

## High School Students from Japan planted mangroves in Sabah

On 10 November 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Kota Kinabalu between Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and Prof. Shigeyuki Baba, Executive Director of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) to implement a collaborative project on rehabilitation of degraded mangroves in Sabah. Funded by Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. Ltd., this mangrove rehabilitation project will be implemented by SFD



with technical guidance from ISME. The first phase of the collaborative project will be for three years (2011-2014). From October 2011 to March 2012, this project has planted 50 ha of degraded mangroves in forest reserves of Sandakan and Beaufort. To monitor the progress of the project, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been formed.

In conjunction with the third meeting of the PSC held in Sandakan on 15 March 2012, Prof. Shigeyuki Baba has made a special effort in bringing a group of students from Ritsumeikan Uji High School from Kyoto Prefecture in Japan to plant mangroves in Sabah as part of the collaboration. Led by their teacher Ms. Saori Matsuoka, the trip was from 13-18 March 2012. These students had volunteered to come to Sabah for the first time to plant mangroves. From the funds raised for the trip, the students donated 100,000 yen to SFD in support of mangrove rehabilitation in Sabah.

SFD has made all the arrangements, including transport and planting material, to enable the students to plant mangroves in Sungai Lalasun, Sandakan. On 15 and 16 March 2012, the students planted propagules of *Rhizophora apiculata* along the channels and seedlings of *Terminalia cattapa* on the bunds.



Students from Ritsumeikan Uji High School planting mangroves in Sungai Lalasun (top), and visiting the Muhibbah National Secondary School (bottom). Photo: Shigeyuki Baba

Recognising the importance of cultural exchange and nature education, the students attended a barbecue party hosted by Mr. Fidelis Edwin Bajau, the Deputy Director of SFD, and visited the Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre, Muhibbah National Secondary School, Rainforest Discovery Centre, mangrove nursery and charcoal processing in Sibyte, Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, and Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Centre.

## USEFUL PRODUCTS FROM MANGROVE PLANTS

ISME has initiated an ITTO-funded small project entitled, "Production of an Educational Book Series on Mangroves for Sustainable Management and Utilization of Mangrove Ecosystems, from which, three books will be produced. They are:

- *Continuing the Journey among Mangroves* by B. Clough,
- *Structure, Function and Management of Mangrove Forests* by J.E. Ong & W.K. Gong, and
- *Useful Products from Mangrove and other Coastal Plants* by S. Baba, S. Aksornkoae & H.T. Chan

Here are some pictorial highlights on some useful products from mangrove plants.



Aboriginal wood sculptures from *Xylocarpus moluccensis*. Photo: Chan Hung Tuck



Cattle fodder from foliage of *Avicennia marina*. Photo: S. Baba



Cultured honey from mangroves. Photo: Tran Sen Thi Mai.



Spice condiment from buds of *Rhizophora apiculata*. Photo: Lee Ka Han



Juice from fruits of *Sonneratia caseolaris*. Photo: Suminda Prabath.



## Exchange Program on Conservation Genetics of Mangroves

In October 2011, the Graduate School of Science, Chiba University, hosted the Second JSPS Exchange Program for East Asian Young Researchers on Conservation Genetics of Mangroves. The exchange program, which included an international workshop, seminar and practical training course, formed part of Japan-East Asia Network for Exchange of Students and Youths (JENESYS),

sponsored by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The workshop, co-organized by Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus, and ISME, was participated by more than 30 young scientists from the Southeast and other Asian countries. The Project Leader was Prof. Tadashi Kajita of Graduate School of Science, Chiba University.



Workshop participants visiting Okinawa as part of the 2nd JSPS Exchange Programme. Photo: Shigeyuki Baba

## Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Indochina mangrove ecosystems: a short report — by Prof. Gordon S. Maxwell

This 3-day meeting brought experts from countries in the Indochina region (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia with co-lateral perspectives from Philippines and Singapore) to identify major perceived problems and issues and their causes that impact on wise use of mangrove ecosystems and their associated economic assets. Where possible genuine transboundary aspects were discussed and partly analysed in a way that would facilitate developing solutions and new approaches to mangrove ecosystem management at the two follow up

workshops, scheduled for September and December of 2012. Discussions were intensive and wide ranging, and efforts were made to seek balanced scientific approaches to perceived problems such as sea level changes (both rise and

retreat in a dynamic geo-physical environment) and to avoid placing inflexible priorities on ecosystem matters as these tend to be integrated and interdependent. Other themes included the need to try and place \$ values on mangrove ecosystem goods and services, and ensure that existing science is made accessible to and comprehended by non-scientific stakeholders. One observation of note was that mangrove ecosystem ex-

perts are in short supply throughout the Indochina region and this trend needs to be reversed if long-term transboundary solutions to mangrove related resource management matters are to be addressed. Prof. Sanit Aksornkoae gave the meeting shape and solid encouragement at the conclusion of day one. Dr. Sonjai Havanond and Dr. Anuwat Nateewathana thanked all for their contributions.



Seated center: Prof. Sanit Aksornkoae, President of ISME. To his right and left are Prof. J. E. Ong and Prof. G. S. Maxwell.  
Photo: Gordon S. Maxwell

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## ISME/GLOMIS Electronic Journal

### Volume 9, No.5 (December 2011)

Preliminary study on natural hybrids of genus *Rhizophora* in India by Pandisamy Ragavan, Mani Saxena, Tarun Coomar and Alok Saxena

### Volume 10, No.1 (April 2012)

Further observations on a natural *Rhizophora* hybrid population in Malaysia by Ng, W.L. & Chan, H.T.

### Volume 10, No.2 (May 2012)

Survey of *Rhizophora stylosa* populations in Peninsular Malaysia by Ng, W.L. & Chan, H.T.

### Volume 10, No.3 (June 2012)

Shoreline retreat of a degrading mangrove forest in Sungai Besar, Selangor, Malaysia by Jeyanny, V., Azian, M., Fakhri, M.I., Wan Rasidah, K. & Suhaimi W.C.

### Volume 10, No.4 (July 2012)

Potent antibacterial activity of wood vinegar from Matang Mangroves, Malaysia by Eric Chan W.C., Fong C.H., Kang K.X. & Chong H.H.

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### *News from your country*

If you have any news from your country or your work concerning mangrove ecosystems that you wish to publish in the ISME newsletter, please forward a brief write-up to ISME Secretariat.

### *Send articles/publications of mangrove to ISME Secretariat*

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

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