

III MMSEA Conference

Yunnan, 25 – 28 August 2002



Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge

Floor 3 Building A Zhonghuandasha
Yanjiadi Kunming 650034 Yunnan

PR China

NOTE:

All communication with regard to the Conference and registration direct to Ms. Wang Yu, CBIK at cbik03@public.km.yn.cn. You can register easily on-line at www.cbik.ac.cn. Any comments on topics and contents send to Xu Jianchu (cbik@public.km.yn.cn) and/or to Timmi Tillmann (timmi@public.km.yn.cn).

Main Topic:

Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Livelihoods and Creative Means of Resources Governance

Concepts, strategies and action on Mountain Cultures and Biodiversity in Montane Mainland South East Asia.

Main objective:

To provide an opportunity for researchers, decision-makers, development workers and local actors (indigenous specialists and leaders) from mountain areas of South-East Asia to present and exchange their findings and ideas, to obtain new insights by learning from each other and from field experience and to develop and design jointly an action plan for MMSEA.

The two previous conferences (1995 and 2000 in Chiang Mai) have achieved very important academic exchanges between researchers from all over the world, who are focusing on natural and cultural aspects of the mountain areas of South East Asia.

With the III MMSEA we want to achieve an action-oriented conference, which produces academic exchange, policy recommendations and its application towards development action in Mountain areas. Action orientation is a challenge for all of us, as we are used to consume, but hesitate to commit to partnership and design of joint learning processes. At the same time many participants of conferences end up frustrated, because recommendations and action plans are not realised due to daily tasks and business, or due to new topics and conferences...

During CUBIC 2000 (Conference on Cultures and Biodiversity in Yunnan) the participants designed and approved **The Yunnan Initiative** as a guiding document on Cultures and Biodiversity. It is a very dense document of practical principles

and action, but it requires that we evolve and adapt it to our mountain areas in SE-Asia through consultation and implement it through individual and institutional commitments.

The outcome can support the efforts of the International Mountain Year and the International Year of Ecotourism by providing a regional agenda, a view from below, a contribution of dialogue and partnerships between academics, policy-makers and local villagers often belonging to marginalized ethnic minorities.

Sub-topics for the III MMSEA

We aim for establishing a red thread of three main themes for MMSEA III, which will cross-cut the six sub-topics of the Conference:

I. Indigenous Knowledge Systems vs./plus/and Scientific Knowledge Systems

The range of issues in this overall main theme offer space for detailed descriptions of indigenous and scientific knowledge systems (with regard to one of the 6 sub-topics), the value and limitations of different knowledge systems, the ways of knowing and experiencing, knowledge, actors and social organisation, knowledge and values embedded in particular cultures according to different cosmovisions. It also creates a platform for the discussion of the relations and options for interaction between knowledge systems: domination and resistance, instrumentalizing other people's knowledge, learning from other knowledge systems and also an intercultural dialogue and mutual learning. Comparison of urban and rural livelihoods and how the different population groups can benefit from each other without exploiting each other.

II. Globalisation vs./or/and localisation

What are the trends of globalisation in terms of markets, information and values, tourism, bio-resources and property rights, international conventions and development models like CBD (Convention for Biodiversity) or Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development with corresponding political agendas, international agencies and funds? How local livelihoods and cultures can and will cope with the outside pressures, what are opportunities and initiatives for social and cultural survival as well as improvement of livelihoods based on local values and categories.

I. Methodology of Research and Development: the challenge of bridging systems, worldviews, cultures through participation and dialogue

We aim to invite presenters linked to a range of methodological aspects: from ethics to R&D-approaches to concrete tools and field experiences. Codes of conduct supporting respect to other cultures, especially indigenous cultures. The practical tools of PRA and of an application of the Gender Perspective in MMSEA. The strategic role of culturally sensitive education programs. How to develop intercultural dialogue (in each of the 6 sub-topics), which not only creates mutual respect and mutual learning, but also highlights mechanisms for conflict resolution in a constructive and peaceful manner. Participatory Technology Development as a tool to bridge knowledge systems and to create authentic and local innovations for the improvement of mountain livelihoods. Facilitation as an instrument for democratisation of decision making, joint learning and planning, conflict resolution and authentic participation of local people in the development policy, and related to it the role of outsiders, like politicians, researchers, development workers or evaluators-consultants.

The three main themes will be applied to the following 6 sub-topics:

Sub-topic 1

Nature reserves, forests and NTFP

Here we want to focus on community based natural resource management, from co-management issues, customary laws and indigenous knowledge, forest livelihoods and the problems of displacement of local people from their landscapes, the potentials of NTFP (Non Timber Forest Products) for the local communities and the pressure on the biodiversity created by exports and industrial transformation of local resources. The interlinkage of forests and local architecture. Eco-tourism activities

Sub-topic 2

Local Governance in NRM and Biodiversity conservation

Adequate participation accompanied by shifts of power to local communities should be supported by capacity building of village organizations and farmers. The allocation of different sets of powers of decision-making to lower level actors creates decentralization. But the effectiveness of decentralization hinges on a third dimension: accountability. If powers are decentralized to actors who are not accountable to their constituents, or who are accountable only to themselves or superior authorities within the government structure, then decentralization is unlikely to achieve its oft-touted efficiency and equity benefits. Actors can be held downwardly accountable to local constituents in different ways. The most commonly cited mechanism is local elections, for instance, by implementing the "Village Organic Law" in China. But while elections may be important, they are not sufficient. Other mechanisms for increasing downward accountability include: legal recourse through an independent judiciary and third party monitoring. All can contribute to local accountability.

Capacity must be built into all efforts to promote integrated conservation and development. Capacity building among community members, NGOs and government staff should ensure that adequate skills are possessed at the appropriate level. New technologies and strategies require effective training, impact assessment, and follow-up support. Government agencies may have to develop these skills first in order to provide technical support for local communities.

Sub-topic 3

Agro-biodiversity in the MMSEA Landscape

Land use systems in the MMSEA are especially diverse. This diversity represents variation in land use types (various forms of cultivated fields and managed and natural forests), cropping systems (wetland rice, shifting cultivation, intensive horticulture and plantation, agroforestry, community forests, etc), as well as genetic diversity within natural and managed ecosystems, within species (especially those with centre of diversity in the MMSEA e.g. from banana, camellia, citrus, to rice, sugarcane and taro, etc.) and populations. What local, provincial, national, cross-border and global forces determine these different aspects of agrobiodiversity? How is agrobiodiversity in the MMSEA enhanced or adversely affected by indigenous culture and local basic need, traditional and

modern technological innovations, and various local, national and international development and policies, e.g. tourism, opium replacement, market access and communication, cross-border trade, elimination of shifting cultivation? How is agro-biodiversity perceived and conceived by indigenous cultures, which tools and technologies including so-called rituals are used to manage and organise the dialogue between human beings and nature beyond the mere concept of resource. How can we identify and support indigenous innovators in their traditional experimentation process to maintain, develop and recreate genetic diversity? How is it affected by global processes of biotechnology and IPR?

Sub-topic 4

Participatory watershed management

Multi-stakeholders, multi-communities and multi-agencies linkages should be built to promote broad based ecosystem or watershed conservation and development. The tasks and responsibilities of stakeholders should be appropriately defined to ensure fair and locally controlled decision-making processes at eco-regional and watershed levels. Appropriate agents should be identified as facilitators that can mediate between local communities, private businesses and government agencies. Along with scientific and technical criteria, participatory methods need to be developed for assessing poverty, cultural and biological diversity and environmental quality based on local concepts and values. This would enable local communities to play key roles in determining practices based on local information to reinforce local livelihood and cultural identity.

Sub-topic 5

Rural people's knowledge/indigenous knowledge

The local knowledge of indigenous people and rural population as a heritage of a long interaction between humans and nature has been increasingly assaulted and eroded by education systems, technology transfer, innovations of land use systems, cultural domination and modernisation processes. What knowledge in its wider sense from technology (seeds, tools, skills, wisdom, rituals...) to decision making, epistemology, social organisation, cultural values and cosmovision still exists? How is it managed, transferred, improved and innovated? Which initiatives have grown and been created to recover and enhance the indigenous knowledge systems? How local people's knowledge resist to modernisation and domination? How bilingual education with vernacular teachers can support sustainable development of mountain livelihoods? In which way eco-tourism can be supportive to indigenous and rural people's knowledge? What are the threats and opportunities for local knowledge systems, the people and their livelihoods? How knowledge and cultural identity are integrated, and how cultural identity is one element for sustainable development in mountain areas? How indigenous knowledge and their related rights are recognised and respected, and how it can be defended (within an occidental IPR system).

Sub-topic 6

Multi-functionality of Mountain Ecosystems

Multifunctionality is inherent in all mountain livelihoods and so also in MMSEA. In addition to providing food security, livelihoods and cultural landscapes for local population, they may have a profound impact on many elements of local, national and cross-border economies and ecosystems. The impact may be negative as well as positive. There may also be trade-offs among the various functions, e.g. between food security vs the environment. How should the different functions such as food security, fire control, *in situ* germplasm conservation, aesthetic values, spirituality, watershed, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, impact on wildlife, etc. be monitored and assessed? Examples of some win-win situations? How may the cost of some of the functions be shared by users of the services provided, e.g. water users (urban centres, lowland irrigation and electricity users), the tourist industry, users of germplasm, etc. What are the implications of multifunctionality of the MMSEA land use systems on local (between mountains and lowlands, upstream and downstream, between the mountains and urban areas) and international (e.g. in the WTO, cross-border, Yunnan and lower Mekong/Salween) negotiations?

South-East Asia

(from The Yunnan Initiative, CUBIC 2000)

The following text is another departing point for further elaboration on future action in MMSEA, and is product of the participants from SE-Asia who attended the International Conference on Cultures and Biodiversity, organized by CBIK and the Yunnan Government in July 2000 in Yunnan. The action plan for MMSEA is intended to create a collective effort of initiatives, networks and individuals to lobby for and achieve sustainable development of Mountain Livelihoods with and for the Mountain People.

Introduction

SE-Asia, including the mountainous regions of SW-China, possesses an outstanding cultural and natural diversity. More than 100 different ethnic minorities are located in this region, mostly inhabiting the marginal mountain areas. At the same time this region exhibits extremely high variation in climates, plants and animals, giving it a global significance as a center of domestication of crops and genetic diversity.

Actions:

We propose the following actions to support the formation of alliances for the benefit of cultures and nature:

Networking:

- Establish a consultation process between the main actors in each country and in the region, to improve the exchange of experiences and ideas through a practical networking activity.
- Support indigenous people to network (formally and informally), and support farmer-to-farmer or innovator-to-innovator programs at national and regional levels.
- Strengthen regional exchange networks by improving the use of Internet tools (e.g. SUAN, ARTN, CBIK, REPSI, MMSEA, SAMUTE)

Local initiatives:

- Establish contacts and support programs (R&D) to local indigenous initiatives for the improvement of watershed management, land use, biodiversity and livelihood enhancement.

1. Thematic focuses:

Develop specific areas of research and development activities in alliance with indigenous communities and scientists, such as:

- reinforcement of indigenous knowledge related to land use, agro-biodiversity and agroforestry in mountain watersheds
- indigenous innovations and alternatives to shifting cultivation
- interaction of indigenous local knowledge with markets, policy and “science”
- indigenous ethnobotanists, cooperation with indigenous innovators, for local sustainable uses of biological resources and conservation of cultural and biological diversity
- design and implementation of bilingual education approaches for community based resource management and conservation
- recognition of herbal medicine and revival of traditional healing systems.

2. Capacity building:

- Support capacity building of indigenous people, development workers and academic researchers through non-formal and formal opportunities based on an innovative adult education approaches
- Establish an “alternative” scientific knowledge institution for the region
- Set up a regional exchange program among countries in the region (involving Kunming, Chiang Mai, Hanoi, etc.) to offer degree courses in 'unconventional' science or different kinds of knowledge systems (alternative degrees for local scholars).

3. Advocacy:

Develop an advocacy program to sensitize politicians, donor agencies and local authorities about the importance of the linkages between cultural and natural diversity:

- Broaden exchange within the ASEAN Region to create a supporting environment that overlaps with enabling policies
- Raise to ASEAN consideration of relevant issues concerning culture and biodiversity with a focus on local participation and empowerment
- Recognize the regional problem of transboundary exploitation (e.g. logging, medicinal plant trade, etc.)

4. Dissemination:

- Provide and support the provision of a variety of material (manuals, books, discussion papers, multimedia, dictionaries, school books, campaigns) based on the experiences in the field, recognising the importance of ‘local voices’
- Organise seed fairs and innovator exchange workshops in the field to promote the dissemination of sustainable land use practices, alternative health programs, genetic material and diversified crops and plants for subsistence, processing and marketing

5. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation:

Establish practical means of regular exchange and coordination between support groups and local initiatives to continuously improve efforts to support indigenous cultures and biodiversity.

Events of the III MMSEA

The III MMSEA will have 4 different events:

1. **19. – 23. August** **Field workshop in Diqing prefecture**
2. **24. – 25. August** **The Mountain festival**
3. **25. – 28. August** **III MMSEA Conference**
4. **29. – 30. August** **Network meetings**

Preparation tasks

Until May 1 we will try to organise country events for the preparation of the III MMSEA in SW-China, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos (if possible visits to Cambodia and Burma). The objective is to contact resource persons and identify potential case studies and participants, promote the III MMSEA, decide on the resource person for the country review of the III MMSEA issues and create interlinkages. During these one day events we also want to identify the candidates for the III MMSEA facilitators, who then would be invited to attend the facilitator training in May.

On the 27 to 31 of May 2002 CBIK will organise a **facilitator training** for 10 MMSEA facilitators from the region in Yunnan. The contents of the 5 day training workshop will be: III MMSEA Conference and Subtopics, visualisation of group ideas, guiding group dynamics, facilitation of working groups, intercultural communication tools to promote exchange between the participants with different cultural backgrounds, participatory approaches in the field (introduction to concepts and methods). We hope to establish a group of professional facilitators from the region, who can join in for training events and conferences for the follow up of the III MMSEA and other networking activities in the region.

Field workshop in Diqing Prefecture (19 – 23 August 2002)

We invite the participants of the III MMSEA to allocate their time and energy and join a Pre-Conference Workshop of 5 days in Mountain areas of Yunnan and SW-China. It is not a tourist journey, but a program staying several days in a minority village and experience real life in the mountain areas, gain through dialogue with villagers and form a group dynamics, which will provide proposals and in-group feeling to the conference in Lijiang. The outcome of the field experience will be presented as an input for the base document and discussions of the **III MMSEA Conference**.

Participants

The number of participants for the Pre-Conference Workshop is limited to a maximum of 25 persons. The organisation team will screen the registrations and select the participants according to criteria like diversity of disciplines, origins, gender, language domains, his/her contribution to the III MMSEA in terms of discussion papers or facilitation work, and also the perspectives of a continuing dedication in the MMSEA region. The participants for the Pre-conference Workshop must be registered to the III MMSEA Conference – it is not a separate event.

Time-table and program

We expect the participants to arrive on the 18th of August. On the first day (19th) we shall have an introductory plenary of the participants to revise the objectives, form sub-groups with thematic priorities and field groups for the different communities, and to clarify the methodology and the process for the field work in one of the 4 or 5 different villages, where we are going to stay.

From the 20th to the 22nd of August the field groups will go to the previously contacted community, work and live in the community with a local ethnic family, have an opportunity to know the local livelihoods and landscapes, experience the community life and have the chance to dialogue with villagers about the topics and aims of the III MMSEA. We will stay either in the community halls or with local families to be able to incorporate fully during the three days in rural life.

On the 23rd of August we meet again in Zhongdian and develop the conclusions of the field experience by using testimonies, observations, PRA-results like drawings or resource maps on the sacred geography of the mountain areas, photos and video. Jointly we shall elaborate a presentation for the Plenary of the III MMSEA and decide on the formats as well as on the presenters.

From Zhongdian we shall transfer to Lijiang on the 24th (morning) to be able to join the Mountain Festival as spectator or as participant.

Selection of communities

We will select communities in Zhongdian, Weixi and Deqin Counties, where CBIK and its partner organisation of the Tibetan Research Institute of Zhongdian have field activities with regard to community livelihood improvement or support to indigenous knowledge and local experimenters. It will include different ethnic minorities: Tibetan, Naxi, Malimasa, Lisu and Yi.

Organisers, facilitators, field guides and translators

The pre-conference workshop is organised by CBIK in cooperation with the local partner: The Tibetan Research Institute of Diqing Prefecture. English will be used as

common language between the participants. For the Plenary sessions we will have a facilitator team of 3 professional facilitators. For the field work each group of 5 participants will be accompanied by one field guide, one organiser-facilitator and one translator.

Costs

The costs for the pre-conference field workshop include food and lodging for 4 days/nights in Zhongdian (double room covered, single room with small surcharge), local transport from Zhongdian to the villages, food and lodging in the villages, workshop fees for material and organisers/facilitators/field guides and translators and final transport from Zhongdian to Lijiang.

The costs do not include the travel to Zhongdian before the 19th or the costs leaving Lijiang after the III MMSEA.

Registration fee including all local costs for the field workshop is US\$ 360 (single room US\$ 400). Participants should register together with the registration to the III MMSEA before the 1st of May 2002. According to potential sponsorships we will be able to offer a limited number of financial support to registered participants.

The Mountain Festival

Lijiang, 23rd to 25th of August, 2002

As a side event of the III MMSEA conference in Lijiang CBIK is proposing to hold **The Mountain Festival** in Lijiang. CBIK is inviting institutions, organisations, farmers and artists to take part in the Festival.

Objectives

- Promote awareness about Mountain Nature and Culture (Diversity) and their importance for humankind (locally, regionally and globally) to a wider audience in Lijiang and SW-China.
- Raise issues concerning possible actions and commitments of institutions and civil society with the aim to support sustainable development of mountain communities.
- Provide a platform for local and foreign organisations to show their activities in favour of mountain environment and people and to exchange their experiences and products.

Audience

The Festival is directed to the general audience in Lijiang, visitors from outside, students from universities, decision-makers from different levels (national, provincial, prefecture, county), researchers (Chinese and Foreign), local farmers and experimenters.

Festival format

The festival will consist of a combination of exhibition, fair and events.

- The **Exhibition** will last two days and will include the display of plants, seeds, crafts, photography, arts about Mountain Nature and Culture. It will include the presentation of crafts in practice like weaving, woodwork, paper making and paper cutting, Dongba Naxi writing, rattan furniture production. It will also include the preparation of local ethnic food, drinks and flavours for experimenting the diversity of mountain culture.
- The **Fair** will happen in two days aiming at the promotion of local and international institutions and their activities with regard to Mountains, as well as services and publications.
- The **Events and Performances** are related to Films, Theatre, Music, Dance, Poetry and Rituals focusing on Mountain nature and Mountain peoples and will be either located in the exhibition and fair location or some major events will be organised in the Naxi Museum or in the Black Dragon Pool. The first event-performance will be organised on the 23rd of August evening.

Participants

The participants will come mainly from Yunnan and SW-China. If possible, representatives of ethnic minorities from SE-Asia will present their knowledge, plants or crafts. Farmers and artists will be invited to join the exhibition and events. For the Fair also the regional and international organisations are invited to register and prepare their booths, posters and displays.

Contests

The Festival team will organise several contests with regard to the best Indigenous Knowledge Practices in Yunnan, the best cultural performance, the best exhibition booth and the most outstanding indigenous initiative with examples from Yunnan, SW-China and SE-Asia. Different prizes will be organised like local crafts, books, visits to mountain sites and indigenous initiatives.

Organisers

The Mountain Festival will be organised by the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS) in cooperation with CBIK, who will call on qualified individuals of different organisations from Kunming to constitute a Festival Team consisting of artists (painters, dancers, musicians), academics (natural and social science), minority institutes, politicians, which will prepare the logistics, space, organisation, jury, assessments etc. of **The Mountain Festival**.

Preparation

YASS and CBIK will convene the organisation team before end of 2001. The contacts to presenters, exhibitors, and artists should be developed in the first quarter of 2002. The logistics should be clarified step by step, selecting the sites, contracting spaces. The budget for the Festival will consist of III MMSEA budget support, donations, institutional contributions for exhibitions, etc. CBIK mainly will provide financial support for space and for hosting participants from mountain communities. Some events will require the audience to pay entrance fees.

There will be a separate announcement for The Mountain Festival including the definition of requirements, support or costs for taking part in the Festival.

III MMSEA Conference in Lijiang, Yunnan (25 – 28 August 2002)

The III MMSEA Conference will then be organised as a dynamic and interactive event in the International Ethnic Cultures Exchange Centre of Lijiang Prefecture in Lijiang, NW-Yunnan.

During 3.5 days there is time to present experiences and proposals, to inform about individual and institutional work results using simple or complex interactive media, to discuss the implementation of The Yunnan Initiative and design the follow up of the **III MMSEA**, to lobby for Indigenous Knowledge, Rural Livelihoods and Creative Means of Local Governance, and to engage for future action. We also will try to bring the rural livelihoods closer to the MMSEA: by inviting key people from ethnic minorities and rural communities of the region, by looking at transformation of local resources as food, art and crafts and by tasting local food (no international cuisine).

The exhibition of crafts and books will continue during the III MMSEA Conference on the second floor of the Ethnic Cultures Exchange Centre, also the posters prepared for the Mountain Festival can continue in exhibition.

The registration fee

The III MMSEA Conference from 25 to 28 of August costs 120 US\$ for registration - this includes registration fee, two banquets for opening and closing ceremony, coffee breaks and 3 buffet lunch during the III MMSEA, access to The Mountain Festival exhibition and events, CD-Rom with III MMSEA material. This does not include the other food and lodging nor transport costs to and in Lijiang.

Program structure of the III MMSEA Conference

Sunday, 25th of August

3 – 6 pm **Registration of participants (this occurs parallel to the Mountain Festival)**

6.30 pm **Ethnic food buffet**

8.00 pm **Inauguration of III MMSEA**

Welcome by local authorities from Lijiang

Introduction by Organising team about program and procedures

Key note speakers about MMSEA (academic, NGO, indigenous people, policy-maker)

Official inauguration by spiritual authorities

Monday, 26th of August

Main Theme:

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Scientific Knowledge Systems

8.30 am **Plenary 1: Key note speakers to main theme**

9.30 am **6 parallel Sub-topics in workshops**

12.00 am **Lunch buffet**

- 2.00 pm **Plenary 2: Country reviews**
- 3.00 pm **6 parallel Sub-topics in workshops**
- 5.00 pm **Plenary 3: Feedback from working groups to Plenary**
- evening: no dinner offered (eventually banquet by local government)

Tuesday, 27th of August

Main Theme:

Globalisation vs. Localisation

- 8.30 am **Plenary 4: Key note speakers to main theme**
- 9.30 am **6 parallel Sub-topics in workshops**
- 12.00 am **Lunch buffet**
- 2.00 pm **Plenary 5: Country reviews**
- 3.00 pm **6 parallel Sub-topics in workshops (also possibility to offer open spaces for special MMSEA themes)**
- 5.00 pm **Plenary 6: Feedback from working groups to Plenary**
- Evening: no dinner offered, optional will be cultural performance by Lijiang ethnic groups in the old town of Dayan

Wednesday, 28th of August 2002

Main theme:

Bridging cultures and systems, methods and processes

- 8.30 am **Plenary 7: Key-note speakers for main theme**
- 9.30 am **6 parallel Sub-topics in workshops**
- 12.00 am **Lunch buffet**
- 2.00 pm **Plenary 8: Feedback from Working groups**
- 3.00 pm **Plenary 9: Summary of action proposals for MMSEA as result of previous discussions from working groups**
- 3.30 pm **Working groups on action plans (local, bilateral, country based, MMSEA focus, cross-border initiatives) and final statement of III MMSEA**
- 5.00 pm **Plenary 10: Action plans, conclusions, final statement, next MMSEA**
- 6.00 pm **Closing ceremony and banquet**

Thursday, 29th of August

Departure of participants or network meetings

Optional are field trips organised through the III MMSEA Travel agency, who will be in charge of reserving hotels and flights in Yunnan for the III MMSEA.

Networking meetings (29 and 30 of August)

CBIK can offer logistic support to groups of participants to organise networking or project meetings on the 29th and 30th of August in Lijiang or in Kunming. MMSEA itself is an informal network and will remain as such, as it activates mainly to the MMSEA Conferences, which will be hold every 2 or 3 years in one of the MMSEA countries. But, as participants may belong to different networks, or have relations with one of the international donor agencies, MMSEA is always an opportunity to meet.

We also are interested to support the discussion about the follow up of the III MMSEA and start to implement activities like a regional exchange between indigenous communities, joint capacity building or the publication of discussion papers and results of the III MMSEA.

Post conference tasks:

After the conference the tasks are to collect the results and disseminate them locally, regionally and internationally (as part of the International Mountain Year and their events, The International Year of Ecotourism and the Rio+10 event in South-Africa); monitor the follow up and foster networking activities; implement action in our own fields of responsibility and interest.

Deadlines

1. 28. February 2002: distribution of first program and second announcement
2. March – April 2002: country meetings for discussion of country reviews and selection of key note speakers and invited participants
3. 10. May: deadline for registration and abstracts, invitation of participants
4. 27 – 31 of May 2002: Training workshop of III MMSEA Facilitators (5 from SW-China, 5 from the other MMSEA countries) in Yunnan
5. 10. June 2002: deadline for papers, working groups, specific announcements
6. June 15: send out the detailed program to registered participants
7. 19th – 23rd of August 2002: Pre-conference workshop in Zhongdian, Diqing Prefecture
8. 23rd – 25th of August 2002: The Mountain Festival in Lijiang
9. 25th of August: Arrival and Registration of participants in Lijiang
10. 25th (evening) – 28th of August 2002: III MMSEA in Lijiang, Yunnan
11. 29th + 30th of August 2002: Network meetings, Follow up meetings
12. September 2002: Dissemination of results and start of follow up

Organisation

For the organisation of the **III MMSEA conference** we will have the following formal and functional committees:

The Yunnan Leading Committee

- Formal commitment of Yunnan Province and Lijiang organisations (government, academic and non-government, civil society)

The SE-Asia Organisation Committee

(Xu Jianchu, Le Trong Cuc, Parisak, Uraivan Tankimyong, Prasert Trakansuphakon, David Thomas, Yang Fuquan. Secretary: Suree Lakanavichian)

- Steering committee with members from the different countries of the region

The CBIK Organisation team

(Xu Jianchu, Timmi Tillmann, Maruja Salas, Li Bo, Andy Wilkes, Wang Yu, He Hong)

- CBIK's functional team to organise the III MMSEA Conference and its procedures, and facilitate the pre-conference field workshop linked to CBIK

The Mountain Culture Festival team

(Yang Fuquan)

- Team to organise The Mountain Culture Festival in Kunming under the leadership of the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences

The Professional Advisory Group

(Pei Shengji, Frances Seymour, Walter Coward, Nick Menzies, Jeff Romm, Uraivan Tankimyong, Dan Gilmour, Ming San, James Scott, Phil Hirsch, Hein Mallee)

- Will review the preparations, give suggestions for the elaboration of results, support fund raising activities, help with dissemination, and support the organisation committee and facilitation team.

Sponsors (until March 1, 2002)

Direct sponsorship: Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Brother Foundation, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation

Indirect sponsorship: ICCO, Misereor, WWF, WRI, ICRAF, IPGRI, GTZ (Biodiversity Project)

Different organisations working in the region are sponsoring their members or partners to register and join the III MMSEA. We are also contacting several more organisations to obtain their sponsorship for the III MMSEA.

Benchmarks of the III MMSEA

We want to achieve the following benchmarks:

- Develop a sequence of integrated events (without problems), which constitute a landmark for SE-Asia and SW-China in terms of professional, academic and political issues, quality of products and intellectual progress, and in terms of an innovative approach to hold productive, interactive and intercultural conferences.

- Achieve an action plan for the support of sustainable mountain development in favour of mountain people in MMSEA with clear terms, tasks and responsibilities besides other bilateral or collective cross-border activities.
- Collect valuable presentations and documents, which will be edited in form of one book with selected articles (in English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai), a CD-Rom with different types of presentation formats (papers, powerpoint, posters, multimedia)
- A video-documentation of the event, which reflects the innovative format of the conference design (even for an international audience) highlighting both format and outcome
- A collection of books, other publications, films and multimedia for further use in the region (support to CBIK Library and other documentation centres)
- A push to existing networking activities in the region for cross-border exchange especially related to connections between ethnic minorities of MMSEA and the larger region.
- The ongoing formation of a pool of skilled facilitators/trainers for local, national and regional events linked to the action plan for the future.
- Confirmation of CBIK as a competent agent to bridge between different cultures, disciplines, sectors and knowledge systems and to act as partner with the best agencies for MMSEA sustainable development in SE-Asia
- Review and improvement of CBIK's field approach, the new 10 Year Strategic Plan and the forthcoming work plans of the institution and its programs.

About CBIK

The Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK) was established in 1995 as a non-profit membership organization, based in Kunming, Southwest China. It has more than 100 members from 20 different Chinese institutions including research professionals of natural and social sciences as well as development practitioners. It focuses on the issues of biodiversity conservation and community development. Its main emphasis is the relevance of indigenous knowledge and innovations related to resource governance and management at community and watershed levels.

CBIK aims to explore alternative development approaches like the support to Indigenous Initiatives and practice them with indigenous people and rural communities. These ways of practical action address the aspirations of local groups whose visions of the future rely on the continuity of their livelihoods and maintaining cultural and biological diversity through applying indigenous knowledge. Due to the rapid changing environment and uncertainty that local people face in SW China, CBIK also works to promote local and regional inter-sectoral and intercultural dialogue among rural communities, NGOs, academia and governmental agencies.

For this purpose, CBIK has designed a methodological approach that consists of conducting interdisciplinary research, facilitation for participatory development, consultation for cultural identity, monitoring for socio-cultural changes and its process, networking for information sharing, and capacity building for indigenous initiatives, watershed governance and livelihood development.

CBIK's regional focus is mainly Southwest China – consisting of three provinces, Yunnan, Guizhou and Southwest Sichuan, and two autonomous regions, Western Guangxi and Southeast Tibet (Xizang), a unique eco-cultural region. CBIK is a partner of the network Montane Mainland Southeast Asia (MMSEA), which seeks academic exchange, mutual visits as well as learning from development experiences. In Yunnan, CBIK particularly emphasizes Southeast Yunnan, the "Green Triangle" areas of Yunnan, Vietnam and Laos, and Northwest Yunnan, the Eastern Himalayan Region, which can be defined as global hot-spots for biological and cultural diversity. With regard to the Consultation in Bad Boll on Support to Indigenous Initiatives CBIK has committed to support the diverse follow up actions in the region and provide inputs to mutual exchange and regional networking activities.

CBIK pays special attention to the serious uncertainties that indigenous people and their cultures face as they strive to use, nurture and sustain the diverse landscapes in which they live and depend on in the process of socio-cultural change and globalization. Local cultures and biodiversity are embedded in a field of multiple forces of local and global character. Among these, government policies and the expansion of regional, national and international markets have a positive impact and in some cases not.

CBIK sees ethnic minorities as socio-cultural assets in the development process. They are knowledgeable conservationists of biological diversity, practitioners for nurturing and sustaining the diverse landscapes. Their local culture, practices and institutions provide a basis for resource governance and livelihood development.

CBIK's mission is:

"To enhance the ability of local groups to increase biodiversity so that they can strengthen their evolving cultural traditions while finding innovative solutions for improving their livelihoods. Our means are interdisciplinary research, capacity building within the framework of participatory approach and the practice of intercultural dialogue. We devote our efforts to improve the interactions between local and scientific knowledge in Southwest China".

CBIK serves as a centre for:

- Knowledge generation through interdisciplinary and participatory action research, case studies and promotion of community development experiences
- Human resource development through training and learning by doing for enhancing capacity of research professionals, local technicians, resource managers and farmers, mainly from ethnic minorities, on biodiversity conservation, community development, watershed management and cultural revival
- Facilitation of methods such as participatory technology development (PTD), community and culture based resource management (CCBRM) and area management planning (AMP)
- Forum for consultation on the issues of resource management, indigenous people, and intercultural dialogue, and resource governance
- Information bank through its library, information system and publications
- Network for information sharing, exchange of experiences and bilateral visits with partners from the region of SE-Asia

CBIK has twelve full-time staff (six females) and 18 part-time staff (8 females), as well as about 118 members from various institutions specializing in the fields of anthropology, ethnobotany, ecology, resource management, forestry, agroforestry,

community development and watershed management. The staff is engaged in field research and practical action as well as office work. The members provide technical advice and sometimes are actively involved in project implementation. CBIK has specifically recruited young professionals, placed them in interdisciplinary fieldwork, and provided them with opportunities to attend training workshops and gain scholarships. The expertise has been drawn particularly from the Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which offers Ph.D. and Master Degrees in ethnobotany and environmental natural resource management. The organizational structure consists of an executive board, international advisory board, executive directors for research and development, administration and communication, as well as supporting and research staff.

CBIK has successfully implemented the first Five-Year Plan covering the period from 1996 to 2000. In conjunction with the second Five-Year Plan, The Cultures and Biodiversity Congress 2000 was convened by CBIK in Kunming over 10 days in July 2000 with the purpose of exploring the links between cultures and biodiversity. Several CUBIC themes and some of the specific recommendations of The Yunnan Initiative are reflected in CBIK's past and on-going work. It provides a foundation and technical guidance for CBIK to formulate the second Five-Year Plan. In the next phase we aim to strengthen our efforts in learning how to support more concretely indigenous initiatives, knowledge and their cosmovisions as well as the biodiversity rich environment in the process of promoting local livelihood development.

For example, we will further develop our programs on indigenous initiatives, community development and indigenous culture, by employing participatory approaches and implementing biodiversity education programs in ethnic minority areas in an attempt to better integrate a focus on indigenous technical knowledge with indigenous perceptions of time, space, values and other significant cultural concepts. Since this work is pioneering, it will take time to experiment with holistic thinking and develop participatory approaches that are suited to local indigenous cultural and the wider Chinese contexts.

CBIK's second Five-Year Plan has been revised since April 2001 during the process of Strategic Planning and as a consequence the structure has been revised. The main aim is to transform CBIK from a donor-driven project to a demand driven and issues-focuses program, which includes since 1st of July of 2001

- a. the Watershed Governance Program;
 - b. the Community Livelihood Program
 - c. the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Program,
- and 3 service programs
- d. the Institutional Development Program
 - e. the Communication Program and
 - f. the Capacity Building Program

Beginning of March 2002 we will finalise the Strategic Plan and define our work plans for each program for 2002. In order to achieve the overall objectives, CBIK is developing the long-term institutional capacity and strategic partnerships with indigenous people, local institutions and strategic alliances to creatively implement program-focused activities.

Kunming, February 27, 2002

Xu Jianchu, Timmi Tillmann

On behalf of the Organising Committee