

# INTECOL - Bulletin

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## Greetings from the President of INTECOL

I want to thank all those who helped to organize and communicate the important results of our research and outreach efforts this past year. Because of the efforts of our newsletter editor and many contributors, these INTECOL-related activities have been reported in detail in issues of this newsletter. Although 2011 was a difficult year for many of us because of the multitude of natural and economic stresses, our members helped one another in making significant progress on environmental issues. There were several international events that brought many ecologists together despite the high costs of travel and budgetary restrictions. One of the most important events of last year for INTECOL was the formation of a new International Network of Next Generation Ecologists (INNGE). This group continues to develop some ideas first considered by graduate students and post-doctoral researchers at our last INTECOL meeting in Brisbane, Australia. INNGE has grown rapidly in developing connections with other organizations and has established an effective website (<http://www.innge.net>). The INNGE Forums provide online opportunities for ecologists to discuss their ideas and obtain information on opportunities for further study and career development. As discussed below, we expect this network will help us in many ways to complement the INTECOL website as we as discussed below, we expect this network will help us in many ways to complement the INTECOL website as we plan for our future meetings for our future meetings.

We look forward to another productive year and this newsletter will help to remind you of several of the events that are on the calendar of INTECOL activities. I understand that 2012 will be the Year of the Water Dragon and thus it is highly appropriate for us to focus on water-related issues. The 9<sup>th</sup> INTECOL International Wetlands Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA during June 3-8, 2012 (<http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/intecol/site.html>). This meeting will once again provide another opportunity to meet your colleagues from around the world to compare ideas and insights on how wetlands function and how their essential ecosystem



services can be sustained well into the future. The program theme of "Wetlands in a Complex World" is well timed to consider the many challenges facing wetlands ecologists during a time of rapid climate change and a global population of 7 billion. Topics range from biogeochemical cycling to wetland biodiversity, water quality, and ecosystem services. The deadline for early registration is March 16.

INTECOL is a co-sponsor of the 4<sup>th</sup> International EcoSummit to be held in Columbus, Ohio, USA during September 30 - October 5, 2012. The program committee has approved 70 symposia and 11 workshops. These symposia include participants from over 55 countries and will provide diverse discussions around the theme of "Ecological Sustainability - Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services." The symposia and workshops cover a wide variety of ecological topics, including ecological restoration, ecosystem services, climate change issues, and lake, wetland, and river management and will be presented over the entire week of the conference in parallel sessions. For those who have travelled to the USA recently you will recall that the visa application process can take months to complete and an early start is recommended.

Other international events of likely interest to our INTECOL members include the 55<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS2012) where the theme will be "Climate Change and Vegetation Science." This meeting will be held in Mokpo, Korea during July 23 - 28, 2012 ([www.iavs2012.org](http://www.iavs2012.org)). The 19<sup>th</sup> IALE UK Conference will be held at the University of Edinburgh during September 4 - 6, 2012 and the theme will be

"Landscape Ecology : Linking Environment and Society."

Planning for the 11<sup>th</sup> INTECOL Congress in London at the ExCel Center during August 18 - 23, 2013 is progressing rapidly. The theme is "Into the Next 100 Years - Advancing Ecology and Making it Count." Our theme reflects that this meeting is part of the centenary celebration of the British Ecological Society, the host for our Congress. The program committee has announced 10 plenary speakers and reviewed proposals for symposia. The deadline for submitting abstracts will be announced soon (<http://intecol2013.org/>). We urge members in our many national societies who are partners in the Congress to begin budgetary plans to help students attend the meeting. Now that plans for the 11<sup>th</sup> INTECOL Congress are well underway, we will be soliciting suggestions and invitations for the 12<sup>th</sup> INTECOL Congress to be held in 2017. If you have interests in preparing an invitation, please contact me. The INTECOL Board will be considering options in the coming months.

I hope all INTECOL members will contribute news and ideas to the e-Bulletin and make full use of the network we have built to help connect ecologists from all over the world. Together we can continue to make important progress in building ecology as a creative science that contributes to resolving some of society's most complex challenges. Each of us can make a difference by participating in our national organizations and in INTECOL as well as our many related professional organizations. I look forward to meeting you in the coming year at one of the many events being planned to bring us together.

Professor Alan P. Covich  
President, INTECOL





## Meeting Report

### *Resilient scientists of Thailand defy dramatic floods*

#### *An INTECOL report on the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress of Science and Technology (STT 37) in Thailand, Bangkok with special reference to the session of "Environmental Science and Technology"*

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We are probably still aware that Thailand was dramatically hit by a flood disaster during autumn 2011. Several hundred fatalities and an extremely difficult management of the overall flood conditions made normal life and business in Thailand nearly impossible. But the inhabitants of Thailand are happy people, as Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Robert Huber mentioned during his banquet dinner speech at the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress on Science and Technology in Bangkok, which took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 (close to the climax of the flood disaster). For Europeans it looks like that the inhabitants of Thailand might have a natural disaster (as the flood) "on stage", but mentally they deal with these catastrophic situations in a way, which can be possibly best described with the word HARMONY.

Concerning the STT 37, it took place at Centara Grand Hotel and Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World, Bangkok, Thailand, which was organized by the Science Society of Thailand under the Patronage of His Majesty the King (celebrating his 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary) in association with the Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok. Prof. Dr. M.R. Jisnuson Svasti acted as the President of the Science Society of Thailand; Prof. Dr. Skorn Mongkolsuk has handled the congress as Dean of the

Faculty of Science of Mahidol University (Bangkok). Associate Professor Dr. Thararat Supasiri as Chairman of STT 37 was the "angel" of the overall congress<sup>1</sup>.

The topic of the overall congress was "Creative Science for Creating the Future", so that all scientists could use the discussions and outputs during and after the meetings as inspiration of finding acceptable (sustainable) solutions for a "better world". The congress had the privilege and the honour to see Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously preside over the opening ceremony of this congress.

The overall program of about 700 lectures, poster presentations and essential sponsoring is available at [www.sc.mahidol.ac.th/stt37](http://www.sc.mahidol.ac.th/stt37). The high number of participating students and professional scientists got first class key note lectures given by Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Robert Huber (Munich, Germany), Prof. Joerg Hacker (President of the German National Academy Sciences, Leopoldina), Prof. Yongyuth Yuthavong (former Minister of Sciences in Thailand), Prof. Soottawat Benjakul (Head of the Department of Food Technology, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai) and last but for sure not least of Prof. Peter Small (Deputy Director of the Tuberculosis Global Health Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in

<sup>1</sup> The short form of the name Bangkok is Krung Thep in Thai language and will be often translated with "the city of the angels".



New Delhi, India).

In addition to the overall congress training courses were given with and for students. Thus, an all in all sustainable teaching and learning program has been

produced by the overall activities. Some (very, very few!) impressions of the overall exciting scientific congress are given in the pictures below.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn during the opening ceremony of STT 37



Thai colleague escaping of the water flood in front of his house



(from left to right): Prof. Bernd Markert, Prof. Robert Huber (Nobel Prize Winner), Prof. Pornsawan Visoottiviset



Training course at Mahidol University, Bangkok

Highly motivating was f.e. the Section on "Environmental Science and Technology", organized by one of the authors of this INTECOL bulletin report, Prof. Pornsawan Visoottiviset. It includes most interesting lectures (covering both theoretical and practical points of view) on issues of biomonitoring, energy, toxicology, waste management and remediation (see [www.sc.mahidol.ac.th/stt37](http://www.sc.mahidol.ac.th/stt37)).

But with respect to the overall topic of the congress on "Creative Sciences for Creating the Future" we have simply firstly (again and again) to learn to pay highest respect to power of NATURE as such. Alas, during the

congress we had not heard f.e. in the perfect scientific section on "Environmental Science and Technology" anything about, what we can do against the flood (technically), simply due to the time "management" of the congress (being planned by humans) could not match and address the flood (which is an unexpected impact by nature).

Therefore one of many other eminent resumes of the Congress is that the mental believe in human beings by peaceful Harmony and Love to your next is highly important. An excellent outcome of an international congress - isn't it?



## Meetings and Congresses

### 1. 3<sup>rd</sup> European Congress of Conservation Biology ECCB2012

28 August - 1 September 2012, Glasgow, Scotland, U.K.

*"Conservation on the Edge"*



**Society for Conservation Biology**  
A global community of conservation professionals  
**Europe**  
**Section**



3rd European Congress of Conservation Biology

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. The mission of SCB's Europe Section is to promote conservation biology and its application to conserve Europe's biological diversity.

The main theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECCB will be "Conservation on the edge". The Congress is hosted by the University of Cumbria's National School of Forestry and marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of the SCB-Europe. The scientific program will include pre-conference training courses, plenary sessions, symposia with invited speakers and concurrent sessions of contributed oral presentations (15 minutes) and speed

presentations (5 minutes), poster sessions, workshops, organized discussions. In addition to academics and researchers we hope to attract participants from policy, practice and education arenas, with the specific intent to address the problems of linking science, policy and practice. The previous meetings (Eger, Hungary 2006, and Prague, Czech Republic 2009) attracted over 1000 and 1200 participants, respectively, making ECCB one of the largest conservation focussed meetings.

We are proud that world leading scientists agreed to give plenary speech at ECCB2012, including Ian Boyd (University of St. Andrews, Scotland), Ilkka Hanski (Helsinki University, Finland), Hugh Possingham (University of Queensland, Australia) and Peter Vitousek (Stanford University, USA).

**For more information and important deadlines please visit the conference website:** [www.eccb2012.org](http://www.eccb2012.org)

### 2. 19<sup>th</sup> IALE UK Conference

4-6 September 2012, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

*"Landscape Ecology: Linking Environment and Society"*





Use of land and resources is central to people's relationship with their environment. The United Kingdom Chapter of IALE (ialeUK) is organizing an international conference that will explore how landscape ecology can help guide sustainable use of land and the services it provides to society.

We aim to bring together people with relevant expertise from across science, policy and practice, to learn from each other, and identify ways in which landscape ecology can support necessary shifts in land management to deliver improved and enduring benefits

to society and the environment.

The conference is hosted by The University of Edinburgh, in Scotland, UK, from 4 - 6 September 2012, and will include 4 symposia and a field trip. Further information can be found at: <http://iale.org.uk/conference2012>.

Abstract submission deadline: 9 April 2012. Registration will be open from 1 February - 15 August. Early bird fees and guaranteed discounted room rates will end 15 May.

### ***3. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design, URBIO 2012***

8-12 October 2012, Mumbai, India

***"Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation"***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO 2012) is being organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and will be held in Mumbai, India from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Dr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, India are the patrons of this conference. URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research that aims to promote biodiversity in the urban context through a continuing dialogue with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Partnership on Local Action for Biodiversity. To implement the Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020 of the CBD in the urban context, URBIO 2012 will be held before

CBD-COP 11, planned for Hyderabad in October 2012, and will feed into its deliberations, as well as into the Second City Biodiversity Summit.

#### **Conference Themes**

- Vulnerability of urban ecosystems and biodiversity and its management
- Role of urban biodiversity and ecosystems in mitigating climate change
- Tools and indicators for measuring urban sustainability
- Role of green infrastructure and design
- Role of innovative financial mechanisms in biodiversity conservation/climate change mitigation/adaptation

**Website:** [www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012](http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012)

**E-mail:** [urbio2012@hss.iitb.ac.in](mailto:urbio2012@hss.iitb.ac.in)

**Contact:** Haripriya Gundimedha  
Chair of the Organizing Committee, URBIO 2012



## INTECOL, International Association for Ecology

INTECOL is affiliated with the ICSU family of scientific organizations as the section responsible for general ecology within the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The association will assist and/or support the development of the science of ecology and the application of ecological principles to global problems, especially by assisting international cooperation; the collection, evaluation and distribution of information about ecology; national, regional and international actions which will serve ecological research, training of personal, coordination of general publications of ecological principles and the recognition of the importance of ecology for economy and society; the organization of conferences, meetings, symposia, programs and projects, conduct of speaking-series, publication of manuscripts, and measures which are deemed necessary to reach the goals of the association.

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**Deadline for sending information for next e-Bulletin**

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