIWPA Steering Committee

Stork, Nigel

Cooperative Research Centre for Tropical
Rainforest Ecology and Management
P.O. Box 6811, Cairns QLD 4870
Australia
Tel: +61-7-4042-1249, Fax: +61-7-4042-1247
E-mail: Nigel.stork@jcu.edu.au

Ma, Keping

Biodiversity Committee, the Chinese Academy of
Sciences
20 Nanxincun, Xiangshan, Beijing 100093, China
Tel: +86-10-82599518, Fax: +86-10-82591781
E-mail: makp@brim.ac.cn or kpma@ns.ibcas.ac.cn

Chou, Chang-Hung

Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs,
National Sun Yat-Sen University
70 Lien Hai Road, Kaohsiung 804, Taiwan
Tel: +886-7-525-2379, Fax: +886-7-525-2360,
E-mail: choumasa@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Tuiwawa, Marika

South Pacific Regional Herbarium, Institute of
Applied Science, The University of the South
Pacific, GPO Box 1168 Suva, Fiji
Tel: +679-212874, Fax: +679-300373
E-mail: Marika.Tuiwawa@usp.ac.fj

Kawanabe, Hiroya

Lake Biwa Museum
Karasuma, Oroshimo, Kusatsu, Shiga 525-0001,
Japan
Tel: +81-77-568-4800, Fax: +81-77-568-4848
E-mail: kawanabe@lbm.go.jp

Budiman, Arie

R & D Center for Biology-LIPI, Jl. Ir. H. Juanda
18, Bogor 16122, Indonesia
Tel: +62-251-321038, Fax: +62-251-325854
E-mail: ariebud@indo.net.id

Lee, In Kyu

Biodiversity Center, National Institute of
Environmental Research, Kyungseo-dong, Seo-
gu, Incheon 404-170, Korea
Tel: +82-32-560-7260, Fax: +82-32-560-7271
E-mail: inkyulee@me.go.kr

Mohamed, Maryati

Tropical Biology and Conservation Unit, University
of Malaysia Sabah
Locked Bag No. 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia
Tel: +60-88-499000, Fax: +60-88-492742
E-mail: dmaryati@ums.edu.my

Fortes, Miguel

Marine Science Institute CS, University of the
Philippines
Dil. Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Tel: +63-2-9223959, Fax: +63-2-9247678, 9243735
E-mail: fortesm@msi.upd.edu.ph

Timoshkin, Oleg

Limnological Institute SD RAS
Ulan-Batorskaya, 3; P.O.Box 4199, 664 033,
Irkutsk, Russia
Tel: +7-3952-46-02-18, Fax: +7-3952-46-04-05
E-mail: tim@lin.irk.ru

Zhuravlev, Yuri

Institute of Biology and Pedology, Far East Branch,
Russian Academy of Sciences
Prospekt Stoletiya 690022, Vladivostok, Russia
Tel: +7-4232-310430, Fax: +7-4232-310193
E-mail: Zhuravle@ibss.marine.su

Ng, Peter

Raffles Museum, National University of Singapore
Kent Ridge 119260, Singapore
Tel: +65-874-6282, 2969, 5082, Fax: +65-774-8101
E-mail: peterng@nus.edu.sg

Bambaradeniya, Channa

Biodiversity Unit, IUCN - The World Conservation
Union, Sri Lanka Country Office, No. 53, Horton
Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
Tel: 941-694094, Fax: 941-682470
E-mail: cnb@iucnsl.org

Mueller-Dombois, Dieter

Department of Botany, University of Hawaii
3190 Maile Way #101, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822,
USA
Tel: +1-808-254-1873, Fax: +1-808-254-1873
E-mail: amdhawaii@aol.com

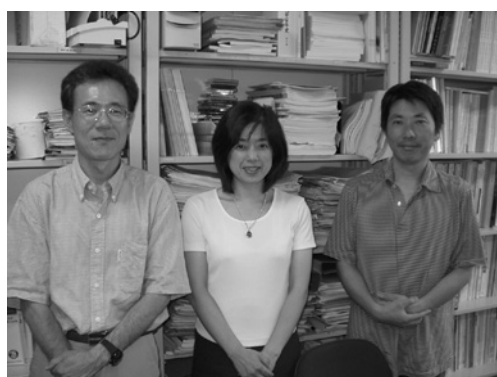
.....

**The IBOY International Symposium
suggested: IBOY has now a clearer goal!!!**

As briefly introduced in the message of the new Secretary
General, the Steering Committee in March 2002 has
suggested to organize the first International Symposium
after IBOY in the end of 2003 to bring together
participants of the DIWPA-IBOY. The DIWPA Office

has started preparation to organize the meeting. Funds
will be raised as seed money, however, additional any forms
of financial support will be appreciated. This symposium
will be held primarily to report early results of the IBOY
observation in the western Pacific and Asia. The date,
place and exact goals of this symposium will be announced
later.

==Line-Up of the New DIWPA Secretaries==



Mr.Kitayama Ms.Nishino Mr.Nagata

The new Secretary Office members were approved at the March Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Kanehiro Kitayama, the new Secretary General, took over from Mr. Tohru Nakashizuka. Mr. Kitayama is a Professor of plant ecology at the CER (Center for Ecological Research, Kyoto University). Mr. Nakashizuka has been appointed as a member of the DIVERSITA Scientific Committee, but still remains in the DIWPA Office and is in charge of



Mr.Nakashizuka



Mr.Yumoto



Mr.Matsubara

the Monitoring and Evaluation Section. Mr. Nakashizuka is a Professor in the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature. Mr. Takakazu Yumoto is an Associate Professor of Plant Ecology at the CER, and in charge of the DIWPA Planning and Operation Section (Field Biology Course). Mr. Toshi Nagata is a Professor of Microbial Ecology at the CER, and is in charge of the Finance and Audit Section. Mr. Takeshi Matsubara is an Associate Professor in Limnology at the Shukutoku University, and is in charge of the Planning and Operation Section (News letters and advertisements). Ms. Tomoko Nishino is the Secretarial Assistant. She has specialized in the American Literature. She has been serving for the DIWPA Office since 2001.

==Number of members of DIWPA on April 1, 2002==

Areas	No.	Areas	No.
Australia	13	Mongolia	4
Bangladesh	1	Myanmar	2
Brunei	3	Nepal	1
Cambodia	1	New Caledonia	2
Canada	1	New Zealand	4
China	41	Pakistan	1
Cook Islands	1	Palau	1
DPR Korea	1	Papua New Guinea	3
Fiji	15	Philippines	8
Finland	1	Russia	33
France	14	Singapore	21
French Polynesia	7	Sri Lanka	3
Germany	1	Switzerland	1
Guam	3	Taiwan, ROC	17
Hungary	1	Thailand	13
India	7	The Netherlands	2
Indonesia	15	U.K.	4
Japan	109	U.S.A.	23
Korea	15	Vietnam	10
Laos	1	Western Samoa	6
Malaysia	33	Zambia	4
Micronesia	2		
Total		449	

DIWPA OFFICE

CHAIRPERSON

Hiroya Kawanabe

SECRETARY

Kanehiro Kitayama, Tohru Nakashizuka, Takakazu Yumoto

Toshi Nagata, Takeshi Matsubara

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Tomoko Nishino

Center for Ecological Research, Kyoto University

Kamitanakami-Hirano, Otsu 520-2113, JAPAN, Tel: +81-77-549-8200, Fax: +81-77-549-8201

E-mail: tnishino@ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp

<http://ecology.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~gaku/diwpaindex.html>