Web sites recommended by *APANews*

MekongInfo – Information on natural resources management in the Lower Mekong Basin

http://www.mekonginfo.org

MekongInfo at http://www.mekonginfo.org is an interactive Web-based system for sharing information and knowledge about natural resources management, with a focus on forestry, in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. This Internet site contains six linked modules (Library, Reference, Case Studies, Announcements, Contacts) with Vietnamese, Khmer, Thai and English language versions.

Index site of MekongInfo

MekongInfo aims to support actors in the region to share their experiences, and to promote the emergence of sectoral information and knowledge networks. Moreover, MekongInfo provides a range of free information services related to natural resources management, including:

- A virtual library with reports, case studies and "grey" project literature, many of which are not available in libraries or on the Internet;
- Web hosting services;
- News and announcements about upcoming events;
- A gallery presenting new publications and resource materials;
- A forum for online discussions on different themes; and
- CD-ROMs, e-mail updates, and hard-copy reports.

MekongInfo was developed by the Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin Project (SMRP), a technical cooperation project between the Mekong River Commission and Germany. SMRP supports the generation, exchange and dissemination of information

and experiences related to forest management in upland watersheds.

The information system runs as a "prototype" so that it can be improved in response to the users' needs. Registration is free-of-charge, and enables users to publish their own documents online, comment on existing documents, post news and announcements, etc.

MekongInfo is based on a partnership approach that seeks to build capacity of selected local organizations to maintain and manage the system. Support is given to create MekongInfo nodes, which train future providers, custodians and managers of information, and contribute to the growth of a regional network for information exchange related to natural resources management.

MekongInfo's online library is growing continuously. So far, it contains more than 2,000 relevant case studies, books, reference materials and "grey" project reports. Documents are available in full-text or abstract. The library is searchable by country, subject, author, key words, etc.

MekongInfo's online library

For further information, or to receive a free MekongInfo CD-ROM, please contact:

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Web sites recommended by *APANews*

The Forest Garden Program – Reforestation of degraded land through family-owned forest gardens

http://www.forestgarden.org

In October 1997, through a collaboration between the NeoSynthesis Research Centre (Mirahawatte, Sri Lanka), Counterpart International, Inc. (Washington, D.C., USA), and Counterpart Philippines (Cebu City, Philippines), the Forest Garden Initiative was launched. Supported by a five-year matching grant from the United States Agency for International Development, this program is developing and perfecting a flexible model silvicultural system that fosters the restoration of degraded land through the development of family-owned forest gardens by rural agriculturalists around the world. The Forest Garden Initiative offers farmers a new organic and environmentally-friendly farming system that increases their income while at the same time encouraging development of permaculture plantings that increase green canopy cover, promote biodiversity, and reduce local erosion.

The Forest Garden Initiative seeks to:

- Promote re-vegetation on deforested and degraded lands;
- Increase local prosperity;
- Increase local biodiversity;
- Increase environmental sustainability;
- Improve local land management and reduce erosion;
- Improve local living conditions;
- Locally stabilize or reverse the trend toward deforestation;
- Shift farming from chemical-intensive annual crops to woody perennials grown organically; and
- Foster a robust, value-added global market for Forest Garden products.

The Forest Garden concept is an on-the-ground adaptation of the formal management system known as "analog forestry". This system has been based on proven methodologies developed over decades by traditional forest gardeners in the tropics and the principles of modern biological and ecological sciences. It also includes innovations and improvements developed experimentally over fifteen years at the NeoSynthesis Research Centre in Sri Lanka. These ideas are now being implemented in dozens of communities in Sri Lanka, and is being introduced in the Philippines, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, Australia, and Canada.

Homepage of the Forest Garden Program

The Forest Garden technology is appropriate for a range of environments and can benefit rural communities in scores of emerging nations. If you want to join the Forest Garden network and learn, participate, and contribute to this initiative, you should visit the Forest Garden site in the Internet at http://www.forestgarden.org.

The ICRAF 'Agroforestree' database

http://www.icraf.cgiar.org/treessd/AFT/AFT.htm

Internet site of ICRAF's 'Agroforestree' database

ICRAF's 'Agroforestree' database is a species reference and selection guide for agroforestry trees. The main objective of the database is to provide detailed information on a number of species to field workers and researchers who are engaged in activities involving trees suitable for agroforestry systems and technologies. It is designed to help them make rational decisions regarding the choice of candidate species for defined purposes. Information for each species covers species identity, ecology and distribution, propagation and management, functional uses, pests and diseases and a bibliography.

Currently, ICRAF is updating the database and invites agroforesters to help identifying more species to be included. You can also contribute high-quality photographs. For more information, please visit ICRAF's 'Agroforestree' database site at http://www.icraf.cgiar.org/treessd/AFT/AFT.htm.