

International Society  
for Southeast Asian  
Agricultural Sciences  
(ISSAAS)

Society of  
Agricultural  
Education-Research  
Development Abroad  
(SAEDA)

Bicol University  
(BU)



# ISSAAS NewsLetter

2012 ISSAAS International Symposium and Congress  
A Special Issue

November  
13-16, 2012



## ISSAAS International Symposium and Congress formally opens

Two hundred fifty seven (257) participants came to St. Ellis on November 14 for the opening of the ISSAAS Symposium and Congress. At least 63 are foreigners from Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and Iran. The rest are from the CAR, ARMM and Regions 1-12 of the Philippines.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Fay Lea M. Lauraya, BU President emphasized that in this year's conference, the generation of knowledge is foremost among its aims, but the forging of friendships will make the impact of the conference more sustainable and lasting. She urged every member to exchange cards and make friends with at least five+ participants. Dr. Rañola, ISSAAS President, for his part, goaded all to prepare voice for the singing, feet for the dancing, and eyes for the sights+ and, to

later shop and help the Philippine economy.+ Prof. Hinorobu Shirachi, from the Society for Agricultural Education-Research Development Abroad (SAEDA) challenged the participants to address the Millennium Development Goals through the sustainability of agriculture and responsiveness to the need for productivity.

Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal, who also welcomed the guests, positively expressed her wish that this ISSAAS congress would turn out input that will increase agricultural productivity, create ways to process, store and package the produce, and assure the public distinct experiences to achieve food security, manage resources and eventually eliminate poverty.

A general meeting of the society followed, the highlight of which were the country reports.



Rañola

Lauraya



Sirachi

Rosal

## ISSAAS Congress kicks off with Media Conference

The 2012 ISSAAS International Symposium and Congress hosted by Bicol University kicked-off with a media conference on November 13 at Hotel St. Ellis. Around 20 press members from print and broadcast media met with the prime ISSAAS movers, as: Dr. Roberto F. Rañola, Jr., ISSAAS President; Dr. Akimi Fujimoto, Sec-General; Dr. Keishiro Itagaki, EIC ISSAAS Journal; Dr. Ghizan Salleh, VP ISSAAS Malaysia and Dr. Fay Lea Patria M. Lauraya, President BU.

This year's theme is "Pushing Agriculture to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals," thus questions centered on ISSAAS' role and strategy in sustaining this advocacy. Dr. Lauraya stressed that ISSAAS aims to bring together scientists/researchers from Southeast Asian countries for information dissemination and sharing, with the end goal of providing solutions to local problems with global impacts. Dr. Rañola on the other hand maintained that this year's presentations will cover the social, technical, environmental and climatic dimensions insofar as they affect agriculture.

For their final statement, the officers thanked the media for being the voice of ISSAAS, and invited them to cover the presentations of their choice in the parallel sessions.



## SAEDA, Tokyo University of Agriculture donate funds to ISSAAS

The Society of Agricultural Education-Research Development Abroad (SAEDA) donated ¥200,000 and the Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), ¥300,000 to the International Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS) in support of ISSAASq programs and projects. Prof. Hinorobu Shirachi represented SAEDA, while Dr. Keishiro Itagaki represented TUA.



Rañola & Sirachi

Rañola & Itagaki

## Plenary Session spurs more agri-technology



*Utilization of Waste Coconut Husk: A Successful Academic-based Research and Extension Service for the Farmers (Philippines)* by Justino R. Arboleda, PhD: "the market is vast; there is nothing to fear if this technology spreads to other countries"



*The Potential of Microbial Antagonists as Biocontrol Agents Against Plant Fungal Pathogens (Indonesia)*, by Dewa Ngura Suprpta, PhD: "technology is not 100% sustainable because of unforeseen factors but it can be ascertained using such parameters as economic viability, adherence to standards and effect to the eco-system"



*Developing a Biobased Economy in Thailand (Thailand)* by Naroon Waramit, PhD: "Green economy is the key word"



*Revitalization and Development of Hill Farming in Japan: A Model Case of the Joetsu Tokyo Nodai, Inc. (Japan)* by Akimi Fujimoto, PhD: "Decreasing successors and aging farmers are a reality"



*Agriculture Research and Development in Malaysia (Malaysia)* by Zaharah A. Rahman, Ph.D: "Agriculture Research is going on well in Malaysia; we have the support of our government"

## Welcome Dinner and Cultural Night ends day 1

Capping Day 1 of the ISSAAS Congress is the Welcome Dinner and Cultural Night hosted by the Honorable Joey S. Salceda, Governor of Albay. The venue was Hotel St. Ellis where the participants enjoyed a sumptuous meal as they were serenaded by the BUNGCUL singers, trained by Prof. Inocencio Bermundo of Bicol University College of Arts and Letters. The group showcased a series of traditional Filipino and Bikol songs as *Sarong Bangui* (love song), *Rosdos na Duldul* (game song), *Polka sa Nayon* (Filipino-Hispanic song), *Pag-agom sa Kunyan* (courtship and marriage song), and *Pasigin* (Fishing Song).

The Magayon dancers, coached by Professor Carina Sales, also from Bicol University, exhibited varied sets of colorful, lively, and festive Philippine dances, including the *Tinikling*, the Philippine National Dance, for the finale. A number of foreign delegates also took on the *Tinikling* challenge and dared the furious bamboo poles.

Entertaining the crowd all the more were the sundry country presentations consisting of songs, dances, theatrical acts, and audio-visual presentations peculiar to their own unique culture and history: Indonesia delegation sang and danced to their own rhythm; Japan amused the participants with their candid comic act; Malaysia sang traditional songs; Thailand displayed an evolution of their national costumes, and; Vietnam enlivened the audience with songs about their homeland.

The Philippine delegations also presented their regional songs and dances and donned their best local costumes.



Japanese delegates



Thai delegates

### DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE

**Dr. Arnulfo M. Mascariñas**  
Consultant

**Dr. Rebecca Rosario O. Bercasio**  
Chair

**Dr. Jocelyn I. Bartolata**  
**Dr. Ma. Celina Eladia G. Meneses**  
Members

**Earl Epton L. Recamunda**  
**Ruby Ann Fajardo**  
Photographers

