

## Fifth General Assembly of ISME

The Fifth General Assembly of ISME will be held at Bong Sen Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 19 to 24 August 2002. The Assembly is held once every three years. It was previously held in Yokohama (1990), Okinawa (1993), Hat Yai (1996), and Bali (1999). The Assembly evaluates the activities and finance of the past three years, and discusses the plans and finance for the coming next three years. In conjunction with the General Assembly, ISME will hold other meetings of ISME, including Workshops of the ITTO/ISME Projects "Global Mangrove Database and Information System (GLOMIS)" and "Action Plan on Mangrove Management." Meetings will be hosted and organized by the Mangrove Ecosystems Research Division (MERD) of the Centre for Natural Resources & Environmental Studies (CRES) of the Vietnam National University. Local arrangements will be made by Prof. Phan Nguyen Hong, the Vice-Director of the CRES, and his secretaries. Outcome of the Assembly will be reported to members through the next issue of Newsletter.

## ITTO Mangrove Workplan

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has recently adapted its Mangrove Workplan to provide guidance for the Organization's future work in promoting the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of mangroves, for the years 2002-2006. The Workplan gives insights into the area of activities that are seen as priorities by the Organization for future project work. ISME assisted ITTO in preparing the Workplan. The Workplan is published and will also be made available to the public on the ITTO Website.

## ISME Action Plan on Mangrove Management

ITTO has approved ISME pre-project entitled "Action Plan on Mangrove Management" in November 2001. The Pre-Project will prepare an action plan based on and integrated with the ITTO Mangrove Workplan, by assessing the past and present mangrove related

## Election of Executive Committee

The Election of the ISME Executive Committee Members normally takes place once every three years coinciding the year of the General Assembly. The present members of the Committee, as reported in the last issue of the ISME Newsletter, have shown their willingness to continue their tenure for another three years. The Secretariat made an announcement to the members of the Society through its newsletter (issue #24, July 2001), and requested its members to contact the Secretariat if there were any objection.

The Secretariat received no objection. Willingness of the present Executive Members to continue their tenure was supported by the members of ISME. The present Executive Members will serve their second term, 2002-2005. The members of the Executive Committee are:

- President: Prof. Aprilani Soegiarto, Indonesia (Former Chairman of Plant Resources of South-East Asia, Indonesian Institute of Science - LIPI);
- Vice-President: Ambassador Noboru Nakahira, Japan (Former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Canada);
- Vice-President: Dr. Marc Steyaert, France (Former Director of the Division of Marine Sciences, UNESCO);
- Vice-President: Dr. E. S. Diop, Senegal, (Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Division of Environmental Information, Assessment and Early Warning, UNEP)
- Treasurer: Prof. Sanit Aksornkoe, Thailand (Professor Emeritus, Department of Silviculture, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University)

projects. ISME has appointed Dr. Francois Blasco of the Laboratory for Terrestrial Ecology, Toulouse, France, as the Pre-Project Coordinator. He is specialized in remote sensing and also engaged as chairman of various national and international committees. Your input on information of the past and present mangrove projects is appreciated.

## Mangrove Training Course

The annual Mangrove Training Course "Sustainable Utilization of Mangrove Ecosystems" has been implemented by ISME since 1995 with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Course has received 54 participants from 30 countries since 1995. Participants this year are eight from seven countries (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Oman, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, and Vietnam). Curriculum of the Course is composed of lectures, laboratory work, and mangrove field surveys at several islands in Okinawa Prefecture where the largest area of mangrove forest is distributed in Japan. The Course invited 40 lecturers locally and internationally including some ISME members who gave presentations on, for example, mangrove biology, physiology, fisheries, management and conservation, etc. Several joint lectures and field work were held together with another training course of JICA entitled "Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coral Reef" to learn and exchange the current situation of mangrove and coral reef ecosystems.

## ASPACO

With UNESCO-MAB and UNU, ISME will organize an international meeting of ASPACO (Asia-Pacific Cooperation for the Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources in Biosphere Reserves and Similar Managed Areas) in Okinawa, 1-6 October 2002. ASPACO is a project of UNESCO, objectives of which include identifying national strategies for biodiversity protection in biosphere reserves and similar managed areas with special emphasis on coastal areas, small islands and mangroves. The Project is a follow up to the Action Plan proposed at UNU-ISME-UNESCO/MAB Okinawa International Workshop "Asia-Pacific Cooperation on Research for Conservation of Mangroves" held in March 2000.

### ISME Secretariat

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### *Membership of ISME*

**Individual membership:** JPY2,000, or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$20), annually;

**Life membership:** JPY20,000 or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$200);

**Institutional membership:** JPY25,000, or equivalent in US\$ (approx. US\$250), annually.

UNESCO coupons and international postal money-order are acceptable. We also accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Please avoid cheques. For further information, contact ISME Secretariat. Your contribution is appreciated. Your donation for the Society is also welcomed.

### *News from your country*

If you have any news from your country or your work concerning mangrove ecosystems that you wish to see published in the ISME newsletter, please forward it to ISME Secretariat.

### *Send articles/publications of mangrove to ISME Secretariat*

ISME is organizing GLOMIS. Please send articles/publications concerning mangroves and mangrove ecosystems to ISME Secretariat.

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New Members will be introduced in the next issue.