



RMAP BULLETIN 18 NOVEMBER 2005

RMAP PROGRAM NEWS

What a week it has been at RMAP. Congratulations to the following members of RMAP in successfully winning the following

ARC Linkage Project:

Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and Dr Colin Filer.

The relationship between mining companies and mine-affected communities in developing countries.

Conflicts with local communities have been a major source of social risk for mining companies operating in Indonesia and other parts of the Asia Pacific region, and this research will contribute to Australian national security by dealing directly with this issue. It will contribute to the formation of better policies and practices for empowering women and empowering communities in the Indonesian mining sector. At a regional and global scale, the lessons learnt about the construction of effective strategies for 'engendering' the development process will be applicable in other locations where Australian capital, technology and expertise are invested in large-scale industrial development, both inside and outside of the mining sector.

Discovery Project

Australian Professional Fellows:

Dr Richard Grove.

British Empire and the Natural World: the Environmental History of the British Empire and Commonwealth 1600-2000.

Australia faces multiplying environmental crises in climate change, including soil erosion, salinisation, deforestation. Most of these crises originate in faulty land use management. An understanding of the causes of this predicament require deep insights into the global impact of European colonisation and an understanding of the environmental history of the British empire and the ideas and intellectual networks that underpinned the expansion of the geographical and resource frontier.

Discovery Project

Dr CS Turney, Wollongong University and Dr SG Haberle

Testing the hypothesis of synchronous interhemispheric climatic change during the Last Termination (20,000-10,000 years ago)

The results generated in this project will provide a greater understanding of the sensitivity of the Australasian region to a range of different climatic conditions (far beyond that recorded in historical datasets). Focussing on climate at the end of the last ice age (20,000-10,000 years ago) we will investigate the timing, rate and magnitude of change in the Australasian region and test whether the variability was in phase with other records from the mid and high latitudes of the Southern and Northern Hemisphere. The results will provide a considerably improved context for understanding present and future climate change in Australia.

World Bank FY2006 Development Grant:
Dr Colin Filer and Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt
 Communities and Small-Scale Mining.

The purpose of the grant is to provide support to implement the recommendations made by participants in the Manila Learning Event through the production, translation and dissemination of case studies that document "concrete examples of equitable, effective, and sustainable local-level partnerships which include small-scale miners or their communities". Case studies will focus on areas in India and other parts of South Asia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, China and Indonesia.

SEMINARS OF INTEREST

Hugging trees in the Himalayas. Does it make any difference to erosion and sedimentation? Prof Bob Wasson. DVC Research, Charles Darwin University. CRES seminar room Monday 21 November 11.00 -12.00

Process and history of soil erosion and sedimentation in Lake Inle catchment, Myanmar (Burma) Mr Takahisa Furuichi. Monday 21 November 2005: Time: 3:00-4:00pm: Venue: CRES Seminar Room (6th Floor, W.K.Hancock Building [Bldg43], ANU)

Soil erosion and sedimentation have been recognized to be an environmental issue in Southeast Asia and this is particularly stressed when one realizes rural poor there are almost wholly dependent on agricultural land (e.g. ADB, 2002). Although this general recognition is accepted, criticism is presented in the ways soil erosion and sedimentation are accounted, i.e. simplifying their nature, and blurring the different components of declining soil fertility and lowland sedimentation (e.g. Walker and Forsyth, forthcoming).

Lake Inle and its roughly 5,300km² catchment, located on Shan Plateau in middle eastern Myanmar (Burma), has economic, cultural, and natural significance, which makes its conservation and management both local and national concern. Although descriptive features of soil erosion and lake sedimentation have been reported for more than 50 years, a lack of quantitative assessment in catchment scale is unquestionable.

Understanding Reform. Lyn Squire, President, Global Development Network. November 25, 2005 Seminar Room B (Arndt Room) 11.30am

Nitrous oxide and the global nitrogen cycle... not such a funny gas
 Dr Ben Macdonald, Postdoctoral Fellow, CRES. CRES Seminar Room Thursday 1 Dec. 12.30-1.30

Urban Finance in a Responsible Fiscal Framework: Lessons from Brazil, China, India, Poland and South Africa. Patricia Annez, World Bank. December 12, 2005. Seminar Room C 12.30pm

RECENT ADDITIONS TO RMAP WEBSITE

Working Papers

<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/workingpapers.php>

RMAP Workshops and Conferences

<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/conference.php>

Conference Calendar

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

OTHER USEFUL TEXT ONLINE

http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/ej/jpe/Volume12/Volume_12.html