

family of plants at Bangkok was achieved, they should proceed to the European Key Herbaria to check their provisional manuscript by examination of essential herbarium material and literature not available at Bangkok. Subsidiary funds should be provided either by the Thai Government or through the International Technical Assistance or other sources.

2) The distribution of recent collections at Bangkok should be done with less delay.

3) Intensive botanical exploration in neglected areas should be currently undertaken, especially in special areas where peculiar soils or terrain occur.

The meeting adopted the general set-up of the flora as follows:—

a) The "Flora of Tropical East Africa" was chosen as a general model owing to its concise and informative nature.

b) Revisions, after approval by the Editorial Board, will be printed in instalments covering some 100 pages without systematic sequence. Instalments are consecutively paged and bound in volumes with a full index. Each volume will contain about 300-500 pages.

c) The first volume will be introductory, containing general chapters on the Thai environment, a key to the families, etc.

d) The Flora will include the native, naturalized, and most commonly cultivated plants.

e) Full drawings should be given in preference to plants not illustrated before. Schematic drawings may be added where desirable, especially in addition to descriptions or keys.

*T.S.*

## **II. UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Ecology of Tropical Highlands.**

The Regional Seminar on the Ecology of Tropical Highlands, sponsored under the joint auspices of the UNESCO Scientific Office for South Asia and H.M. Government of Nepal, was held during 8th-16th April, 1968 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Much has been done on the study in the ecology of tropical highlands elsewhere, but less in the Himalayas. Therefore this seminar is appropriate in having Kathmandu as the seat, where participants could enjoy the pleasant atmosphere and observe the panoramic scene of the Himalayas. Two German scientists from the University of Aachen and the University of Kiel were convenors among the gathering of 22 scientists of South and Southeast Asian countries with 2 observers.

A definition of the term "tropical highland" was given and thus lead to much controversy. While one convenor aired his experience in the Andean Cordillera, the other made a concise report on his experience in the Kambhu Himal, or the Nepalese Himalaya. The seminar also touched on the vegetation mapping, and recommended the method adopted by the French Institute, Pondicherry. The seminar made a resolution that in order to foster the ecological study of tropical highlands, a "Research Centre for the Ecology of Tropical Highlands" should be established and financed by UNESCO, in tropical countries preferrably in Kathmandu.

During the seminar and post seminar periods, guided tours to historical and religious places, and governmental institutions were offered to participants.

Situating in a dust bowl, the atmospheric condition of Kanthamandu is not pleasant. The Nepalese are rather conserved and modest, even though poverty is apparent, the people are by no means aggressive, comparing to their neighbours.

It is very impressive to see the effort of foreign experts struggling to carry out the integrated demonstration work in selected pilot zones in the Trisuli Watershed Project, sponsored by FAO under UN Special Funds. Although the terrain of the Project area is steep and gravelly, it is much populated (3.1 acres per capita, for agricultural land .5 acres per capita). Terraced wheat fields are common features with scattered trees and few bamboos planted for home use. Reafforestation is very much needed as well as the checking of stream flow. The introduction of Eucalyptus trees in such an arid area will cause desiccation in the long run, as they consume large amount of



water and the water table is very low. More over the trees have shallow root system, windfall will be inevitable in such loose gravelly soil.

The Royal Botanic Garden, Godavari is it a pleasant setting in the cool valleys on both sides of the Godavari River. It is rather well planned and under good maintenance, an achievement of the Government within 5 years.

T. S.

### III. Publishing Facility for Scientists.

The Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand (ASRCT) is occasionally running a series of a publication, *Thai National Scientific Papers*.

The scope is to be a medium for publication of results of original scientific research, as material becomes available, initially in the following series: Biological Series, Fuana Series, Flora Series, and Physical Series.

Papers may be submitted for publication in these series by authors irrespective of their institutional affiliations. Acceptance of papers is in the hands of an Editorial Committee consisting of AVM M.R. Sukshom KASEMSANTA (Scientific Editor), Dr. Pradisth CHEOSAKUL, Mr. Frank G. NICHOLLS, Dr. C. Lewis WRENSHALL, Dr. Rawi BHAVILAI, Mr. Tem SMITINAND, Dr. James S. DINNING, and Dr. Siribongse BOON-LONG.

Papers are accepted only after asking the advice of specialist referees.

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