

Adelaida Kleti Semesi 1951-2001

Adelaida Semesi, fortunate are those who had the opportunity to know her.

As a scientist, her first paper was published at age 25, in the Bull. of the University of Dar-es-Salaam. The paper was on the agar content of three species of *Gracilaria*. She passed away on 10 February as full Professor, not yet 50 years of age, and her last work was a synthesis review of the mangroves of Tanzania. In a short span of 25 years she produced as single or co-author, over one hundred important scientific research papers and valuable reports. From marine algae, phycocolloids and carragenan in particular, she advanced into marine biology and coastal management, specially mangrove ecosystems, research, use and management. She proceeded along a straight path which she must have idealized from the very beginning. A path or self imposed ideal for the fulfillment of which she relentlessly worked. She demonstrated practically that good scientific research is and will always be useful when the ultimate goal is to protect, use and manage rationally the natural wealth of one's country. All her work, from strict experimental science to the most brilliant reports illustrates the need of marrying traditional wisdom to scientific research. Her analytical mind was particularly fit to study the complexities of coastal waters and apply the result of her studies to rational use and management of her country's natural biotic resources. The tropical coastal zone is particularly dynamic, hence the need to know the structure and function of the basic resource system and later knit the accrued knowledge into a comprehensive whole. The list of publications by Adelaida Semesi shows how she made the passage from the elementary to the more complex systems always bearing in mind the benefits for her people and her country. Since 1990 she had a major involvement with mangroves and thanks to her, one of the first countries in the world to have a detailed plan for the management of the mangroves is Mainland Tanzania in 10 volumes. She extended this to "the role of science in conservation and

management of natural resources in Eastern Africa: the case of mangroves, seagrasses and seaweeds" (1997 AAAS Annual Meeting, Seattle, U.S.A.). Throughout, she was alert to the challenge posed to the scientist whose duty is to convince governments, specially in so-called developing countries, that scientific research leads to responsible use of permanent natural wealth and guides towards management for sustainable production and increased productivity ecosystems, for the present and future generations.



Dr. Adelaida K. Semesi

I first met Adelaida Semesi at UNESCO's COMAR Inter-regional Scientific Conference in the month of May 1991, in Paris. When first she opened her mouth to speak out her opinion, clearly as usual, her words made on me an unforgettable impression. I never forgot her name, the sound of her voice, the righteousness of her teachings. What a rare person was Adelaida Kleti Semesi, and what a great loss for all of us. She faced the challenge and showed the way, specially to us from the so-called developing world. Others as great as she are rarely born, yet we should all follow in her footsteps: strengthen the marriage between science and traditional wisdom, then share our understanding with all the people. She threw the gauntlet, who will be the next leader?

As a human being, as a woman, wife and mother, she lingers in the blood of her family and in our memory as an example to be followed, though difficult to reach. May she rest in Peace, as she will live long with us. We thank her for the example and legacy she left with us and with her dear ones, we mourn her demise.

Adelaida Semesi was a Council Member of ISME.

GLOMIS is now accessible on the web

<http://www.glomis.com>

Global Mangrove Database and Information System (GLOMIS) is ISME's database project, designed to collect information on mangroves into a single database. The key objective of the Project is the construction and maintenance of an easily accessible database, with standardized information that is easily retrievable and reliable. The data stored in GLOMIS are mangrove-related institutions, people, projects and references.

GLOMIS is headquartered at ISME Secretariat, in Okinawa, Japan, and is supported by the four Regional Centres in Brazil, Fiji, Ghana and India. Data are collected by the Regional Centres and transferred to the Headquarters.

The Project is financially supported by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). It is a five-year project of two phases. Phase I was coordinated by Dr. M. Vannucci, the former Chief Technical Adviser of the UNESCO/UNDP Mangrove Projects, and Dr. Luiz Drude de

Lacerda, Professor at Universidade Federal do Ceará of Brazil. Phase II, just started, is the operational phase to test the function of GLOMIS on a "pilot plant" basis. The Coordinator of phase II is Dr. Chris Gordon of the University of Ghana, Interim Director for the Centre for African Wetlands. Assistant Coordinator is Dr. Mami Kainuma, a Microbiologist. She stations at the Headquarters.

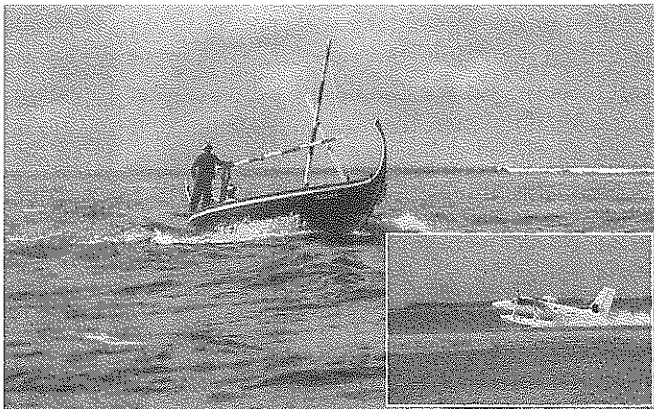
GLOMIS is in its developing stage. Inputs and contributions from the users are needed in order for GLOMIS to grow and develop. Please visit the GLOMIS site. We look forward to your inputs.

Mangrove project in the Maldives

The Republic of Maldives consists of some 1190 small islands exposed to the threats of the sea level rise. Since the Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment of the Republic of Maldives accepted the proposal, ISME is implementing a project to attempt raising mangrove nurseries and planting them in some small islands. The project is supported not only by the Ministry, but also by authorities concerned and the local people of the Maldives.

In the Maldives, tourists without permission from the Ministry of Atolls can stay only in the resort islands, whereas villages are located in non-resort islands.

Many local people and high school students helped in carrying out the project in Baarah and Kulhudhuffushi islands last year to raise mangrove nursery. A group of volunteers from Japan also participated in the activities in the Maldives. The planted seedlings and propagules are being taken care of, and the growth and survival rates of each species are checked by the local authorities. The project was started in May 2000, financially supported by the Japan Fund for Global Environment.



The main transportation in the Maldives is small boats and seaplanes. Photo by S. Baba.



In one of the small uninhabited islands, the land area of which is less than 2 km², there still remain beautiful mangrove forests dominated with big trees of *Avicennia marina*, more than 20 m in height and 80 cm in DBH. Photo by S. Baba.

Mangrove training course

JICA/ISME annual training course, "Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems," has started this year on 18 June with six participants from Costa Rica, Jamaica, Myanmar, Oman, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The twelve-week curriculum includes lectures on various mangrove-related subjects, field survey, laboratory work, and visiting to research institutes. The course is organized and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and is implemented by ISME since 1995 in Okinawa. Total number of participants over the past seven years is 46 from 30 countries. Please contact Japanese Embassies or JICA regional offices for further information for the next application.

ISME General Assembly – 2002

ISME holds its General Assembly once in every three years. The last Assembly was in Bali, Indonesia, Sept. 1999. The next Assembly will be held in Vietnam in Aug. 2002 with local cooperation of Prof. Phan Nguyen Hong, the Mangrove Ecosystem Research Division (MERD), the Vietnam National University.

Election of the Office Bearers

The election of the Executive Members of ISME, except the position of the Executive Secretary, is held once in every three years coinciding with the year of the General Assembly. The present members of the Executive Committee, at their last meeting held in Okinawa in March 2001, confirmed their willingness to serve their second term. If there is no objection from the members of ISME, the present members of the Executive Committee will remain in the position for another tenure, 2002 - 2005, without election.

Objection, if there is any, should reach ISME Secretariat by the end of October 2001.

Present names and positions are:

President: Prof. Aprilani Soegiarto (Indonesia),
Chairman of Plant Resources of South-East Asia,
Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

Vice-Presidents: H. E. Noboru Nakahira (Japan),
Former Ambassador to United Arab Emirates,
Malaysia and Canada;

Dr. Marc Steyaert (France), Former Director of the
Division of Marine Sciences, UNESCO;

Dr. E. S. Diop (Senegal), Senior Environmental
Affairs Officer of the Div. of Environmental
Information, Assessment and Early Warning, UNEP.

Treasurer: Prof. Sanit Aksornkoae (Thailand),
Professor, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University.

New Members

- BANGLADESH -

Hog, Md. Enamul
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh

- BELIZE -

Bood, Nadia Desiree
Min. of Natural Resources & Environment, Belize

- BRAZIL -

Abraham, Gisele Rosa
Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

- GHANA -

Gordon, Christopher
Centre for African Wetlands, Univ. of Ghana, Ghana

- INDONESIA -

Andri Wahyono
Gatot Subroto, Jakarta, Indonesia

Sato, Yuichi
c/o JICA Indonesia Office, Jakarta Indonesia

Tantra, Igusti Made
Min. of Forestry and Estate Crops, Bali, Indonesia

- JAPAN -

Adeel, Zafar
The United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan

Iiyama, Yasuko
Forestry Agency, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, Japan

Kozai, Kuninobu
Naha, Okinawa, Japan

Kunimune, Yuichi
Setouchi, Kagoshima, Japan

Kuno, Hiromitsu
Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

Maeda, Masachika
Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

Magi, Michimasa
Abiko, Chiba, Japan

Miyagi, Takeshi
Gushikawa, Okinawa, Japan

Oda, Mutsumi
Suginami, Tokyo, Japan

Okazaki, Yasuko
Kamifukuoka, Saitama, Japan

Sasaki, Hideaki
Sakura, Chiba, Japan

Shoji, Tomoo
Appropriate Agriculture International Co., Ltd.
Machida, Tokyo, Japan

Srinivas, Hari
The United Nations Environment Programme, Osaka, Japan

Watanabe, Motokatsu
Min. of Foreign Affairs, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, Japan

Yoshida, Katsuyuki
Sanaecho, Nagano, Japan

- MALDIVE -

Mohamed Shafiu
Min. of Fisheries, Agric. and Marine Resources, Maldives

- PANAMA -

Hilel, R. Cohen S.
ATEDEAS, Panama, Rep. Panama

- PAPUA NEW GUINEA -

Opu, Job
Dept. of Environment Conservation, Boroko, PNG

- TAIWAN -

Wang, Chia-Hsiang
Taipei, Taiwan, 100, R.O.C.

Chen, Tsai-huei
Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Liao, Tien-Szu
National Chung Hsing University, Taichun, Taiwan, R.O.C.

- TANZANIA -

Njana, Raphael N.
Mangroves Management Project, KIBITI, Tanzania

Hamdan, Sheha Idrissa
Commission for Natural Resources, Zanzibar, Tanzania

- THAILAND -

Than, Maung Maung
Klongluaing, Pathwntani, Thailand

- UK -

Ashton, Elizabeth Clare
Claygate, Surrey, England, U.K.

Membership of ISME

Individual membership: JPY2,000, or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$20), annually;
Life membership: JPY20,000 or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$200);
Institutional membership: JPY25,000, or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$250), annually.

UNESCO coupons and international postal money-order are acceptable. We also accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Please avoid cheques. For further information, contact ISME Secretariat. Your contribution is appreciated. Your donation for the Society is also welcomed.

News from your country

If you have any news from your country or your work concerning mangrove ecosystems that you wish to see published in the ISME newsletter, please forward it to ISME Secretariat.

Send articles/publications of mangroves to ISME Secretariat

ISME is organizing GLOMIS. Please send articles/publications concerning mangroves and mangrove ecosystems to ISME Secretariat.

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