

## Regional Workshops on Classical Biological Control (CBC) of Invasive Alien Species

Two regional Workshops pertaining to Classical Biological Control of IAS were held in The Boulevard Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, from 24-26 September 2014. Workshop 1 was on general Classical Biological Control on IAS and Workshop 2 was on a specific target weed entitled “Implementation of a biological control strategy for *Mikania micranta* in Asia” coordinated by Dr. Carol Ellison, CABI. Workshop 1 was organized by CABI, the Project Executing Agency in the FORIS project, in collaboration with ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) as part of a Regional Component activity in the project. The workshop had 39 participants, from ASEAN countries except Thailand who could not get official clearance in time. The resource persons were Mr. Max Zieren from UNEP, Regional Office Asia-Pacific; Dr. Michael Day, Biosecurity Queensland; Drs. Arne Witt, Carol Ellison and Sivapragasam, CABI; Dr. Filiberto A. Pollisco, Mr. Christian B. Eloran, Ms. Corazon A. De Jesus Jr, ACB and Dr. Thomas Jaekel, GIZ, Bangkok. The key objectives of the Workshop were to:

- (i) Identify or select important regional weed species IAS for intervention with bio-control;
- (ii) Establish a Working Group and its ToRs for the selected IAS species and
- (iii) Develop a regional action plan.

In Workshop 2, held on the 26 September, 2014 and coordinated by Dr. Carol Ellison, various discussions on the experiences with *Mikania* and field experiences with the rust, *Puccinia spegazzini*, the biological control agent for *Mikania* were shared and discussed. The next steps for the regional management of *Mikania* were also outlined.



## National Workshops on CBC of Invasive Alien Species



As a follow-up to the Regional Workshop, the project organized national workshops in the project countries. Dr. Arne Witt, the Technical Advisor to the Project, conducted these workshops targeted at key stakeholders (e.g. legislators, quarantine officials) involved with CBC in the countries. In addition to increasing the awareness of these stakeholders and contributed to capacity building, it is envisaged that the workshop will provided a game changer to mitigate the negative impacts caused by IAS and help reduce barriers to biological control introductions.





## *Regional Workshops on Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Ecological Niche Monitoring Using CLIMEX Software of Invasive Alien Species*

The CBA course was conducted in cooperation with Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd, at the Everly Putrajaya, Malaysia from 13-16 October 2014. The resource persons were Dr. Adam Daigneault, an Environmental and Nature Resource Economist and Dr. Pike Brown, an Applied Microeconomist at Landcare Research in Auckland, New Zealand. The total of 20 participants from the four project countries attended the course. The purposes of the training were:

- To provide knowledge on cost-benefit analysis to invasive alien species (IAS), the application of economic approaches and tools to manage the IAS;
- To share the most literature deals with the economic costs of invasions, and with case studies carried out in North America and Europe;
- To guide the countries as to how economic approaches and tools should be applied in practice (pilot site).



The training Workshop on Ecological Niche Monitoring Using CLIMEX Software was also done at the same venue from 17 – 19 Oct 2014. The resource persons were Dr. Darren Kriticos, Principal Research Scientist and Mr. Dean Paini from CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences. There were 14 participants attending the training workshop.

The purposes of the training are to provide:

- Appreciation of the conceptual basis of CLIMEX;
- Provision of a context for plot studies;
- Inference of species' climatic requirements from their distributions;
- Inference of geographical and seasonal climatic suitability, length of growing season, number of generations, nature of limiting effects;
- Skills in operating CLIMEX software.



## *Workshop on Creating a Regional and National Communication Strategies*

Four training courses ('Motivating Behavior Change') and four communications strategy workshops were conducted in the FORIS project countries: the Philippines (17-18 February), Indonesia (20-21 February), Cambodia (24-25 February), and Vietnam (27-28 February). The training course, conducted by the project consultant, Dr. Jamie Reaser, was designed to provide participants with:

- an understanding of the importance of motivating behavior change in the context of environmental conservation;
- the psychological patterns that result in behavior change;
- communication techniques for motivating behavior change.



## Project Mid-Term Review

The Project Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted in the months of August to September 2014 in each of the project countries and the Regional component in the CABI office in Malaysia. The consultant Team Leader was Mr. John Howes, Luscinia Consulting Malaysia. The IPC also participated in the MTR process in Vietnam on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 and provided an overview on the Project.

### Cambodia

A field visit to Cambodia's project Pilot Site during the MTR process was carried out from 1 - 2 September 2014. Mr. Kan Vibol was appointed as national reviewer (NR) of Cambodia.



### Indonesia



The workshop for the Indonesia Mid-Term Review, held in Bogor was conducted on August 27, 2014. The workshop was attended by about 54 participants from different stakeholder groups. Dr. Boen M. Purnama was appointed as national reviewer. The workshop was covered by TV media (RCTI) and local news (i.e Tempo, Sinar Harapan, Kompas, Terbit, and others).

### The Philippines

The Philippines MTR workshop was conducted on September 10, 2014 in Atrium Hotel, Pasay City. A total of 48 participants were attended the workshop. Ms. Cynthia Layusa, appointed as national MTR Reviewer for the Philippines.



### Vietnam



The workshop for the Vietnam Mid-Term Review, held in Hanoi was conducted on September 4, 2014. The workshop was attended by 17 participants from different stakeholder groups and a media representative from Vietnam Television (VTV2). Prof. Dr. Le Xuan Canh was appointed as national reviewer for the project.

## FORIS participation in an International Workshop

The IPC, Dr. Sivapragasam and the National Project Coordinator (NPC) for the Philippines, Ms. Marianne, participated and presented papers on the overall and country-perspective on the project in an International Workshop entitled *Invasive species and Integrated Pest Management*. The workshop was organized by USAID, IPM Innovation Lab and IAPPS in the Philippines from 13-15 August, 2014.





## Announcement

We congratulate and welcome Dr. Irdika Mansur as the new Director of SEAMEO BIOTROP and as a new member of the International Steering Committee, replacing Prof Bambang Purwantara. We also take this opportunity to thank Prof. Bambang, the current Director for his contributions to the project and wish him well into his new endeavors.

## Up coming events

### Third International Steering Committee (3<sup>rd</sup> ISC) Meeting, Los Baños, the Philippines

The FORIS project will organise the Third International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting of the Project in Los Baños, The Philippines from the 11-12 December 2014. The venue of the meeting take place in SEARCA, University of the Philippines Los Baños. A total of 15 participants including member of project management unit (PMU), ISC members and National Project Directors and Coordinators from four participated countries will be attending the meeting. The objectives of the meeting are to: (i) Review the annual progress and impact performance on the project for 2014 (PY-3); (ii) Review and approve the 2015 (PY-4) annual work plans and budgets.

## Contact

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