During February 23-27, 2009, the International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS) and Kasetsart University jointly organized the ISSAAS International Congress 2008 on the theme of “Agriculture for the 3Es: Economy, Environment, and Energy” at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok. The purpose of this Congress was to provide an opportunity for participants to participate in a comprehensive discussion on how agriculture in this ever-changing world could be progressed from the viewpoint of the economy, environment and energy toward achieving a sustainable agricultural and rural development program. Professor Dr. Kamphol Adulavidhaya, Chair of Kasetsart University Council, presided over the opening ceremony of the Congress on February 24, 2009. Associate Professor Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President of Kasetsart University, as the President of ISSAAS, gave a welcome address at the opening ceremony. Keynote Speaker of the Congress was Professor Emeritus Dr. Izuru Yamamoto. After the opening ceremony, the General Meeting was led by Professor Dr. Akimi Fujimoto, the ISSAAS Secretary General. Meanwhile, the Plenary Session was presented by five invited speakers from member countries.

The Congress gathered 194 participants from 6 member countries, namely, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand, as well as other countries, such as Iran and Myanmar. Total number of participants from host country, Thailand, was registered at 92. Total number of abstracts for oral presentation reached 107 while total number of abstracts for poster presentation was recorded at 57. Owing to such high number of oral presentation, the Scientific Meeting was concurrently held in four sessions, starting after the Plenary Session.

The topics covered Agro-Technology, Community Empowerment, Sustainable Management, Food Safety, Bio-Energy, Alternative Farming, Trans-Boundary Agriculture, and Sufficiency Economy. The closing ceremony, which was held after the Scientific Meeting Session, was addressed by Assistant Professor Dr. Chawalit Hongprayoon, Vice President for Kamphaeng Saen Campus and the ISSAAS Vice President (Thailand).

The Congress had provided an opportunity for academia, experts, and scientists, mainly from ISSAAS’s member countries, to meet and share their findings and ideas in agricultural sciences in the aspects of economy, environment and energy. As the Congress was held in Thailand, it was advantageous for Thai participants, including Thai students, to attend and meet with other academia, experts, and scientists from other countries. According to the ISSAAS Board Committee’s policy, Kasetsart University will host the next ISSAAS International Congress 2010 again. The period for the next Congress will be January 11-15, 2010. This is expected to bring in more academia, experts, and scientists from other member countries as well as Thailand to participate in the 2010 Congress.
The 2009 Winter Universiade Sport Science Conference was held at Harbin Engineering University in Harbin, capital of Northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, during February 13 – 16, 2009, with the major theme of “Nature, Innovation, Transcendancy, Harmony”. Over 300 participants from 52 countries took part in this conference including two faculty members from Faculty of Sports Science, Kasetsart University, namely Ms. Amporn Sriyapai, Head of Sports Bio-Mechanic & Sports Medicine Program, and Associate Professor Dr. Supitr Samahito, a member of Committee for University Sports Study (CESU) of International University Sports Federation (FISU), who was an invited speaker on the topic of “University Olympic Education and Youth Development in Thailand”.

The International Center for Development Communication, Extension and Training Office, Kasetsart University, successfully conducted its training program for extension trainers during February 16 – 27, 2009. The participants in this program were from Bhutan, thirteen of whom were taking a one-year Postgraduate Diploma in agricultural areas (Community Forestry, Natural Resources Management, Wildlife Management and Horticulture), while another one was from the Rural Development Training Center in Zhemgang. This training was part of their curriculum (3 credit course). All participants attended classroom sessions and field trips at pertinent offices and training centers. At its opening function, Assistant Professor Anuporn Suwanvajokkasikij, Director, Extension and Training Office, came to officially open this training program.

The facilitators in the program included Associate Professor Dr. Cappia Taqueban, Director of International Center for Development Communication, Ms. Benjaporn Ratchaviriyarak of the NFE, Ministry of Education, Dr. Clylde Tan of East Asia University, Associate Professor Dr. Sunan Sung-ong of Faculty of Education, Kasetsart University, and Dr. Pichada de Jesus, Adviser to the Director of Extension and Training Office.
Special Seminar on “Carbon Footprint & Labeling”

The research project entitled “Capacity Building of Thai Food Industries on “Carbon Footprint Labeling” to Promote the Development of Low-carbon Trade between EU and Thailand for Climate Change Mitigation” of which Dr. Rattanawan Mungkung, Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University serves as Head, has been mainly financed by the European Commission under the Thailand-EC Cooperation Facility program, and partial contribution from Kasetsart University (Thailand), the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (Thailand), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (France), University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and University of Surrey (UK) with cash donations from Cargill Meats (Thailand) Limited, Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Co., Ltd., and Thai Union Manufacturing Co., Ltd. One of its major objectives is to transfer the knowledge on carbon footprint measurement standards as well as their applications in food products from EU to Thailand to enhance the knowledge and practical experiences of local experts as well as to build up the local capacity in competitiveness of Thai food industry. Owing to this research project, the press conference and special seminar on “Carbon Footprint and Labeling” was organized by Kasetsart University and Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment with the support from EU partners at Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, on February 19, 2009. The aim of seminar was to introduce the principles and EU practical experiences in the carbon footprint and labeling system, also to promote a better understanding of the principles and practices of the carbon footprint and labeling system to Thai food industries, governmental organizations, NGOs, universities, students as well as other interested bodies.

“Liquefaction Potential Assessment at Leamchabang Port, Thailand”

The paper entitled “Liquefaction Potential Assessment at Leamchabang Port, Thailand” written by Mr. Pulpong Pongvithayapanu, a lecturer from Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (Offshore group), International Maritime College, Kasetsart University, Si Racha Campus, has been accepted for presentation and inclusion in the proceedings of International Symposium on Prediction and Simulation Methods for Geohazard Mitigation, IS-Kyoto 2009, to be organized during May 25 – 27, in Kyoto, Japan. This International Symposium provides a forum for discussing new prediction and simulation methods for geohazards and for exchanging ideas and information of mutual interest. It is sponsored by the Japanese Geotechnical Society (Kansai branch) in cooperation with the Technical Committee (TC34) of International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). The contribution of Mr. Pulpong Pongvithayapanu was published with financial support of the revenue budget of Kasetsart University, Bangkhen Campus.
On February 3, 2009, Prof. Ikuo Igarashi and Prof. Xuenan Xuan from National Research Center for Protozoan Diseases, Obihiro University of Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine, Japan, had a meeting, prepared by Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kasetsart University, with Assoc. Prof. Thavachai Sakpuaram, Dean of the Faculty. In the afternoon, they had special lectures on “Development of Novel Diagnostic Methods against Protozoan Disease” and “Development of Recombinant Vaccines against Protozoan Diseases”.

On February 12, 2009, Prof. Dr. Gen Watanabe visited Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Kamphaeng Saen Campus to talk over research collaboration on Asian Elephant Reproduction.

On February 16, 2009, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Voravit Siripholvat, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture at Kamphaeng Saen, as well as faculty members of Department of Animal Science namely Assist. Prof. Dr. Yuuwares Ruangpanit, and Dr. Sukanya Rattanatabtrintong, welcomed Dr. Mercedes Vazquez, Global Research Director of Novus International Inc., accompanied by Dr. Dinabandhu Joardar, Regional Poultry Specialist and Ms. Rungpetch Chitanuwat, Regional Marketing Communication Specialist, of Novus International (Thailand) Co., Ltd. during their visit to the Faculty to have a discussion on academic cooperation particularly with faculty members of Department of Animal Science, and provide research grants of International Inc. for master’s students.

On February 20, 2009, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Voravit Siripholvat, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture at Kamphaeng Saen, together with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuanchan Paraksa, Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies, Assoc. Prof. Uthai Kantho, Director of Suwanvajokkasikit Animal Research and Development Institute (SARDI), and Assist. Prof. Dr. Lop Phavaphutanon, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Agriculture at Kamphaeng Saen, had a discussion with Associate Professor Yoo Yong Kim, Chairman of Department of Food and Animal Biotechnology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Korea, about the capacity building of KU students and faculty members for their further studies. Associate Professor Yoo Yong Kim also visited SARDI for observation.

On February 5, 2009, Prof. Dr. James Chapman, Chancellor of Massey University, New Zealand, came to visit Faculty of Education, Kasetsart University. Asst. Prof. Dr. Manmart Leesatayakun, on behalf of Dean of Faculty of Education and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somtawil Dhanasobhonen together with her staff welcomed him to Kasetsart University. Since Massey University and Kasetsart University signed MOU, students from Faculty of Education especially from Curriculum and Instruction Program were sent to study English and culture as well as visit academic institutes and stay with host families for one month in Palmerston North, New Zealand. They came back with lots of good memories. Dr. Wiparat Saengganj, a lecturer is now doing job-shadowing with some lecturers there too. During this visit, Prof. Dr. Chapman reported about Dr. Wiparat’s excellence performance. There were also discussion about the new group of 13 graduate students from Curriculum and Instruction Program going to study English and go through the process as the last group did last year. Dr. Wiparat is supposed to take care of them during one month of their stay starting from April 5 and bring them back on May 2, 2009. Dr. Sithikorn Sumalee is the next lecturer to attend job-shadowing process during mid of April to mid of May. Prof. Dr. Chapman was so kind to take all the application forms to Massey University himself. Besides this, both parties exchanged news about what was going on so far. Faculty of Education informed him about the International Conference on Teacher Professional Development to be arranged in November 1-3, 2009, and provided detailed information for him to invite his colleagues to come to either present their projects or participate in the conference. Moreover, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somtawil invited him to be one of the peer reviews for the faculty journal and Prof. Dr. Chapman kindly accepted the invitation. As the students of Faculty of Education gained various experiences in New Zealand, the Faculty offers to arrange classes or courses for lecturers from Massey University to come to teach if they want to gain experiences from Kasetsart University. The meeting was very fruitful. After lunch, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somtawil and her staff took Prof. Dr. Chapman to tour around the campus to see the National Agriculture Fair which has been arranged around this time annually at Kasetsart University. This year it was held during January 30 – February 7. It gave Prof. Dr. Chapman a good walking exercise and a lot of fun.
Mr. Win Surachetpong, a Malaria researcher and a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Davis, became the 2009 winner of the William C. Reeves New Investigator Award, given to the best scientific paper presented at the annual Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Meeting. Mr. Surachetpong received $1,000 and plaque at the 77th annual MVCAC meeting, held in Burlingame. His scientific paper focused on regulation of the development of malaria parasites. More information: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/19492.

On March 5, 2009, at the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Assoc. Prof. Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Kasetsart University, and Mr. Punsakdi Wetanurak, Executive Director Market Education Center, Capital Market Development Fund, the Stock Exchange of Thailand, signed an MOU agreeing to cooperate on “Capacity Building for Thailand Capital Market” under the University networking program encouraging academic institutions as a center that publicly disseminates information about finance and investment as well as training programs relating to professional licensing in capital market.

On March 5, 2009, at the Non-See Conference Room, the fifth floor, the KU Golden Jubilee Building, Associate Professor Dr. Jesda Kaewkulaya, Vice President for Academic Service together with other concerned administrators warmly welcomed Professor Gao Yihuai, Chairman of Alpha Group Company and colleagues who paid a visit to Kasetsart University so as to discuss the further research and development in the agricultural and herbal products between Kasetsart University and Alpha Group Company in the future.

On March 10, 2009, Professor Dr. Georg Cadisch, Chair, Institute of Plant Production and Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics, University of Hohenheim, Germany, paid a visit to Kasetsart University, and met with Associate Professor Dr. Sornprach Thanisawanyangkura, Vice President for International Affairs and Mr. Somsakdi Tabtimthong, Director of International Affairs Division, to discuss future collaboration especially on the Establishment of Food Security Center of the University of Hohenheim.

Dr. Terai Hirofumi, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University, and Professor Dr. Yoshinori Ueda, University of Osaka Prefecture Sakai, Japan, accompanied by faculty members from King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi paid a visit to Kasetsart University on March 13, 2009. The delegation visited Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Forestry and Faculty of Economics to have a discussion on future collaboration. After visiting these faculties, Associate Professor Dr. Saroj Aungsomalin, Dean of Faculty of Economics, hosted dinner for them.

On March 16, 2009, at the Catering Department of Thai Airways International Public Company, Assoc. Prof. Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Kasetsart University, attended the Mercury Award 2008 Conferment Ceremony by International Travel Catering Association (ITCA) who presented this award to the Good Agricultural Practice Program, developed as a cooperative effort by Kasetsart University and Thai Airways International Public Company Limited for contract farming, which educates farmers in order to develop and produce good and safe raw materials for THAI’s Catering Department.
n March 17, 2009, Associate Professor Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Kasetsart University, and Associate Professor Dr. Sornprach Thantisawanyangkura, Vice President for International Affairs, warmly welcomed Baroness Sansanee and Professors from German Universities who paid a visit to Kasetsart University under the program to strengthen academic cooperation between Kasetsart University and agencies in Germany, especially in three projects: "International Cooperation between Universities in Various Cities including Bangkok that is one of the Members in this Platform while Kasetsart University was Invited to Join in this Activity since it is a Leading University in Bangkok and Thailand." 

n March 18, 2009, at the Meeting Room No. 6, Dr. Ito Shoichi, International Food Policy Economist, Kyushu University, Japan, paid a visit to Kasetsart University and met with Associate Professor Dr. Sornprach Thantisawanyangkura, Vice President for International Affairs as well as Deans and representatives from relevant Faculties to discuss on the renewal of the MOU between Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University and Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture at Kamphaeng Saen Campus, Faculty of Agro-Industry, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Fisheries, Faculty of Economics, and Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University. After the meeting, Dr. Ito Shoichi also visited Faculty of Agro-Industry, Faculty of Forestry, and Faculty of Economics.

n March 19, 2009, at the Meeting Room No. 9, Associate Professor Dr. Somprach Thantisawanyangkura, Vice President for International Affairs, presided over the Certificate Conferment Ceremony of Bhutanese officials who had already completed their training programs on “Post Graduate Diploma in Animal Production” and “Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Agricultural Extension and Communication Development”.

n March 19, 2009, Mr. Somsakdi Tabtimthong, Director, International Affairs Division, warmly welcomed the delegation from Yokohama City University. They visited Kasetsart University so as to discuss the project on “Citynet Academic Consortium”, initiating a collaboration among universities in various cities including Bangkok that is one of the members in this platform while Kasetsart University was invited to join in this activity since it is a leading university in Bangkok and Thailand.

n March 20, 2009, at the building of the Graduate School, Kasetsart University, Assoc. Prof. Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Kasetsart University, attended the Asian Core Program on Capacity Building and Development of Microbial Potential and Fermentation Technology Towards New Era, to deliver the welcome address to all participants. This event was first organized by the Graduate School, Kasetsart University, in association with National Research Council of Thailand, Khon Kean University, Yamaguchi University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Visitors & Activities

During their stay in Thailand, their works emphasized on the followings:

1. Discussion with relevant organizations and concerned authorities about possible scopes of the project, and
2. Field excursion to Nonthaburi, Kanchanaburi and Ranong Province.

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Following successful launch of a doctoral course on plant pathology offered by Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Kasetsart University, in collaboration with Section of Comparative and Ecological Phytochemistry, Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, Faculty Centre of Biodiversity, University of Vienna, the Ethnobotanical and Plant Diversity Studies Program was initiated by Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, in cooperation with Department Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University as well as Section of Comparative and Ecological Phytochemistry, Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, Institute of Botany, University of Vienna, Austria, during February 1 – 17, 2009. Faculty members of Kasetsart University namely Associate Professor Srunya Vajrodaya, Dr. Chatchai Ngernsaengsaruay, from Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, and Dr. Netnapis Khewkhom, from Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, primarily involved in this program while members of University of Vienna, comprised Professor Dr. Harald Greger, Dr. Guenter Brader, and Mr. Johann Schinnerl from Section of Comparative and Ecological Phytochemistry, Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, Faculty Centre of Biodiversity.

Activities of this program, available for bachelor’s, master’s and Ph. D students of Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, master’s and Ph. D students of Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, and students of University of Vienna, included both field and laboratory studies for sharing of knowledge on plant diversity & chemicals and its exploitation as well as a better understanding on Phytochemistry and biological control of plant-pathogenic fungi, specifically in the local communities of Thailand. The following activities were conducted during field studies of this firstly launched program.

- Study on Ethnobotany, Plant Taxonomy and Mangrove Ecology in Amphawa district of Samut Songkhram Province, and its surrounding areas
- Study on Ethnobotany, Plant Taxonomy and Ecological Phytochemistry at Sakaerat Environmental Research Station, Nakhon Ratchasima Province
- Study on Ethnobotany, Plant Taxonomy and Ecology in communities and areas of Khao Hin-Poon, Phetchaburi and Phachuapkirikhan provinces
- Study on peat swamp & tropical rain forests at Southern Thailand Botanical Garden (Thung Khai), Wildlife Sanctuaries in Trang province, and Khao Phanom Bencha and Khao Pra-Bangkram Wildlife Sanctuaries in Krabi province

Professor Dr. Harald Greger, Dr. Guenter Brader, Associate Professor Srunya Vajrodaya, Dr. Chatchai Ngernsaengsaruay, and Dr. Netnapis Khewkhom served as lecturers and practice supervisors whereas Mr. Johann Schinnerl was a practice assistant.

Moreover, this tri-partite cooperation will benefit further improvement of contents in existing courses and additional courses in graduate curricula such as Ethnobotany (401561), Plant Diversity (441641), Plant Chemotaxonomy (441642) of Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, and Natural Products & Agricultural Use of Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture.
Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Secretary General of the Commission on Higher Education, presided over the opening ceremony and delivered the special lecture on "Strategy of Thai Higher Education based on Global Trend" which he pointed out that educational system of Thailand should rely on the changing trends in the global context through various networks of cooperation among countries that give priority to education and labor market.

This program included 2 sessions namely lectures and study visit. Twenty scholars, academicians and experts from various disciplines were invited as lecturers for interesting topics such as Thai universities & world universities ranking, development of global competence, personality & negotiation, higher education amid ASEAN, database management, protocol, and studies cases in international affairs, while the study visit included leading universities of Australia namely University of Technology, Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Sydney and University of Western Sydney as well as other historical attractions.

The purpose of the event was to disseminate full news and other related information. The event that was part of the Education of Thai Higher Education Institution Capacity Building, Batch 5, for 22 participants from 13 universities, during March 10 – 19, 2009, at the Lecture Room No. 305, Institute of Food Research and Product Development, Kasetsart University. All participants also had a study visit to the leading universities of Australia to broaden their paradigm and efficiency in international affairs.

International Affairs Division, Kasetsart University, organized the International Affairs Personnel of Thai Higher Education Institution Capacity Building, Batch 5, for 22 participants from 13 universities, during March 10 – 19, 2009, at the Lecture Room No. 305, Institute of Food Research and Product Development, Kasetsart University. All participants also had a study visit to the leading universities of Australia to broaden their paradigm and efficiency in international affairs.

International Affairs Division, Kasetsart University, organized the International Affairs Personnel of Thai Higher Education Institution Capacity Building, Batch 5, for 22 participants from 13 universities, during March 10 – 19, 2009, at the Lecture Room No. 305, Institute of Food Research and Product Development, Kasetsart University. All participants also had a study visit to the leading universities of Australia to broaden their paradigm and efficiency in international affairs.