



**DYNAMICS OF LAND USE CHANGES  
AND SOIL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (LUSES)**

**Official opening ceremony of  
Regional Platform of Microbiology  
LDD- LMI LUSES**

**Land Development Department  
Bangkok, 22 May 2014**



On 22 May 2014, which correspond to LDD's 51<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Our LMI LUSES partner, the **Land Development Department** organized an opening ceremony of regional platform of Microbiology LMI LUSES at Land Development Department central office.

The General Director of LDD, Mr Apichat provided a warm welcome to Stéphane Roy, Attache for Science, and Higher Education at the French Embassy, Dr. Jacques Berger, Representative of IRD Thailand, Dr. Marc Souris, Representative of IRD Lao PDR and M. Damien Jourdain, representative of CIRAD and to Alain Brauman, co-director of the LMI LUSES with Nopmanee Suvannang from LDD.



The ceremony began by a speech of the IRD representative who first deeply thanked the General Director of Land Development Department, Mr Apichat and the Deputy Director Mr. Anusorn, for inviting him, as IRD representative, to participate to this opening ceremony of the LMI LUSES Platform of Microbiology.



He also underlined the fact that the collaboration between the LDD and IRD is based on a long historical partnership originated by our IRD colleagues Roland Poss, who was the first IRD researcher posted at LDD in 1995. Roland passed away recently but he would have been proud of the spirit of this efficient collaboration with LDD partners.





Now this long term partnership has been moved one step forward with the implementation of this new IRD Tool called LMI, for “Laboratoire Mixte International” in French or “International Joint laboratory” in English. In short the LMI LUSES standing for “LAND USES and SOIL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES”, aims to develop multidisciplinary research and training in soil ecological sciences **on a regional scale**. (LaoPDR, Thailand and Vietnam). This is why the LMI included 7 south east Asian institutions or universities. Its scientific objective is to tackle the agriculture environmental impact on soil, in south east Asia (LaoPDR, Thailand and Vietnam), a main issue for the LDD and all Asian farmers!

This speech was followed by the speech of Mr Anusorn Chantanaroj, deputy director of the LDD, who acknowledged IRD for this long term collaboration with LDD under the Framework of the TICA agency (Thailand International Cooperation Agency). He underlined that one of the keys for the success of the association between LDD and IRD under the LMI framework, is relying on the possibility to develop soil microbiology analyses, a major component of soil fertility for developing a more sustainable agriculture. Both the LDD and the LMI LUSES, with the support of IRD and CIRAD, joined their efforts to create this performing well equipped microbiology platform, that have been officially opened the 22th of May 2014.



The speech was followed by a symbolic curtain opening, which was covering the LMI LUSES -LDD banner by the DG of LDD, Mr Apichat, the Attache for Scient. and Higher Education M. S. Roy and the IRD representative Mr J. Bergé.



Then, a visit of the laboratory was organized with Mrs Supaporn, Director of the biotechnology division of LDD, Mr Alain Brauman, LMI LUSES director from IRD and Mr Pascal Alonso, IRD expert in Molecular Biology.







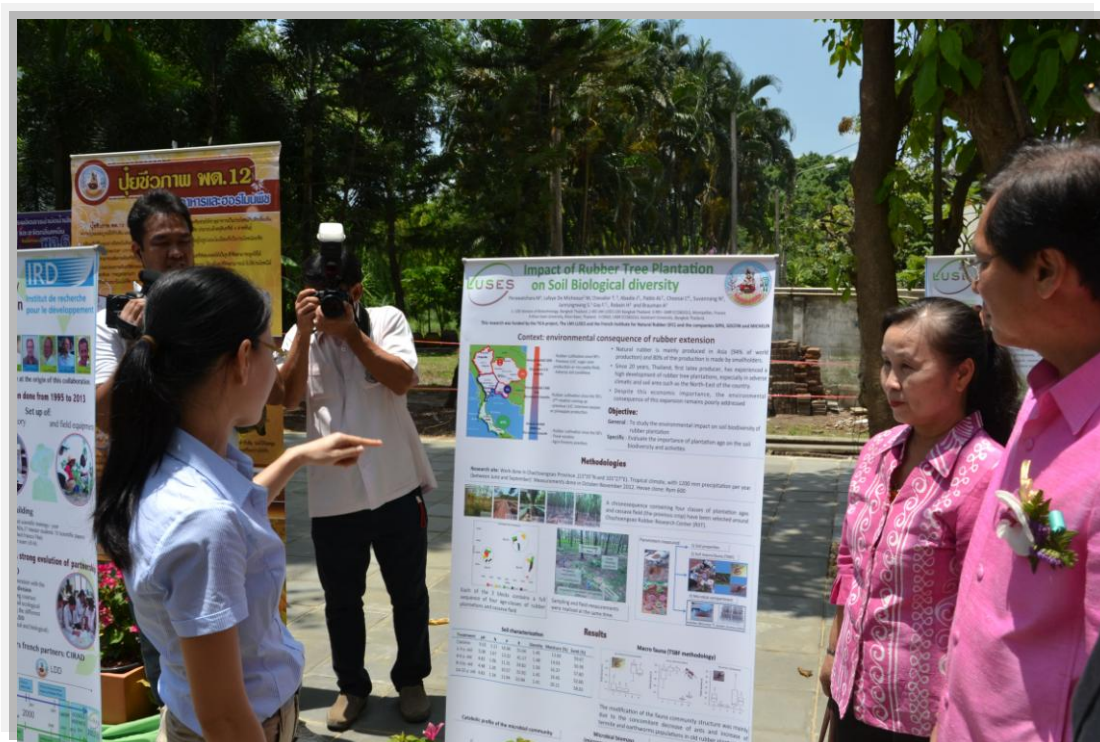
This laboratory visit was followed by a poster presentation which described the long term IRD-LDD partnership presented by Henri Robain from IRD., the head of the ongoing TICA project



The LMI LUSES objectives and LMI-LDD microbial platform, description by A. Brauman,



...And an example of the work done in the platform by Ms. Peerawat, LDD researcher and LMI PhD student.





**As usual, the ceremony ended up with a lunch offered by the LDD, to all the participants.**

