



CAULES Newsletter



CANTHO UNIVERSITY – UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS LINK IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECT,
VOL. 2. NO 1. YEAR 2003

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The CAULES newsletter is published six-monthly in February and August by Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management (DENRM), College of Agriculture, Cantho University, Vietnam.

The CAULES newsletter publishes information about CAULES activities in Vietnam and Denmark. Please inform us if you have contributions to the newsletter.

The CAULES newsletter is free of charge. Please inform us if you would like to be on our mailing list.

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Project web page
www.mesam.info

EDITORIAL

The CAULES project has now been running one year and it is therefore time to look back on the things that have been achieved until now.

First of all has the name of the master program been changed from “Master in Environmental Science Program” (MESP) to the new name “Master in Environmental Science and Management” (MESAM). This new name reflects the courses contained in the program (ANNEX 1). The new name was agreed upon at the first CAULES Steering Committee Meeting held in Hanoi in December and in the newly formed “MESAM Education and Science Committee”. The latter committee will assure that the lecturers from many different departments at Cantho University teaching the multidisciplinary master program have a forum to discuss and advise on the future development of the MESAM program.

The first batch of students (MESAM 2001-2003) started their thesis work in January 2003 and will finish it in September 2003. Fourteen students were enrolled on the 1 of October in second batch of MESAM students. Five additional students are attending the class and will enroll in 2003. The target number for the MESAM program is 20 students per year. A more active advertisement of MESAM program has therefore been planned including a MESAM advertisement pamphlet, a webpage (www.mesam.info). Furthermore a “Tour de Mekong” will advertise the program to the provincial departments in the Mekong Delta and enquire about the Environmental problems in the provinces. In order to tailor the course portfolio (core- and optional courses) to the current environmental problems of the Mekong Delta.

The Human capacity upgrade secures the sustainability of the project. Many of the MESAM courses are taught by foreign lecturers in collaboration with Vietnamese counterparts. The Vietnamese counterparts are in the second year of the project teaching parts of these courses. The gradual phasing out of the foreign lecturers will take three to four years. Two collaborative research projects involving Vietnamese counterparts and foreign lecturers started in November 2002. They are entitled “Mangrove Diversity and Plantation Management” (conducted by Dr. Truong Thi Nga, Cantho University and Dr. Elizabeth C. Ashton, University of Aarhus, Denmark) and “Cadmium flow in the Mekong Delta Ecosystem” (conducted by Dr. Ngo Ngoc Hung, Cantho University and Dr. Mark Bayley, University of Aarhus, Denmark).

The most visual improvements during the project implementation is the upgrade of the class room and the creation of the intensively used student computer room with Internet access. In the coming year also a small reference collection will be upgraded together with the laboratories.

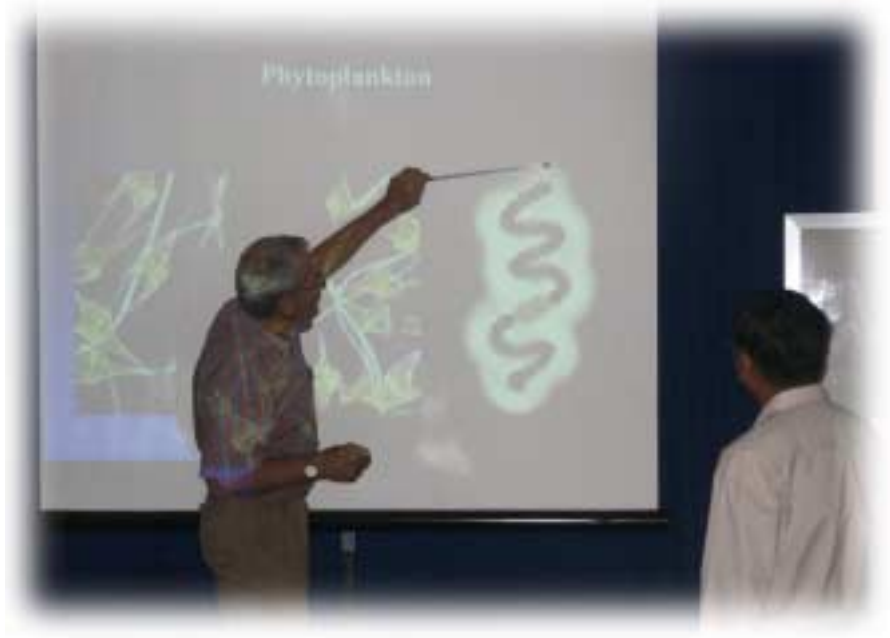
On behalf of the editorial group Annika Büchert Lindberg, DERA

CAULES VISITORS

LONE DIRCKINCK-HOLMFELD

Dr. Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld is a research professor on Information and Communication Technology and Learning at Department of Communication Aalborg University, Denmark. She has her Ph.D. from Roskilde University, Denmark in computer-mediated communication and learning. She is Director of E-learning lab NJ and the research project Virtual Learning and Learning Environment and Director of the Postgraduate Research School on Human Centred Informatics, and the Master Programme on Information and Communication Technology and Learning, which is organized as collaborative web-based learning. Dr. Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld has been project manager of several projects concerning multimedia, computer conferencing and (distance) collaborative learning. Her main field of research is computer-supported (distance) collaborative learning participatory design and implementation. She has authored and co-authored several books, and authored and co-authored more than 100 papers, articles and reports on Information and Communication Technology and learning. Recent book: Dirckinck-Holmfeld, L & Fibiger, B (Eds.): Learning in Virtual Environments, Samfundslitteratur Press (2002).

On the 2 of August Dr. Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld gave a seminar for all staff members at Cantho University. The lecture addressed new learning theories and learning principles and gave examples from university practice. The approach to learning is based on experiential and collaborative principles organized as problem oriented project-based learning. Information



Dr. Hans Henrik Schierup, University of Aarhus and his counterpart Dr. Nguyen Chiem Cantho University lecturing the MESAM 2002-2004 students.

and Communication Technology was discussed as a mean to enhance teaching and learning. Information and Communication Technology and the role of the universities were discussed more broadly in the perspective of the digital divide, the learning economy, and the knowledge society.

www.hum.auc.dk/ansatte/ldh/
www.hci.hum.auc.dk (Ph.D. School on Human Centered Informatics)

ANNE RAVNBORG:

Anne Ravnborg has been studying biology at University of Aarhus, Denmark for three years. From August to November 2002 she carried out a research project in a small *Melaleuca* forest at Hoa An Farming System Research Station of Can Tho University. This bachelor project is investigating the pollination and honey production from *Melaleuca cajuputi*. *Melaleuca cajuputi* is planted for timber production on poor soils in the Mekong Delta. The trees have additional uses such as honey production. The bachelor project is

supervision by Associate Professor Jens Mogens Olesen from Department of Ecology and Genetics, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Methodology of Project

For the research project six beehives (*Apis cerana*) were put up near the forest to investigate honey production and pollen collection. In the *Melaleuca* forest data on tree sizes, water levels and flowering were collected. In the beehives the bee activity and pollen collection were observed, pollen from the bees and information about honey and egg production was collected.

Preliminary Data

So far only the data on tree sizes, water levels and flowering has been analysed. The main results are that the total number of flowers per tree was significantly dependent upon diameter in breast height and there was a trend that trees in wet conditions had fewer flowers than trees in dry conditions. The main flowering season of *Melaleuca cajuputi* is in the dry season. The total number of flowers decreased during the rainy season.

Preliminary Conclusion

From the observation of the bee activity, it is seemed that the bees were collecting pollen most of the day but further analysis of the data is needed. The pollen collected from the bees will determine which flowers the bees are visiting and the share from *Melaleuca* flowers.

CATHY GENGE

Catherine Genge is from Baddeck, a small town on the East coast of Canada. She earned her BSc in Kinesiology from Dalhousie University in 1998.

After graduating, Catherine worked in the field of vocational rehabilitation in both a clinical setting and as a consultant with Canada Post Corporation. This was a challenging job that Catherine enjoyed, however, she, along with her partner, felt that it was time for a change. For a long time she wanted to travel and live in another country, to immerse herself in different culture. After discussing possible destinations with her partner, he received a job offer to teach English at Can Tho University. They jumped at the opportunity to come to Vietnam!

Though not initially intending to, Catherine began teaching English at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources after meeting Dr. Annika Buchert Lindberg. She started out teaching the students in the masters program that needed to improve their English skills. Currently she facilitates a weekly conversation class for staff of the department. This class gives staff the opportunity to read and discuss environmental issues in Vietnam.

Catherine is also working at the Cantho General Hospital assisting in the physiotherapy department. She hopes to continue working both with the Caules project and at

the hospital. Catherine's plan is to stay in Vietnam for two years after which she will return to Canada to continue her work in the Health Field or possibly begin a master's program.

CAULES ACTIVITIES (VIETNAM AND DENMARK)

CAULES ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM

- The Danish Ambassador to Vietnam H.E. Mr. Bjarne H. Sørensen and Mr. Henning Nøhr, from the Royal Danish Embassy, Hanoi visited Cantho University on the 3 of May 2002. During this visit they were informed about the project objectives, the project progress, the future plans and they were introduced to collaborative research projects.

- A five-day workshop on “Curriculum development and modern teaching methodology” was held at Dept. of Environment and Natural Resource Management, Cantho University in May 2002. The workshop was organised and taught by Mr. Mads Korn, Danida Educational Advisor, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop participants were lecturers and counterparts at Cantho University. Mr. Mads Korn and Dr. Annika Lindberg will in February 2003 finalise a Teacher’s guide on how to incorporate dynamic teaching, develop individual courses and the entire Master program. This guide will furthermore incorporate an action plan and recommendations and discussions from the workshop.

- The DERA of CAULES project participated in at the Conference on research collaboration in the Agricultural Sector Programme Support for Vietnam, June 25, 2002 in Flakkebjerg, Denmark

- On August 2, 2002, Dr. Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld, Dept. of Communication, Aalborg University, Denmark, gave a seminar entitled “Information and Communication Technology and new ways of learning – from a Scandinavian Perspective”. All lecturers at CTU were invited and approximately 100 staff members were present. This seminar described learning methods and how the different way of learning should be reflected in the teaching methods to increase the learning outputs for the students.

- October 2002, 14 students enrolled in MESAM (MESAM 2002-2004). Five student are furthermore attending the class but are not officially enrolled. These five students will take the entrance exam in 2003. The MESAM 2002-2004 course program is shown in ANNEX 1.

- In November a “MESAM Education and Science Committee” with members from CTU, collaborating Universities and the local Department of Science, Technology and Environment was formed. The purpose of the committee is to discuss the MESAM curriculum, short-term training courses and workshops to improve the quality of the program, and to advise on research projects and initiatives.

- In November 2002 the first two collaborative research projects between Cantho University and University of Aarhus started. The titles of these projects are: “Mangrove Diversity and Plantation Management” (conducted by Dr. Elizabeth C. Ashton, AU and Dr. Dr. Truong Thi Nga, CTU) and “Cadmium flow in the Mekong Delta Ecosystem” (conducted by Dr. Mark Bayley, AU and Dr. Ngo Ngoc Hung, CTU).

- In November 2002 the weekly department English Club started. The purpose of the English club is to strengthen the English vocabulary in the Environmental field through discussions of English Newspaper articles or other relevant material on Environmental issues in Vietnam.

- The first CAULES Steering Committee meeting was held in Hanoi on the 2. of December, 2002 with participants from Royal Danish Embassy, Hanoi, Rector of Cantho University, representatives from CAULES Denmark and from CAULES project Coordination Unit.

- Dr. Ngo Ngoc Hung participated in the workshop on "Assessing Crop Production, Nutrient Management, Climatic Risk and Environmental Sustainability with Simulation Models" at University of Georgia, USA from December 9-18, 2002. This workshop will be valuable for the MESAM course "Applied methods and models in Environmental studies" and for the research project "Cadmium Flow in the Mekong Delta Ecosystem".

- Mr. Nguyen Van Cong took the TOELF test on January 19th. He will hereafter apply for his Ph.D. in Denmark.

- The Danish Education and Research Advisor participated in a meeting in Hanoi on the 22 of January for all advisor in the DEA-Programme (Danish Environmental Assistance, Vietnam).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM

- A eight weeks Additional English course for future MESAM students will be held in February-to May. Good English skills are necessary because most of the scientific literature are only available in English.



Students and counterpart attending fieldtrip to Hoi An field station to fell the study plants and their adaptations to the wet environment. The core course was taught by Dr. Hans Henrik Schierup and Dr. Hans Brix, from University of Aarhus

- DERA and National Project Coordinator will visit several provinces on a "Tour de Mekong". Besides advertising the MESAM program also the Environmental problems in the provinces will be discussed together with focus areas where more research is needed.

CAULES ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK

- CAULES Information Workshop was held in Aarhus on 17 June 2002. Approximately 30 persons participated (included teachers from University of Aarhus, University of Aalborg, Danish National Environmental Research Institute and Danida)

- Meeting with Ambassador for Vietnam in Denmark, Mr. Vu Quang Diem to discuss future collaboration between University of Aarhus and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the fields of Education and Research.

- Meeting with Dr. Niels Christian Sidinius, Rector University of Aarhus to discuss the

development of the CAULES Project.

- A number of strategic discussions were held at cenTER Aarhus with teachers and administrators from the University of Aarhus.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK

- In March 2003 Dr. Nguyen Anh Tuan, Vice-rector of Cantho University will visit University of Aarhus to discuss future collaboration on Education and Research with focus on Environmental Sciences.

- A Second CAULES Information Workshop is planned for Late Summer 2003.

**ANNEX 1 – COURSES IN THE MASTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
– MESAM 2002-2004.**

Lecturers mentioned in parentheses are counterparts

| Date | Name of course | Lecturer | University |
|-------------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Oct. 2002 | Additional English | Ms. Cathy Genge | |
| Oct.-Nov. 2002 | Structure and Function of Ecosystems | Dr. Annika B. Lindberg Dr. Nguyen Huu Chiem | AU + CTU |
| Nov. 2002 | Assessment and management of waste | Mr. Niels Dengsoee (Dr. Tran Kim Tinh) | NERI |
| Nov 2002 | Society, Development and Environment | Mr. Niels Dengsoee (Dr. Duong Van Ni) | NERI |
| Dec. 2002 | Environmental medicine | Prof. Herman Atrup (Dr. Tran Kim Tinh) | AU |
| Dec. 2002 | Mangrove and Melaleuca Forest Ecology and Management | Prof. Donald Macintosh Dr. Liz Ashton, Dr. Duong Van Ni (Dr. Truong Thi Nga) | AU |
| Jan. 2003 | Aquatic ecology and use of wetland in water pollution control | Dr. Hans Brix Nielsen, Dr. Hans-Henrik Schierup (Dr. Nguyen Huu Chiem, Dr. Truong Thi Nga) | AU |
| Jan. 2003 | Natural Resource Management and System thinking | Dr. Carsten Nico Hjortsoee (Dr. Nguyen Van Be) | KVL |
| March. 2003 | English at national level | Mr. Truong Vo Dung, CTU | CTU |
| April. 2003 | Philosophy | | MoET |
| April 2003 | Seminars | | |
| May 2003 | Ecotoxicology | Dr. Mark Bailey (Dr. Ngo Ngoc Hung Dr. Huynh Thu Hoa) | AU |
| May 2003 | Optional courses | | |
| July 2003 | Methods in Scientific Research | Prof. Pham Van Kim | CTU |
| July 2003 | Informatics | Mr. Nguyen Hoang Viet | CTU |
| Aug. 2003 | Cleaner Technology and certification | Dr. Arne Remmen Dr. Eskild Holm Nielsen (Mr. Le Hoang Viet) | AUC |
| Aug. 2003 | Experimental design and statistics in Environmental Science | | |
| Oct. 2003 | Conservation and sustainable tourism | Dr. Annika B. Lindberg (Dr. Duong Van Ni) | AU |
| Oct. 2003 | Environmental Impact Assessment | Dr. Enrique Pacardo, (Dr. Nguyen Van Be) | LB |
| Nov 2003 | Seminar | | |
| | Optional courses | | |
| Dec. 2003 -Aug. 2004 | Master Thesis | | |

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| Optional courses |
| Principles of Environmental Science |
| Environmental Chemistry |
| Experimental ecotoxicology |
| Applied Mathematics in Environmental Science |
| Human ecology |
| Environmental strategies and policy |
| Bio-monitoring and biomarkers |
| Higher education theory |
| Applied Methods and Models in Environmental studies |
| Environmental Economics |
| Structure and function of Agro-ecosystems |
| Appraisal and Assessment techniques |
| Pest Management and Environment |
| Environmental Laws |
| GIS and Remote Sensing |
| Environmental Risk Assessment |
| Planning and Sustainable land-use |
| Environmental Microbiology |
| Agricultural Pollutants |
| Environment Monitoring and Management (air, water and soil) |
| Economic planning and management of Natural Resources |

AU: University of Aarhus, Denmark

AUC: Aalborg University, Denmark

CTU: Cantho University, Vietnam

KVL: Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark

LB: University of the Philippines Los Banos, Philippines

MoET: Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam

NERI: National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark