

Summary Report

Training Workshop on the Taxonomy of High Elevation Vascular Plants

02-09 October 2017

Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Outline of the workshop

Date: 02-09 October 2017

Venue: Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden (QSBG), Chiang Mai, Thailand

Field Study: Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Trainee: 11 persons from Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei and Singapore

Resource Persons:

* 1. Dr. Tetsukazu Yahara, Kyushu University, Japan

*Dr. Nobuyuki Tanaka, National Museum of Nature and Science, Japan

* Dr. Piyakaset Suksathan, the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Thailand (QSBG)

*Dr. Prachaya Srisanga, the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Thailand (QSBG)

* Dr. Somran Suddee, The Forest Herbarium (BKF)

Organizers: Biodiversity Center of Japan, MOE-J (ESABII Secretariat)

Co-organizer: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden

Introduction / Background

The lack of trained human resources and inadequate capacities on taxonomy has been stressed as one of the obstacles in the implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) commitments, especially in the ASEAN region. In recent years, ASEAN+3's dynamic growth has increased pressures on its natural resources. Human activities, including unsustainable production, increased development and infrastructure, pollution, and others, threaten fragile biological resources increasingly. Lack of scientific information on biodiversity in this region is a crucial issue in the assessment and prediction of biodiversity changes, caused mainly by the lack of taxonomic capacity in data collection and analysis.

At the 6th Conference of Parties (COP-6) of the CBD, an operational programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) was endorsed (COP Decision VI/8, paragraph 5). This programme of work not only sets the operative objectives, but also provides the rationale for the choice of the operational targets. It was concluded that fast and successful implementation of this programme of work will, to a large extent, depend on: (i) coordinating it with existing national, regional and global

initiatives, partnerships and institutions such as, inter alia, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and BioNET-International, and (ii) taxonomic capacity building at the national and regional levels.

The 9th COP of the CBD added other work activities in the GTI PoW (Decision VIII/3). Decision XI/29 of the COP11 in Hyderabad, India crafted the Capacity Building Strategy of the GTI and urged the Parties to implement the Strategy. The 19th SBSTTA held in October 2015 at Montreal, Canada, encouraged the Parties to increase awareness of GTI and to implement the Strategy (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/L.7 item 5f and 5g).

The Internship-training on Taxonomy for High Elevation Vascular Plants is one of the activities implemented under the project “Development of the GTI Regional Action Plan for South East Asia 2016-2020 and Capacity Development on the Taxonomy for High Elevation Vascular Plants”. The project is funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and the ESABII of the MOE-Japan.

Objectives

The internship-training aimed to improve knowledge and skills of 10 representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS) on the taxonomy of high elevation vascular plants. To achieve this, the project aims as follow:

1. To conduct a taxonomic capacity building program for high elevation vascular plants
2. To observe, record and collect samples through field work
3. To enhance taxonomic skills in sample collection, processing and management of specimens
4. To communicate with the researchers of QSBG
5. To provide hands-on experience through field and laboratory exercises in collection, identification and development of a field guide book.
6. To develop an available field guide book

Day 1

Opening Program and first lectures. The welcome remark was delivered by Dr. Piyakaset, Acting Deputy Director of the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden. He mentioned about the importance of taxonomy to biodiversity conservation and subsequently welcomed the participants to the city of

Chiang Mai. For the ACB side, Dr. Pollisco represented the Executive Director, Atty. Roberto V. Oliva. He reported to the participants the updates on the training programs on GTI and what occurred from 2010 up to the present. He welcomed the participants to Chiang Mai and to the training course. Mr. Yusuke Saito, representing the MOEJ, give an address of gratitude and introduced the ESABII program.

After the program, the formal lectures started on the theoretical aspects of the training course. Resource persons each gave their assigned topics for the day (see program of activities for details).

Day 2

This is the second day where the participants were taken to the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden for orientation on the facilities and grounds of the QSBG. The QSBG briefed the participants on the mandates and facilities offered by the QSBG. After the briefing, the participants were taken on a tour of the facilities, the library, the herbarium laboratory, and the places where they will be working after the field exercises in Doi Inthanon. The QSBG staff also briefed the participants on expectations in Doi Inthanon National Park and things to bring.

Day 3

The group traveled to Doi Inthanon National Park, after check-in the dormitory of Doi Inthanon National Park, the group had an orientation by the Park Management Staff. The Park Management Staff, led by the Deputy Park Manager, briefly oriented the participants about the national park and its features. After lunch, the group proceeded to the Summit Trail and Ang Ka Nature Trail where the different teams that were assigned specific plant groups proceeded to take pictures and samples for study. After the field work, the group returned to Park HQ and checked-in in the Park dormitory.

The assigned specific plant is as below.

Group 1 Epiphytes and Climbers

Group 2 Tree of Doi Inthanon National Park, Thailand

Group 3 Shrubs and small trees of the upper montane

Group 4 Orchids

Group 5 Herbaceous Monocot Plants

Group 6 Dicot Herbs

Group 7 Ferns

Day 4

This day, the group finished check-out from dormitory of Doi Inthanon National Park, was taken to the Kew Mae Pan Trail, having about 2,300 masl at its highest point, which is a popular trail among the visitors of Doi Inthanon. The trail is a 4-km loop that traverses several ecosystems including a sub-alpine meadow and cliffside vegetation.

Although the day was rainy, the group proceeded to perform their assignments the whole day. After the trek, the group went back to the Park HQ and processed their samples including taking pictures and preparing the specimens for transport to QSBG for further processing and study. The same afternoon, the group traveled back to Chiang Mai.

Day 5

The specimens were processed, studied, identified and described in the QSBG supervised by the resource persons and the taxonomists of the QSBG. Other staff of the QSBG supported the training course as logistics and support staff. Dr. Yahara added a presentation to further enhance the capacity of the participants in processing and describing their specimens.

Day 6-7

The training continued as same with yesterday, the group were studied and tried to write up of field guide book, and no more technical presentations were done.

Day 8

The describing of species found in Doi Inthanon were finished and the preparation of reports and presentations were done.

