DIWPA News Letter

No.21

Office: Center for Ecological Reserach, Kyoto University, Otsu, Japan

bioGENESIS : A new core project of DIVERSITAS launched

Because biodiversity is the outcome of evolutionary diversification since the origin of life, an evolutionary framework is critically important for promoting biodiversity science. In fact, evolutionary biology — including systematics, paleobiology, biogeography, and population genetics — has long endeavored to document how many species exist on Earth, to understand the processes whereby these originated and adapted, to chart how they are distributed, and to infer how they are related to one another in the tree of life. However, the evolutionary biology community has not been so well represented in DIVERSITAS activities.

In order to enlarge and strengthen DIVERSITAS activities by increasing the representation of evolutionary biologists, the organization of "bioGENESIS" as a new Core Project within DIVERSITAS was approved at the Science Committee meeting in Paris from May 11-13, 2006. The Scientific Committee of bioGENESIS, co-chaired by Michael Donoghue (Yale University, USA) and Tetsukazu Yahara (Kyushu University, Japan), met for the first time in Fukuoka, Japan, on November 2-3. Members of the Scientific Committee who attended were Elena Conti (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Joel Cracraft (American Museum of Natural History, USA), Daniel Faith (The Australian National Museum, Australia), Christoph Häuser (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Germany), Lucia Lohmann (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), Susana Magallon (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico) and Rafael Zardoya (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales-CSIC, Spain). Other members of the Scientific Committee are Craig Moritz (University of California Berkeley, USA) and Simon Tillier (French National Museum of Natural History, France). Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Deputy Director of DIVERSITAS, represented the Paris secretariat.

The main goals of the meeting in Fukuoka were 1) to establish the scientific priorities of bioGENESIS, which aims to provide an evolutionary framework for biodiversity science; and 2) to propose a set of activities for the coming year. The meeting was very successful and we anticipate that the draft science plan and implementation strategy of bioGENESIS will be approved by April 2007 and ready for broad dissemination by the summer of 2007. The draft science plan identified the following foci and tasks.

Focus 1. New strategies and tools for documenting biodiversity

- **Task 1.** Discovering the unknown
- **Task 2.** Capturing biodiversity information
- **Task 3.** Developing phyloinformatics

Focus 2. The dynamics of diversification

- **Task 1.** Identifying the drivers of evolutionary change in diversity
- **Task 2.** Inferring the evolutionary history of biotic assembly
- **Task 3.** Assessing the role of evolutionary factors in shaping spatial patterns of biodiversity
- **Task 4.** Analyzing the evolution of ecological/metabolic traits in relation to ecosystem function

Focus 3. The evolutionary biology of human-induced environmental change

- **Task 1.** Understanding evolutionary responses to anthropogenic impacts
- **Task 2.** Applying evolutionary biology to sustain biodiversity and promote human well-being

The first activities of bioGENESIS will include:

-A meeting to establish synergies between the Tree of Life community and the Bar Code of Life (April 2007). This activity will be carried on in collaboration with the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT), and will be held at the US National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) in Durham, North Carolina.

-A symposium on "Evolutionary Biology in the 21st Century — Tracing Patterns of Evolution through the Tree of Life" (3-6 June 2007, Beijing)

-A workshop on "Mediterranean biogeography" (15-17 July 2007, Zurich).

The symposium "Evolutionary Biology in the 21st Century — Tracing Patterns of Evolution through the Tree of Life " aims to bring together a group of internationally renowned evolutionary biologists to exchange ideas on their most recent research, to build bridges between evolutionary biologists inside and outside of China, and to promote evolutionary research in China. Yin-Long Qiu (Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and University Herbarium, University of Michigan) and Michael Donoghue are responsible for organizing the symposium, which will be sponsored in part by bioGENESIS.

We hope that the new DIVERSITAS core project bioGENSIS will provide a forum for evolutionary biologists around the world, including the Western Pacific and Asian region, to promote biodiversity science that is becoming increasingly important to understanding how global changes threaten biodiversity and its sustainable use.

Reported by Tetsukazu Yahara
(Kyushu University)
&
Michael Donoghue
(Yale University)

DIWPA's role in capacity building

In the past three years, DIWPA has been promoting capacity building for students and young scientists in taxonomy and ecology in the Asia and Western Pacific region. A total of eight DIWPA International Field Biology Courses were held all together. The target ecosystems and taxonomic groups ranged widely from a lake to a tropical rain forest, and from plants to insects. Seventy participants of various backgrounds joined the courses and learned field and laboratory skills, and research scopes from international lecturers. In addition, DIWPA was affiliated with two CTFS Field Biology Courses in Asia. Such filed courses will provide participants with a chance to interact with other participants as well as to be exposed to environmental problems occurring in every natural ecosystem. We believe that the DIWPA courses have contributed considerably to foster young scientists by teaching them skills and the importance of mission-oriented research.

DIWPA International Field Biology Course

16 – 25 November 2006	The 4th DIWPA International Field Biology Course in Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia
25 July – 13 August 2006	2006 DIWPA/COE International Field Biology Course in Sabah, Malaysia
12 – 21 December 2005	The 3rd DIWPA International Field Biology Course in Chibinong, Indonesia
24 August – 4 September 2005	2005 DIWPA/COE International Field Biology Course on Mount Kinabalu
17– 23 August 2005 29 August – 2 September 2005	2005 DIWPA/COE International Field Biology Course in Lake Biwa, Japan
24 January – 2 February 2005	The 2nd DIWPA International Field Biology Course in Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia, the second course
12 – 23 August 2004	DIWPA/COE Field Biology Course in Lake Biwa
19 – 28 January 2004	7th DIWPA International Field Biology Course (Gunung Halimun National Park, Indonesia)

Field Biology Course DIWPA co-organized

15 June – 14 July 2005	CTFS-AA International Field Biology Course 2005, Khao Chong, Thailand
15 July – 15 August 2004	CTFS-AA International Field Biology Course 2004 at Lambir Hills National Park

Report Workshop

The 2nd Workshop "Synergy between carbon management and biodiversity conservation in tropical rain forests" in Sabah, Malaysia

30 November – 1 December 2005

Core members of the 2nd Workshop "Synergy between carbon management and biodiversity conservation in tropical rain forests"

DIWPA and the Sate Department of Forestry, Sabah, Malaysia, organized the 2nd international workshop "Synergy between Carbon Management & Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Rain Forests" in the Rainforest Interpretation Centre, Forestry Research Centre, Sabah in Nov. 30-Dec.1, 2005. This workshop was funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). Approximately 50 people participated from domestic and overseas private, research and government sectors. DIWPA was awarded a 2-year project fund "Synergy between Ecosystems Change and Biodiversity Studies in the Western Pacific and Asia: Establishing Case Studies for Carbon Management and Biodiversity Conservation (APN2005-03-CMY)" from APN, and established a pilot project in Deramakot, Sabah, with the Sate Department of Forestry. This workshop was conducted to disseminate the synergy concept and to present prelimarny results of the pilot project. In the pilot site, researchers of DIWPA investigated the amount of carbon and biodiversity in a number of forests with varying degree of logging damages with various intensities of past timber extraction. Seven papers on the technical issues of carbon and biodiversity measurements were presented from the pilot project. Three other papers presented the issues relating to the clean developmet mechanisms and the sustainable management of Indonesian tropical rain forests. Entire proceedings of the workshop are avaialble at the DIWPA website.

Reported by Kanehiro Kitayama
(Center for Ecological Research
Kyoto University)

News

Biodiversity incorporated into the Initial Science Plan of MAIRS

MAIRS (Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional Study) is a new regional consortium for the integrated study of earth system processes in the Asia Monsoon Region. MAIRS was proposed by Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and became the first IRS project under its leadership in 2003. The MAIRS consortium is now guided by a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and supported by an International Project Office (IPO) in Beijing. MAIRS recognizes six cross-cutting issues of environmental change in this region: water, energy, food security, air quality and health, natural disasters and biodiversity. Initial science plan can be downloaded at http://www.mairs-essp.org/index.asp.

Reported by Kanehiro Kitayama
(Center for Ecological Research
Kyoto University)

Report Field Biology Course

2006 DIWPA International Field Biology Course Held on Mount Kinabalu "Ecosystem management and biodiversity in tropical rain forests"

July 25 — Aug. 13, 2006

Mount Kinabalu is a protected park, well known as a World Heritage site for its successful conservation of the ecosystems and mega-biodiversity of tropical rain forests. Six cheerful undergraduate and graduate students from USA, Korea, Japan and Malaysia participated the course. They visited several locations on Mount Kinabalu and learned the diversity of forest ecosystems. The participants also visited the tropical rain forests in Deramakot as a satellite visit. Deramakot is well known for its sustainable management of tropical rain forests where timber production and biodiversity conservation are jointly achieved through forest certification and reduced-impact logging. After visiting these locations, the participants learned some field methods to study flora, fauna and ecosystem processes from Malaysian and Japanese lecturers. Particularly, this course emphasized the nutrient dynamics and associated organisms in the tropical forests. The participants visited the lowland tropical rain forests on the mountain foot, dug a few soil pits, and collected soils for laboratory analyses. In the laboratory, they learned laboratory techniques to study microbial processes. At the same time, they also climbed a canopy walkway and observed biodiversity in the canopy layer and realized how trees formed the structure of rain forest ecosystems. Beside the fieldwork on the ecosystems and biodiversity, the participants also appreciated how local people were earning subsistence by protecting the tropical forests. This field biology course was financially supported by the MEXT Grant-in-Aid for the 21st Century COE Program of Kyoto University (A14).

Participants visiting the tropical rain forest in Deramakot, with a gigantic dipterocarp tree.

A lecture (far left) teaching the field methods to study soil ecosystem processes in the lowland rain forest on Mount Kinabalu.

Reported by Kanehiro Kitayama
(Center for Ecological Research
Kyoto University)

Report Field Biology Course

A month in Sinharaja, Sri Lanka the CTFS-AA field biology course 2006

Summer 2006

This summer, the Center for Tropical Forest Science — Arnold Arboretum (CTFS-AA) ran its sixth international field biology course at Sinharaja World Heritage Site, Sri Lanka, in association with the University of Perideniya and the Forest Department Sri Lanka. Sinharaja is the best preserved area of rainforest in Sri Lanka, and contains many endemic species. In fact, approximately 70% of the 190 tree species found in Sinharaja are endemic to Sri Lanka. Sinharaja has also long been a focus for research on silviculture and forest restoration, and the establishment of the 25 ha Sinharaja Forest Dynamics Plot in 1993 galvanized further research on topics ranging from soils and hydrology to plant population dynamics, entomology and plant-insect interactions. The plot harbours half the tree species found in Sinharaja and one quarter of the species found in Sri Lanka. This year's course was, therefore, able to draw on the experience and knowledge of substantial team of biologists, who have worked at Sinharaja over the years. Twenty-one students from 10 countries including Japan, Taiwan, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, India, United Kindom, and Sri Lanka, attended the course. The participants enjoyed a month-long program of lectures and field practicals, and in addition completed two independent pieces of field research. In the middle of the course, the participants further enjoyed an extended excursion to Kandy, the dry forests at Giritale, and montane forests at Horton Plains.

Highlights of the course included, the Gunatilleke's introduction to *Mesua ferrea* and *Mesua nagassarium*, Kotagomo's bird flocks, Sinharaja's remarkable abundance of leeches, the Perahera in Kandy, Sukumar's tour of the elephants at Giritale, Wolfgang Dittus' introduction to primate behavioural ecology among the ruins of Polonnaruwa, and Mark Ashton's reforestation of the Sinharaja landscape.

The reports of previous course at Lambir Hills, Sarawak (2004) and Khao Chong, Thailand (2005) are available at www.ctfs.si.edu. The report from Sinharaja will be posted later this year.

These field courses are fully funded by the CTFS-AA program and are aimed at graduate entry-level students, with the aim of providing a solid, broad-based introduction to tropical forest biology before students begin their thesis work. It includes a strong practical element and students learn to develop research ideas through independent projects. The CTFS is looking for institutional partners in the region to expand the program and increase the number and types of courses offered. Anybody interested should contact Dr Rhett Harrison at ctfs_aa_fieldcourse@yahoo.com.

Next year's course has yet to be announced, but will probably be held at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, Yunnan, China. Please watch the CTFS webpage for future announcements.

Reported by Rhett D. Harrison
(Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama)

Report — Field Biology Course

4th DIWPA International Field Biology Course in Indonesia (IBOY Training Course in Indonesia)

16 – 25 November 2006

A taxonomic training course was held in Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia, as the 4th DIWPA International Field Biology Course in Indonesia from 16th November to 25th November, 2006. This course was hosted by Research Center for Biology – LIPI, the government of Indonesia, and in part supported by three COE Programs of Japanese Universities (Hokkaido, Kanazawa and Kyoto University).

Participants learning field techniques.

The program "DIWPA International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY)" initiated coordinated field observations in the core and satellite field sites in Java in 2001. This series of four taxonomic courses was organized to better handle the biological specimens collected in the IBOY sites as well as to encourage young scientists and students to pursue research career in taxonomic studies. A specific taxonomic group was selected for training as emphasis area in each year. This year, the training course focused on soil fauna. A total of 14 active researchers participated from various parts of Indonesia. Because of the nature of the material of this year, i.e. soil fauna, they were rather experienced scientists with some backgrounds. General lectures on the methods of sampling, preparation of specimens, identification, practice of sorting, identification at class, order, family, and genus level, were given in the course. In addition, special lectures on soil animals, biogeography, biodiversity, was given by Indonesian and Japanese lecturers. Prior to the lectures and laboratory practices, they visited Gunung Salak, a nearby low mountain, where they learned the methods of field samplings.

This was the last of the series of courses in Indonesia because two of the Japanese COE programs would soon end. For commemorating the successful series, Dr. Deddy Darnaedi, the Director of Research Center for Biology-LIPI, and Dr. Arie Budiman, the former Director and the current DIWPA Steering member of Indonesia, gave warm closing speech. Participants unanimously selected Dr. Gen Takaku for the best lecturer in the current course. This successful course would not have been possible without the sincere cooperation from Dr. Takaku and all other enthusiastic lecturers and organizers.

Dr. Hasegawa teaching participants how to identify Collembola (spring tails).

Reported by Masahiro Ohara
(The Hokkaido University Museum
Hokkaido University)

News from Taiwan

Professor Chang-Hung Chou, newly appointed as Chair Professor and Director of Research Center for Biodiversity, China Medical University at Taichung, Taiwan, retired from the President of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in August 1, 2006 and have accepted a new position as mentioned. Recently Dr. Chou has organized a national project of "Impact and vulnerability assessment of climate change on ecosystem in Taiwan." Seven subprojects are included and the research will be started November, 2006. A brief introduction is given as follows:

Since last 50 years, Taiwan population has tremendously increased leading to a great prosperous economic development. However, the overuse of land, heavy deforestation and consequence of the 921 earthquake have resulted in an increasing landslide with mud and stones in the area after a heavy rainfall that also led to a great environmental change. Furthermore, a great amount of greenhouse gases, namely CO_2, NO_x, SO_2, CFC, etc. released from all kinds of petroleum industry or combustion of wood material have significantly increased, leading to a global warming and resulting in a global climate change. The global climate change made a significant impact on both natural and man-made ecosystems. As the consequence of changing ecosystem, a great loss of biodiversity, decreasing productivity of forest, agricultural crops, livestock, and fishes, as well as change of marine ecosystem occur in Taiwan. Evidently, the climate change also causes infectious diseases of public health. The unknown viruses, such as SARS or avian flu cause a tremendous loss of human life. The economy loss should be evaluated and predicting models should be established in order to prevent such losses from any natural disaster. Under the thematic research, seven subjects will be conducted, focusing on the impact assessment of climate change on Taiwan ecosystem, in particular the vulnerability assessment of the ecosystem, including biodiversity, agriculture productivity, forestry, fishery, water resource, land conservation, marine ecosystem, and public health. In order to prevent further loss from the disaster caused by climate change, model (s) of economic assessment have to be done. The research findings can be provided to governmental agents or policy makers for further implementing the environmental protection and nature resource in order to maintain the sustainability of national development in Taiwan.

Dr. Chou organize a national project of "Impact and vulnerability assessment of climate change on ecosystem in Taiwan."

In addition to the project, Dr. Chou is preparing another new project entitled "Research on Biodiversity of Chinese Medicinal Plants in Taiwan" which will include genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity. We welcome scientists outside Taiwan to be involved. Please keep in touch with Professor Chou if you are interested in the project mentioned above. Moreover, Chou is organizing an International Symposium on Diversity of Ethnobotany for the 21st Pacific Science Congress to be held on 13-18, June, 2007 in Okinawa. We are looking forward to inviting speakers from the US, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, China and countries for the Pacific Rim area. If possible, Chou would also like to organize a post-conference of the 21st Pacific Science Congress for Symposium on Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment to be held during 18-19, June, 2007, right after the Okinawa congress.

Reported by Chang-Hung Chou
(Research Center for Biodiversity
China Medical University, Taiwan)

Asia Chapter to the Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation launched

This summer to help further the aims of the Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation in the Asia-Pacific region, an Asian Chapter was launched at the annual meeting in Kunming, China, 2006. The ATBC publishes the well respected journal *Biotropica* and is the largest and most internationally representative academic society for tropical biology and conservation. For further information please see www.atbio.org.

The ATBC - Asia Chapter will organise annual regional meetings, and other ideas such as special issues in *Biotropica* on regional topics, workshops, and training courses have been suggested as possible future activities. All ATBC members from the Asian-Pacific region are automatically members of the chapter, and other ATBC members interested in joining can do so without additional dues by writing to atbc_asia@yahoo.com. Membership of the ATBC at just $US65 (or just $US35 for developing country members) has many advantages, including six issues of *Biotropica* each year, free page charges for publishing in the journal, the Tropinet Newsletter, and discounts at meetings organised by the society. Free online access to *Biotropica* is also now available to all students for a three year period.

Reported by Rhett D. Harrison
(Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama)

The Asian Chapter's first annual meeting in India

6 – 8 March 2007

The Asia chapter's first annual meeting, "Averting biodiversity meltdown in the Asian tropics", is to be held at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai (formerly known as Madras), India on 6 – 8th March 2007. A brochure and registration form is available at www.ifpindia.org/atbc. Early registration is recommended!

Mahabalipuram is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring ancient temples and rock carvings almost 2000 years old. Dr Peter Ashton, who recently received an ATBC lifetime achievement award, will give the keynote address and Dr William F. Laurance, ATBC President, will give a valedictory speech. Post conference excursions to the Western Ghats and Andaman Islands are also being arranged.

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Xishuanbanna Tropical Botanic Garden, China

Secretary
Rhett D. Harrison
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

The Initial Synthesis Meeting of PABITRA Network in Republic of Palau

7 — 11 August 2006

Participants at the PABITRA Seminar in Palau
9 August 2006

From August 7-11, 2006, an initial synthesis meeting of PABITRA (the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Transect) Network was held in the island Republic of Palau. The PABITRA Coordinator for Micronesia, Dr. Harley Manner, with the cooperation of Ms. Tarita Holm, Chairperson of the Palau Natural Resources Council, organized the workshop. In addition to Dr. Manner, two overseas PABITRA core members, Dr. Dieter Mueller-Dombois (Emeritus Professor of Botany and Ecology) and Dr. Curtis Daehler (expert on invasive species), were invited to explain the PABITRA concept under the capacity building and training project funded by APN (the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research CAPaBLE Grant CBA 2006-01NSY-Manner).

The first day, August 7, was spent on a field trip to the Rock Islands, a relatively pristine limestone forest that contains a large number of endemic species. The morning of the second day, August 8, was spent in official meetings, first with the Minister of Resources and Development, Fritz Koshiba, who delegated Ms. Vicki Riungel to assist with the logistics of the PABITRA workshop. A meeting with the Board of the Palau Conservation Society (PCS) followed. The mission of PABITRA was scrutinized in this meeting as there was some suspicion as to PABITRA's motives. We were asked (1) what can PABITRA add to ecosystem knowledge in Palau that is not already known, and (2) what is PABITRA's motivation by coming to Palau. After providing apparently reasonable answers, the PCS Board Members decided to collaborate with PABITRA. Also on that day we visited the Palau Automated Land and Resources Information System office (PALARIS). PALARIS is the National GIS unit of the Government of Palau. The remaining day was spent on a reconnaissance tour along Babeldaob's new compact road.

The third day, August 9, was spent in a seminar with 26 local professionals. They included members of several Palauan government departments, representatives of NGOs, environmental consultants and two Palau State Governors. Ms. Tarita Holm acted as the MC. A welcome address was given by the Minister for Resources and Development, all attendees were introduced, and the three PABITRA core members each made presentations. The presentations covered PABITRA's history, goals and prior accomplishments in other Pacific Islands and the need for biodiversity science in managing ecosystems and the threats of global change. The task of biodiversity assessment and monitoring as a fundamental learning activity was discussed with introduction of the PABITRA Manual. The afternoon session was devoted to presentations by the core members on methods of analyzing vegetation, displaying ecosystem features, on analyzing ecosystem threats, and agroecosystems. Informal and lively discussions accompanied each of the seminar topics.

Following the seminar day, a smaller group of workshop participants met for an all day fieldtrip to Ngardok Lake on August 10. After a trail walk aiming at entitation (recognition of vegetation patterns) attendees were shown with hands-on experience how to determine the minimal plot size for a relevé. A seasonal swamp forest was selected for this exercise. It was found that the minimal area for the analysis of this forest type exceeded 64 m^2 by far. Time constraints prevented completion of the species/area analysis. A rapid method for structuring vegetation cover vertically by horizontal strata was also demonstrated. In the morning of that day, the PABITRA core members and Ms. Tarita Holm were invited to a radio talk show. Meetings were also arranged with the Vice-President of Palau, Mr. Elias Camsek Chin and the

President's Chief of Staff, Mr. Billy G. Kuartei, representing the President who was currently off Island.

August 11 was used as a second seminar day. Professor Mueller-Dombois began by leading a general discussion on the factors affecting vegetation. An ecological world climate map on a CD was shown as analyzed by Walter-type diagrams and discussed with regard to the world position of Palau's rain forest. It was pointed out that on a world scale Palau's forest should be classified as a lowland tropical rain forest since Babeldaob's highest elevation is not even reaching 300 m. The term upland forest (as used for the same forest) is locally acceptable since this forest serves primarily as watershed cover.

A first attempt was made to synthesize existing information of Palauan ecosystems and to define potential PABITRA transects and landscape segments from the central mountain range inland to the coast. The following watersheds were considered as potential sites for long-term study: (1) the Ngerikiil watershed, a highly impacted watershed which all participants considered to be important for study. This watershed has previously been selected already as an EBM (Ecosystem Based Management) site; (2) the Meskelat river area (within the Ngerdorch watershed), a low impact site that has the largest contiguous patch of UP2H forest class with trees > 30cm dbh and 70% crown closure of the main canopy, and rain gage stations; (3) the Diongradid watershed, an area previously mined for bauxite, which still contains healthy upland forest. This watershed is the site of an EBM project for the next two years; (4) the Ngeremeduu watershed where a CA (Conservation Alternative) project was proposed.

The Palau PABITRA group selected the Ngerikiil and Diongradid watersheds as PABITRA study sites for the 2007 Joint Analysis Workshop planned for 28 March-5 April, 2007. As preparation for this second and more field intensive workshop, the group decided to prepare climate diagrams (both manually and using GIS) for the two watersheds and to list and collect the available information on the two watersheds (e.g. plant checklists, air photos, maps, climatic records). PALARIS offered to prepare three dimensional profile diagrams of the two watersheds. In addition, a list of supplies (up to $1000) in terms of field survey equipment was suggested to be prepared soon so that this material will be available for the 2007 workshop.

The group was asked to review the PABITRA Manual and to begin a consultation process with the local communities about the 2007 workshop and the potential study sites, and to recruit students from PCC (Palau Community College) and interested villagers in an effort to build capacity for ecological biodiversity assessment. Potential sources of funding for future activities were also discussed. These included: APN Capable grants, the U.S. Forest Service (equipment, fire & invasive species), The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, USAID, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), GEF (Global Environmental Facility), UNESCO, and UNCBD-GTI (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity-Global Taxonomic Initiative).

Fieldtrip group resting at Ngardok Lake

The participants also suggested that the following scientists be invited: Dr. Margie Falanruw (Biology and Agroforestry), Dr. Jim Juvik (Climatology/ Hydrology), Dr. Art Whistler (Botany), and Dr. Kim Bridges (Quantitative Ecology). Expertise on photography and methodology for data management was also suggested. Dr. Manner noted that social-cultural-economic aspects of landuse needed to be incorporated.

Following the radio talk show, the PABITRA core members and Ms. Tarita Holm were interviewed by reporters of the Palau Newspapers (Palau Horizon and Tia Belau). Articles on PABITRA appeared on August 11, 2006.

Reported by
Dr. Harley Manner
(University of Guam)

Meetings

Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Planted Forests in Southeast Asia

Date: 15-18 January 2007
Venue: Parkcity Everly Hotel, Bintulu, Sarawak, Malaysia
On-line registration: www.plantedforestproject.com
Secretariat: CTPF 2007, Conservation Department, Sarawak, Malaysia

APN International Seminar "Pathways Towards a Sustainable Society with Biodiversity Conservation"

Date: 3 February 2007, Saturday
Time: 10:30 – 17:30 (Registration begins at 10:00)
Venue: Museum Hall, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art
Free Admission
Language: English / Japanese (Simultaneous interpretation available)
http://www.apn.gr.jp/en/indexe.html

DIWPA will help organizing this international seminar on biodiversity as co-organizer.

IUFRO Conference on Forest Landscape Restoration

Date: 14-19 May 2007
(14-16 May Technical Sessions
with 1- and 3-day Post-Conference Field Trips)
Call for Papers by 31 January 2007

Venue: COEX Convention Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/korea

Hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute and IUFRO Divisions 1, 6, and 8.
Sponsored by the Korea Forest Service, USDA Forest Service, Northeast Asian Forest Forum, Seoul National University.

The objective of the Forest Landscape Restoration Conference is to provide a stronger scientific basis for forest landscape restoration. Forest Landscape Restoration is a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in degraded or deforested forest landscapes by fostering appropriate forms of restoration at strategically chosen locations. Simply put, forest landscape restoration brings people together to identify, negotiate and put in place land use practices that optimize the contribution of forests and trees to environmental, social and economic benefits across the landscape. The purposes of the Forest Landscape Restoration Conference are to enable participants to share current knowledge, document forest restoration practice as it occurs across landscapes, and reflect on future directions in consideration of the Conference themes.

Meetings

Ecological Complexity and Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities for 21st-Century's Ecology

3rd EAFES International Congress in conjunction with ECOSUMMIT 2007, Beijing, China

Date: 22-27 May 2007
Secretary General: Zhiyun Ouyang, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, CAS
18 Shuangqing Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100085, China
E-mail: zyouyang@mail.rcees.ac.cn

Organized by Ecological Society of China and East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies(EAFES)
Sponsored by Ecological Society of Japan, Ecological Society of Korea, Chinese Academy of Sciences, National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Diversity and Changes: Challenges and Opportunities for Managing Natural and Societal Systems in Asia-Pacific

21st Pacific Science Congress, Okinawa, Japan

Date: 13-17 June 2007
Secretariat: 21st Pacific Science Congress Secretariat,
c/o International Planning Affairs Section,
University of the Ryukus, 1 Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213 Japan
www.psc21.net

Message from the secretarial office

This newsletter is distributed free of charge to over 600 individuals and organizations in more than 40 countries. Please send news and articles to the DIWPA office, should you have the information pertinent to biodiversity research/activities in Western Pacific and Asia to circulate among the DIWPA communities.

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