



RMAP BULLETIN 2 SEPTEMBER 2005

RMAP PROGRAM NEWS

Dr SG Haberle (RMAP); Prof G Hope; Dr M Buchhorn have successfully applied for ARC funding to develop **The Australasian Pollen and Spore Atlas** (2005 : \$55,000, 2006 : \$55,000). This proposal will enable online accessibility to the largest collection of pollen and spores information in the Australasian region that is currently located at the Australian National University. This will be a searchable database that is accessible over the web and suitable for professional as well as the technical novice involved in pollen and spore identification. Novel approaches to the federation of other smaller existing pollen and spores databases will result in The Australasian Pollen and Spores Atlas. The Atlas will be a flexible and powerful knowledge management tool applicable to research development by a wide range of users including those within the archaeology, biology, geology, and airborne allergy specialists.

SEMINARS OF INTEREST

Sharks, Sea Slugs and Skirmishes: Managing Marine and Agricultural Resources on Small, Overpopulated Islands in Milne Bay, PNG

Simon Foale, Research Fellow, RMAP

Date & time: Tuesday 6 September, 12.30 - 1.30pm

Venue: Seminar Room C, Coombs Building, ANU campus
(RMAP Seminar)

Saving the Global Forests: Debate and Dysfunction

Jim Douglas, Visiting Fellow, School of Resources, Environment and Society, ANU; formerly Forests Advisor, World Bank

Date & time: Monday 26 September, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

Venue: Seminar Room 1, 2nd floor, J.G. Crawford Building, NCDS
(APSEG Seminar)

Graun Em Laip - Land Is Life National Speaking Tour. 30 Years of PNG independence.

communities | environment | security | aid

Date & time: Friday 9th September, 6-8pm

Venue: The Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit.

As PNG celebrates 30 years of independence it remains a country in transition. Raskols, corruption, witchdoctors and the HIV/AIDS pandemic are the common ways in which life in PNG is portrayed in Australia. Come and find out what is really happening in PNG and where the \$15 billion in Australian aid money has gone since 1975. Two community activists from PNG will talk about issues of customary land and the many successes and challenges that PNG faces as it enters its fourth decade of independence. Hosted by Dr Deb Foskey, ACT Greens and AID/WATCH
RSVP: aidwatch@aidwatch.org.au

RECENT ADDITIONS TO RMAP WEBSITE

Conference Calendar

http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/conf_calendar.php

Pacific Conference on Growth and Development: Building Better Pacific Economies

October 12 to 14, 2005, University of Papua New Guinea

Oceania Development Network Conference. First Notice And Call For Papers

Themes for discussion include: Natural Resources, Economic Growth and Development (Session Chairs: Dr Mahendra Reddy (USP) and Mr. Mike Manning (INA)), covering land tenure, environment, and national resource management; and management of revenues from natural resource projects.

Contact details: Dr Mahendra Reddy, Conference Convenor; Email: reddy_m@usp.ac.fj

Dr David Kavanamur, Conference Co-Convenor; Email: David.kavanamur@upng.ac.pg

For further details: <http://www.gdn-oceania.org/100043.php>

OTHER USEFUL TEXT ONLINE

Community and State Interests in Small-Scale Mining: Sharing Experiences from the Asia-Pacific Region

The Philippine Sustainable Development Network (PSDN), with support from the RMAP Program, organized a Learning Event on behalf of the World Bank Communities and Small-Scale Mining (CASM) network (www.casmsite.org), held in Manila from the 7th to the 12th of June 2005.

Presentations and papers can be viewed at: http://www.casmsite.org/programs_learning_PSDN.htm

OFFLINE PUBLICATIONS

Resosudarmo, B.P. (ed.). 2005. **The Politics and Economics of Indonesia's Natural Resources**. (Indonesia Update Series 2004). Singapore: Institute for Southeast Asian Studies.

OTHER NEWS

New Scientist, 11 August 2005 – Global Warming: A vast expanse of western Siberia is undergoing an unprecedented thaw that could dramatically increase the rate of global warming, climate scientists warned yesterday. Researchers who have recently returned from the region found that an area of permafrost spanning 1 million km² -- the size of France and Germany combined -- has started to melt for the first time since it formed 11,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. The area, which covers the entire sub-Arctic region of western Siberia, is the world's largest frozen peat bog and scientists fear that, as it thaws, it will release billions of tonnes of methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. It is a scenario climate scientists have feared since first identifying "tipping points" -- delicate thresholds where a slight rise in the Earth's temperature can cause a dramatic change in the environment that itself triggers a far greater hike in global temperatures. The discovery was made by Sergei Kirpotin at Tomsk State University in western Siberia and Judith Marquand at Oxford University.