

ISME: Tracing its History

ISME was formed in August 1990 during its Inaugural General Assembly (GA) held at the Yokohama Conference Centre in Japan. The occasion was graced by their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi. Present were the Executive Director of ITTO, Director General of UNESCO, Mayor of Yokohama City, along with representatives from Okinawa Prefecture, National Mangrove Committees and JIAM. The Executive Committee was formally ratified and Founding Members were Dr M.S. Swaminathan as President; Prof S. Saito, Prof Sanga Sabhasri and Dr Marta Vannucci as Vice-Presidents; Prof Colin Field as Treasurer; and Prof Yoshihiro Kohda as Executive Secretary. Since then, the ISME Secretariat was located at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa.

In March 1991, ISME was officially affiliated to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the International Association for Biological Organization (IABO). This affiliation grants the right of ISME to attend UNESCO and UN meetings as an international organization. In June 1992, ISME submitted the *Charter for Mangroves* to the Secretary General of UNCED as an annex of the *World Charter for Nature*. In October 1992, ISME was certified a Foundation under the Japanese Law of Foundation.

The Second GA was held in Okinawa in June 1993. Officiated by their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi, the occasion was attended by the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture with representatives from UNESCO, UNEP, JIAM, OKINAM and 25 countries. At the occasion, Okinawa was recognized as the Mangrove Capital of the World. Prof Sanga Sabhasri was elected as President.

The Third GA was held in Hat Yai, Thailand in August 1996. Prof Shigeyuki Baba was appointed the Executive Secretary November 1997 following the retirement of Prof Yoshihiro Kohda. The Fourth GA was held in Bali, Indonesia in September 1999 with Prof Aprilani Soegiarto elected as President. In December 1999, ISME was awarded the Certificate of Commandment by the Japanese Ministry of Environment in recognition of ISME's achievements

in research, conservation and rehabilitation of mangroves which contributed to the mitigation of global warming.

In 2000, *ISME/GLOMIS Electronic Journal* (ISSN 1880-7682) was launched. The Fifth GA was held in HCM City, Vietnam in August 2002. A year later, ISME was registered as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO) under the Japanese Law to Promote Specified Non-profit Activities. The Sixth GA was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August 2005. Prof Salif Diop was elected President. In August 2008, the Seventh GA was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Prof Salif Diop was re-elected President.

Executive Committee of ISME

Past Members

Presidents

Dr M.S. Swaminathan (India, 1990-1993)
Prof Sanga Sabhasri (Thailand, 1993-1999)
Dr. Marta Vannucci (Brazil, 1999 Acting President)
Prof Aprilani Soegiarto (Indonesia, 1999-2005)

Vice-Presidents

Ambassador Shizuo Saito (Japan, 1990-1998)
Prof Sanga Sabhasri (Thailand, 1990-1993)
Dr Marta Vannucci (Brazil, 1990-1993)
Dr Barry Clough (Australia, 1993-1996)
Prof Aprilani Soegiarto (Indonesia, 1996-1999)
Dr Marc Steyaert (France, 1999-2005)
Prof Salif Diop (Senegal, 1999-2005)

Treasurers

Prof Colin Field (Australia, 1990-1996)
Dr Marc Steyaert (France, 1996-1999)

Executive Secretary

Prof Yoshihiro Kohda (Japan, 1990-1997)

Present Members

President

Prof Salif Diop (Senegal, 2005-)

Vice-Presidents

Ambassador Noboru Nakahira (Japan, 2002-)
Prof François Blasco (France, 2005-)
Dr Chan Hung Tuck (Malaysia, 2005-)

Treasurer

Prof Sanit Aksornkoae (Thailand, 1999-)

Executive Secretary

Prof Shigeyuki Baba (Japan, 1997-)

ITTO Funded Projects of ISME

- The Economic and Environmental Values of Mangrove Forests and Present State of Conservation (1990-1991)
- Workshops on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization on Mangrove Forests in the Latin America and Africa Regions (1992-1994)
- Manual and a World Mangrove Atlas for Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration (1993-1995)
- Mangrove Resource Information System: Evaluation of the Scope and Content of Existing Databases (1996)
- Global Mangrove Database and Information System (GLOMIS) Phase I (1997-2001) and Phase II (2001-2003)
- Action Plan on Sustainable Mangrove Management (2002-2003)
- Expanding and Improving Global Mangrove Database and Information System (GLOMIS) and its Networking (2004-2006)
- Revised World Atlas of Mangrove for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystems (2005-2010)
- Guidelines for the Restoration of Mangroves and other Coastal Forests damaged by Tsunamis and other Natural Hazards in the Asia-Pacific Region (2008-2009)

Other Projects of ISME

- Project of mangrove plantation in Miani Hor, Pakistan (1994-1997), funded by Japanese Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.
- Educational programs on *Know Your Mangroves* (1995), *What the Tides Bring* (1996) and *Living with Mangroves* (1997), funded by Japan Fund for Global Environment.
- Raising a mangrove nursery for restoration of coastal areas in Senegal (1997-1998), funded by Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center.
- Permanent plots for research on ecological dynamics of mangrove forests in Iriomote and Ishigaki Island, Japan (2000), funded by Marine Park Center Foundation.
- Survey project on mangroves in Iriomote Island, Japan (2000-2002), funded by Research Institute of Sub-Tropics (RIS).
- Pre-project, on feasibility on mangrove plantation in UAE (2001), funded by Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center
- Formulation of Code of Conduct (2002-2003), funded by World Bank.
- Research on mangroves in Okinawa (2003), funded by Okinawa Prefectural Government.
- Survey on utilization of mangroves (2004), funded by Okinawa Prefectural Government.



Pakistan, 1995, K. Tsuruda



Senegal, 1998, S. Diop



Maldives, 2001, S. Baba



Maldives, 2007, S. Yamagami



Kiribati, 2005, T. Suzuki



Kiribati, 2009, S. Baba

- Support for community based mangrove management and environmental education in Samoa (2004-2005), funded by Nippon Keidanren.
- Research on mangrove distribution and mollusc/shellfish habitat in Urauchi River, Iriomote Island (2005), funded by Expo '90 Foundation.
- Research on river bank erosion of Urauchi River, Iriomote Island (2005), Forestry Agency, Japan.
- Physio-biochemical study on mangroves (2005-2006), funded by Okinawa Prefectural Government.
- Restoration of Degraded Mangroves in Northern Brazil (2005-2008), funded by JICA Partnership Programme.
- Research on Mangrove Forests damaged by Tsunami, Indonesia (2006-2007), funded by Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center.
- Restoration of Coastal Forests for Local Communities and the Environment of Small Islands of the Republic of Maldives (2006-2008), funded by Japan Fund for Global Environment.
- Mangrove Rehabilitation Project, Kiribati (2005-2009), funded by Cosmo Oil Co., Ltd.
- Research and planting mangroves in small island countries (2005-2010), funded by the Defense of Green Earth Foundation.
- Research on the corals in Iriomote island for conservation and rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems (2006), funded by Expo '90 Foundation.

- Pre-project, Research on *Heritiera hormones* in Myanmar (2007), funded by Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center.
- Iriomote study tour for children (2008-), funded by Tokio Marine and Nichido Fire Insurance Company.
- Community based activities of restoring degraded mangrove ecosystem in northern Brazil (2009), funded by Aeon Foundation.

JICA/ISME Training Courses

- “Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems” (1995-);
- “Environmental Education for Sustainable Development—Conservation of Coastal Ecosystems for Lives of Local Communities (2005-);
- Training course for Mexican (2007), for Indian (2007-2009), for Indonesians (2009)

New Projects of ISME

- Mangrove Plantation Project, Gujarat, India (2009-2013), funded by Tokio Marine Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
- Production of an Educational Book Series on Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Mangrove Ecosystems (2010-2011), funded by ITTO.
- Replanting of Mangroves, Sabah, Malaysia (2011-2014), funded by Tokio Marine Nichido Insurance Company.



Tuvalu, 2009, S. Baba



Brazil, 2007, T. Tsuji



Brazil, 2007, T. Tsuji



Training Course, 2007, S. Yamagami



Training Course, 2007, S. Yamagami



Study tour, 2008, S. Yamagami

Pictorial News

Planting Mangroves in Oman

This mangrove planting project in the Sultanate of Oman is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Initiated in August 2000, the project is aimed at creating new and enhancing existing mangrove vegetation in the Sultanate.

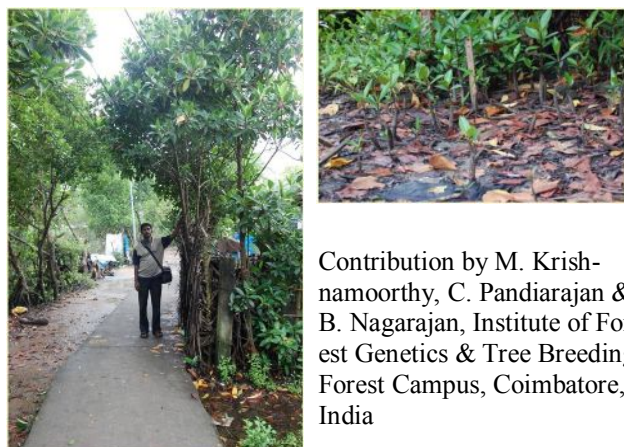
Located in the Qurum Nature Reserve, Muscat; Khwar Al-Bateh, Sur; and Salalah Khwars, Dhofar; 455,000 seedlings of *Avicennia marina* have been successfully planted since 2001. Schools, universities, scouts including Omani women participated in the planting activities.



Contribution by Bader Al Bulushi, Head of Environmental Wetland, Ministry of Environment & Climate Affairs, Sultanate of Oman

Planting Mangrove Bio-fences in India

Since the tsunami of December 2004, villagers of Puthuvypu in Kerala, India have planted trees of *Bru-guiera gymnorhiza* as bio-fences. Besides providing shade, aesthetics and protection to the village, the bio-fences are self-growing and self-regenerating.



Contribution by M. Krishnamoorthy, C. Pandiarajan & B. Nagarajan, Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Forest Campus, Coimbatore, India

Aboriginal Wood Carvings in Malaysia

The Mah Meri tribe from Carey Island in Malaysia produces sculptures carved from the wood of *Xylocarpus moluccensis* and *X. granatum*. Mystical and hauntingly beautiful, the carvings have been awarded the seals of excellence for quality and artistry by UNESCO and the ASEAN Handicraft Promotion and Development Association.



Contribution by H.T. Chan, Vice-President of ISME, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan

New Members (up to September 2009)

- BANGLADESH -

Rahman, Masud Masudur

Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Bangladesh.

- COLOMBIA -

Copete Murillo, Esther Maritza

Foundation for Quality of Life, Bogota, Colombia

Kirchman Watson, Diany Rebeca

Corporation for the Sustainable Development of San Andres, Providence and Santa Catalina, Colombia

- FIJI -

Tavenisa, Luisa

Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment, Suva, Fiji

- GUATEMALA -

Mendez Parham, Zayda Cleopatra

Foundation for Eco-Development & Conservation Guatemala

- GERMANY -

Sand, Elisabeth

Ausbach, Germany

Weickmann, Dirk

Ansbach, Germany

- INDIA -

Bandyopadhyay, Subhendu

Ichapur, Ichapur, West Bengal, India

Kumar, S. Sasi

Mogappair, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India

Reddy, Rama Nagaraja

Similipal Tiger Reserve, Baripada, Orissa, India

Sharath, Ratnakaran Shanta

Baratang Forest Divison, A & N Islands, India

Thirunavukarasu, Velusamy

Wildlife Warden, Tamilnadu, India

- INDONESIA-

Arief Mahmud

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

Bagus Dwi Rahmanto

Ministry of Forestry, Central Jakarta, Indonesia

Mochamad Budi Purnomo

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

Hari Sudrajat

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

Luh Sutarmi

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

I Nyoman Sarwa

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

Ni Wayan Wiratini

Mangrove Management Center, Bali, Indonesia

- JAPAN -

Arita, Keiji

Tsurugashima, Saitama, Japan

Fujiwara, Kenji

Yahaba, Iwate, Japan

Harada, Yukari

Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Ibrahim, Mohd Yunus Bin

Kagoshima City, Kagoshima, Japan

Watanabe, Shin

University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan

- KENYA -

Kinyua, Mark Muchwe

Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya

- MALAYSIA -

Chan Wei Chiang Eric

UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Gong Wooi Khoon

Penang, Malaysia

Ong Jin Eong

Penang, Malaysia

Wong Siu Kuin Jane

Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- MICRONESIA -

Benjamin, Harvey Vinton

Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority,
Federated State of Micronesia

- MYANMAR -

Moe Zaw

Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry,
Myanmar

Zaw Min Htun

Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry,
Myanmar

- PAKISTAN -

Aziz, Irfan

University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

- SAMOA -

Mauga, Annie Kalala

Ministry of Natural & Environment, Apia, Samoa

- SINGAPORE -

Wong, Poh Poh

National University of Singapore, Singapore

- TUVALU -

Metia, Penieli

Vaialu, Funafuti, Tuvalu

Su, Yueh Hsi Eric

Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)

- USA -

Hamilton, Stuart E.

Williamsburg, VA, USA

Gray, L. Joseph

Covington, KY, USA

- VENEZUELA -

Medina Mendez, Radharani Devi

Corecas, Venezuela

- VIETNAM-

Le, Thuy Thu

Hanoi College of Nature Resource and
Environment, Vietnam



Updates on ISME/GLOMIS Electronic Journal

The following are recent issues available from the GLOMIS Website:

- Volume 8, No. 5 (May 2010):** Unique features of mangrove ecosystems in India (K. Kathiresan)
- Volume 8, No. 4 (April 2010):** Sacrificial leaf hypothesis of mangroves (L.J. Gray, K. Shubin, H. Cummins, D. McCollum, T. Bruns & E. Comiskey)
- Volume 8, No. 3 (March 2010):** Chemistry of lignin in *Sonneratia apetala* (Keora) wood of Bangladesh (M.S. Jahan, A. Al-Maruf & D.A.N. Chowdhury)
- Volume 8, No. 2 (February 2010):** Coastal rehabilitation project in the Maldives (S. Baba, S. Yamagami & Y. Nakao)
- Volume 8, No. 1 (January 2010):** Antioxidant properties of coastal and inland populations of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (S.K. Wong & E.W.C. Chan)

ISME/GLOMIS Electronic Journal is a peer reviewed on-line journal dedicated to inform mangrove scientists and the general public on scientific knowledge and issues related to mangrove ecosystems. The journal welcomes manuscripts with scientific merit reporting original fundamental or applied research on mangrove biology, ecology, physiology, hydrology, chemistry, forestry, fisheries, management, conservation, rehabilitation and utilization. Manuscripts on mangrove-related environmental issues, e.g. climate change, sea-level rise, erosion, pollution and sedimentation, are also welcomed. To view the articles, please visit GLOMIS at <http://www.glomis.com>

Membership of ISME

Individual membership:

JPY2,000 (approx. US\$22) annually;

Life membership:

JPY20,000 (approx. US\$220);

Institutional membership:

JPY25,000 (approx. US\$270) 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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