

# INTERNATIONAL JOINT LABORATORY LMI LUSES ANNUAL MEETING

October 19th to 20th 2015 - Khon Kaen, Thailand



**The 4th annual meeting of the LMI LUSES dedicated to “the dynamics of land use changes and soil ecosystem services” took place in Khon Kaen University, Thailand from October 19th to 20th 2015.**

## ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 2015

This year, the meeting gathers 73 participants from the 4 countries involved in LUSES and has the specificity to be co-organized with the “kick of meeting” of the young research team ECO-RUBBER, which associated Khon Kaen (Thailand) and NuOL (Laos) Universities. Both projects organized on the 21 of October a workshop entitle “Socio-economic And Environmental Contexts of Rubber Plantation Sustainability?”

Since the first phase of the project will end in 2016, a special focus has been made this year on the implementation of the second phase of this project, which should start in 2017. The intensity and quality of the discussion, regarding that topic show nicely their attachment to the project.

The first day started with the welcome address by prof Dr. Supachai Pathumnakul; Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer of Khon Kaen University (KKU) and by Jacques Berger, IRD Representative in Thailand, India, Nepal and Myanmar. Then, the directors of LUSES; Nopmanee Suvannang from the Land development department of Thailand and Alain Brauman, IRD senior researcher presented the 3 years achievements of the LMI and the main changes in scientific organization and governance that occurred since its creation in 2012.

Following these statements, leaders and researchers involved in the LUSES projects (OMM, TREE, ECOFILTER and SEALNET) presented their annual report. The day followed up with the presentations of potential LMI scientific projects for 2016-2020 (phase 2 of the LMI) such as “sustainable agriculture: to promote and study alternative agricultural practices”, “perennial plantations and soil ecosystem services”, “critical zones processes for sustainable agriculture”.

The second day of the annual meeting was dedicated to parallel sessions linked to the 3 potential projects and to the presentation of LMI related projects: the 2 platforms in partnerships of CIRAD; the HRPP (Hevea Research Platform in Partnership) led by Philippe Thaler and the CANSEA network (Conservative Agriculture in South East Asia) led by Frank Enjalric. Theses presentations ended with the SURUMER (Sustainable Rubber Cultivation in the Mekong Region) project presented by prof. Sergey Blagodatsky from Hohenheim University.

The day ended with an executive committee that was dedicated to the planning of the next phase of the LMI LUSES (phase 2, 2016-2020).

## WHAT IS LMI LUSES?

The LMI LUSES focuses on the environmental impact of agriculture on soil in context of the rapid agrarian transition in south East Asia and contributes to the creation of projects related to soil ecology and water cycles at regional scale. The LMI is a regional project (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam) that gathers 2 French (IRD and CIRAD) and 7 Asian institutions that include a large range of scientific disciplines (soil science, biology, hydrology, soil chemistry etc.).

One of the main goals of the LMI LUSES is to reinforce the capacity building of the Asian partners in soil ecology. To do so, LUSES develops a regional biological platform within the LDD in Thailand together with regional field platforms in Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

The LMI LUSES is organized around 3 main projects: (i) OMM: Organic Matter Management (ii) TREE PLANTATIONS (environmental impact of tree plantations on soil functions), (iii) ECOFILTER (land uses and stream ground water). In 2014, the LMI partners created a regional network of 19 soil laboratories named SEALNET in order to improve the quality of soil analysis and test their performance through inter-laboratories samples exchanges.

At last, one of the main features of LUSES is to reinforce the scientific and human linkage between the Asiatic partners via the organization of collective trainings. In the past 4 years, the LMI LUSES has trained around 300 participants. This reinforcement of the scientific skills together with the development of scientific platforms has increased LUSES visibility that has translated into the funding of 9 projects since the beginning of the LMI in 2012.

## LMI LUSES ANNUAL MEETINGS

These annual meetings are important to the collective life of the LMI since the project is disseminated in 3 countries and 7 institutions. These meetings aim at updating the members on the projects status and progresses, opening debates and discussions on the projects' organization and governance, determining the priorities for the following year. These meeting are an opportunity of LMI members to strengthen their connections and promote a long-term partnership. Indeed, all the participants agreed that the meetings are now warmer and friendly.



## CONTACT

Alain Brauman, IRD,  
[alain.brauman@ird.fr](mailto:alain.brauman@ird.fr)

Nopmanee Suvannang, LDD  
[nopmanee\\_su@hotmail.com](mailto:nopmanee_su@hotmail.com)