

SUMMARY REPORT
SCA International Symposium on “Combating land Degradation in Asia”
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 05 July 2011

SCA International symposium on “Combating Land Degradation in Asia” was held on Tuesday 5th July in the main Hall of Ulaanbaatar Hotel. Delegates from SCA member countries and scientists from relevant research institutions of Mongolia participated in this symposium.

Opening Address by Prof.B. Enkhtuvshin, President of MAS

The Prof. Enkhtuvshin Batbold, President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences provided opening remarks and welcomed participants to Mongolia and to the Inaugural Session of the International Symposium on Land Degradation in Asia.

The President of MAS underscored the importance of the 11th SCA Meetings and this Symposium. Prof. Enkhtuvshin Batbold stressed that the SCA has the potential for promoting research that will lead to the strengthening of links between science and policy-making in the region.

Finally, he expressed his hope for continued positive contributions and cooperation of all participants particularly from the SCA Members throughout these days and beyond, for further success in the year ahead.

Keynote speech by Deputy Prime-Minister

The Deputy Prime-Minister M.Enkhbold welcomed the participants to Mongolia and expressed his great pleasure to see the 11th SCA Conference being held in Ulaanbaatar.

H.E Mr. Enkhbold expressed his sincerest appreciation to all distinguished and honoured guests from different countries of the SCA. He also took the opportunity to express Mongolia’s solidarity with the Japanese people in this difficult period after the tsunami accident.

The Deputy Prime-Minister emphasized that it is necessary to move forward by first looking back in order to understand the complex nature of the global, regional and local environmental problems that we are faced with and their impacts on human health and ecosystems. Furthermore, he emphasized that research activities in land degradation and desertification have to be focused on local realities linking ecosystem degradation with the diversified socioeconomic activities and provide directions to the local community to make concerted efforts. Lastly, the Deputy Prime-Minister highlighted that timely attention and collaboration at the national and regional level are essential to achieve the expected results to ensure long-term sustainability of our common future. He wished that the deliberations of the symposium would be a success.

Group Photograph

All Members, scientist, guests and staff gathered for a group photograph.

Message from SCJ

Prof. Ichiro Kanazawa, Immediate Past President, Science Council of Japan has delivered a message to participants of the symposium. He introduced the report on the Nuclear Power Plant accident in Japan.

Prof. Ichiro Kanazawa delivered to the participants of the symposium detailed information on nuclear power plant accident in Japan and gave clear idea on the next steps for the mitigation of radioactive disaster in Fukushima region.

Keynote Session

This session was moderated by Prof. Galbaatar, Secretary General of Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

H.E Minister of Nature, Environment and Tourism L.Gansukh presented about policy relevance on land degradation and combating desertification in Mongolia. He has highlighted on the policy development on the combating land degradation in Mongolia and their current implementation on the ground. Furthermore, he emphasized that research input is very essential for combating land degradation in Mongolia. Finally, he expressed that intersectoral and stakeholder's collaboration including science community is crucial aspect for combating land degradation in the country.

During this session, Mr.A.Namhai, Head of Department of Special Protected Areas, Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia delivered current development of SPA system in the country. He pointed out that Mongolian Government recognizes that best solution to reduce negative impact of human activities is strengthening of management of SPA's network in the country.

Session A. Current status and future strategies relating to Desertification and Land degradation/land cover in Asian countries

The moderator of this session was Dr. Jaime C.Montoya, Former President, National research council of the Philippines.

Three speakers namely, Dr.Tsogtbaatar, Director of GeoEcology Institute, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Science Council of Japan, Prof. Hydrosphere Atmospheric Research Center, Nagoya University of Japan Dr. Tetsuzo Yasunari, Council member and Dr.Soo Jin Kim, member of National Academy of Sciences of Republic of Korea presented about Present status of desertification in Mongolia; Trend of Mongolian Climate in the recent decades and its implication and the Role of Moisture and Pollutants in rock weathering.

Session B. Information, assessment and mapping of land Degradation and Desertification

Prof. Feng Changgen, Vice-president, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), China was appointed as moderator of this session.

The speakers as Prof. D.Amarsaikhan, Head of Division of Institute of Informatics of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Ts.Batsaikhan, Researcher of Research Center for Astronomy and Geophysics of Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Dr. Yumiko Nara presented the topics on Application of Advanced technology for Combating Land degradation and Desertification in Mongolia; Seismic hazards assessment of Mongolia and Sustainable Natural Disaster management in Asia.

Session C. Land Cover Change and Urban Land Planning

Prof. Yoichi Muraoka, Council member of Science Council of Japan was appointed as moderator of the session.

Three speakers namely, Dr. Gomboluudev, scientific secretary of Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, Dr.Robert M.Delinom, Senior Research Associate, Head of Research Division of Asia Pacific Center for

Eco-Hydrology, Indonesia and Dr. Erdenetuya, Senior expert of Remote Sensing, Environmental Information Center of Mongolia introduced presentation on Climate change impact on agriculture; Land cover change and Heatland phenomena in urban area and Land cover change in Mongolia.

Special information Session.

Introduction of Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) was presented by Dr. Cinda Yoshiko Shirata, Council member, Science Council of Japan (SCJ), Japan.

Panel discussion

Prof. Galbaatar Tuvdendorj has been nominated as moderator of this session. Dr. J.Tsogtbaatar, Dr.D.Amarsaikhan, Dr. Tetsuzo Yasunari and Dr. O.Batkishig made brief introduction and summary conclusion on related topics on Combating land degradation and desertification.

Several comments and questions have been raised by the participants of symposium. Panel discussion was committed about several aspects related to geology, hydrology, underground water, methodology of assessment of land degradation and countermeasures for combating land degradation and desertification.

Closing remarks by SCA Vice President

Prof. Lukman Hakim, Chairman of Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) expressed his heartfelt thanks to the delegates for attending the Meeting in the Ulaanbaatar city of Mongolia. He thanked the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia for hosting and for the support in organising the 11th SCA meetings. Special thanks were extended to the moderators for the management of the symposium.

The Vice Chair thanked the SCA Members, invited guests, and scientists of Mongolia for their very active contributions to the Symposium.