



EU Support for Capacity Building Initiatives at a New Institution of Higher Learning in Malaysia - A Case Study



Murtedza Mohamed
University Malaysia Sarawak
ted@cans.unimas.my

Henk Ritzema
Alterra, WUC, The Netherlands



BASIS AND PARTICULARS OF UNIMAS-EU COOPERATION



COMPETENCE/ STRENGTH	PROJECT & YEAR	PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, land use • Biodiversity • Development Planning • ICT • Molecular epidemiology 	DANCED/DANIDA CapBuild in Edu & Res on Sustainable Land Use & Natural Res Mgt (SLUSE) 2000-2003	3 EU (Denmark), 1 ASIAN, G-to-G
	The ASEAN Regional Centre for BioD Conservtn (ARCBC) Country Project 2002 – 2004	EU-all ASEAN countries
	INCO-DEV Strategies for Sustainable Mgt of Peatlands in Borneo (STRAPEAT) 2001 – 2004	5 EU, 7 ASIAN
	ASIALINK Educational Tools for Sustainable Mgt of Peatlands (PEATWISE) 2002-2006	2 EU, 2 ASIAN
	INCO-DEV Restoration of Tropical Peatlands (RESTORPEAT) 2004 – 2007.	5 EU, 8 ASIAN
	INCO-SSA Carbon-Climate-Human Interactions in Tropical Peatlands: (CARBOPEAT) 2007 – 2008	3 EU, 2 Asian
	EU-IST Computerized Automotive Technol. Reconfiguration (CATER) System for Mass Customization. 2006-2008	11 EU, 3 Asian
	Diagnostic tool, vaccine development & surveillance of dengue, JE, HFMD, malaria	UNIMAS, EU, USA, Australia





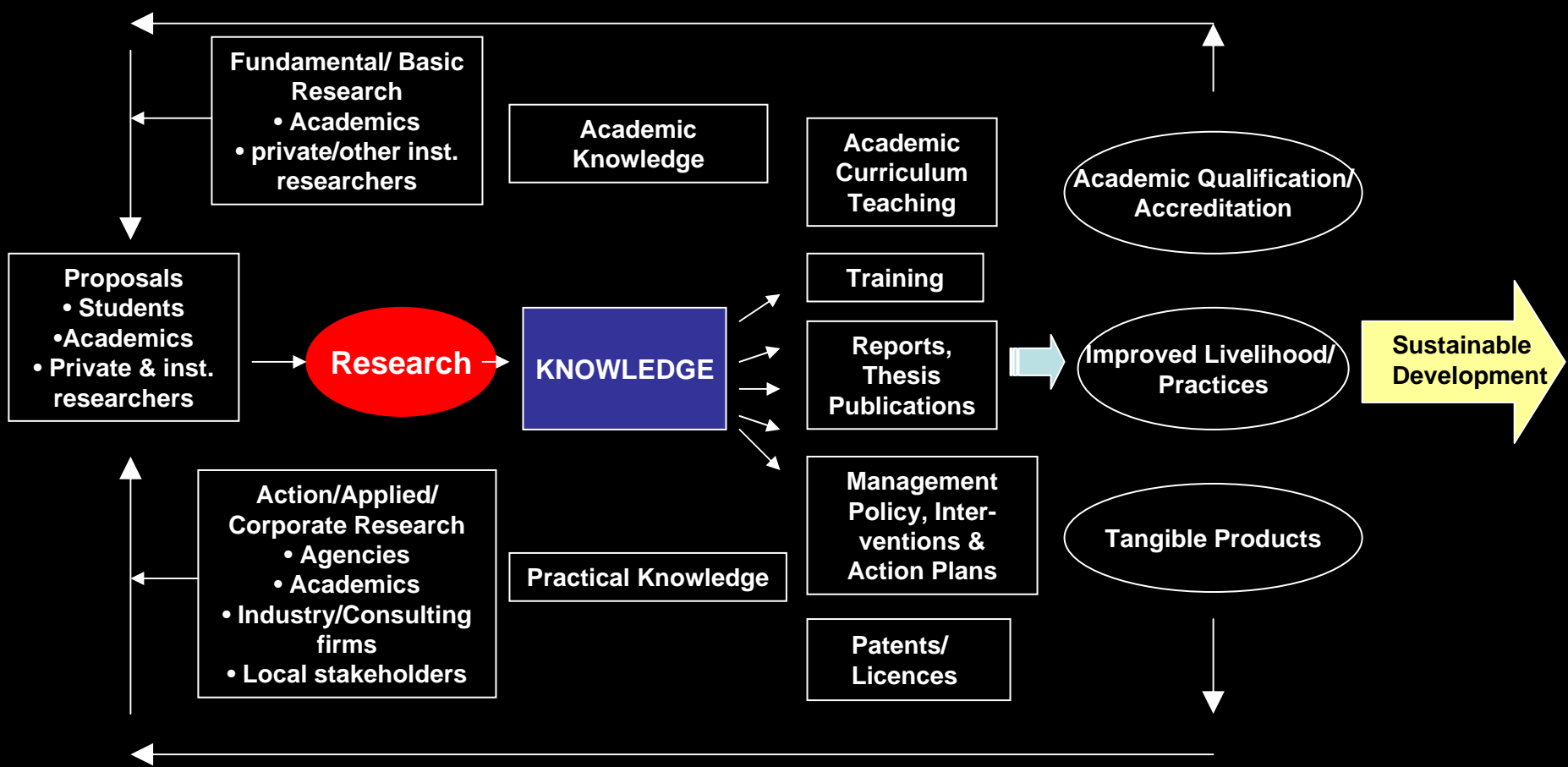
PEATLAND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS: A Holistic Approach to Capacity Building Initiatives

- Peatland Management projects (STRAPEAT, RESTORPEAT, PEATWISE, CARBOPEAT) are essentially capacity building projects.

Success story:

- These projects formed the basis for a holistic approach to capacity building, with **KNOWLEDGE** as the core/central element, towards achieving sustainable development.





Initiatives not based on sound knowledge are bound to fail (or unsustainable).



Some development projects on peatland failed, as they were **not based on sound knowledge** about peat soil.

e.g. the **Mega Rice project in Central Kalimantan**

1.45 million hectares, commissioned in 1995, to replace loss of padi field areas in Java.



Major cause of failure: Excessive and wrongly designed drainage

15 200 families (of the planned 200 000 families) were resettled by the end of 1997. There were illnesses (malaria, dengue) and malnutrition. Transmigrants turned to illegal logging and destruction of remaining forest areas.

Over 4 500 km drainage channel constructed. Cost: USD 2 - 3 billion.

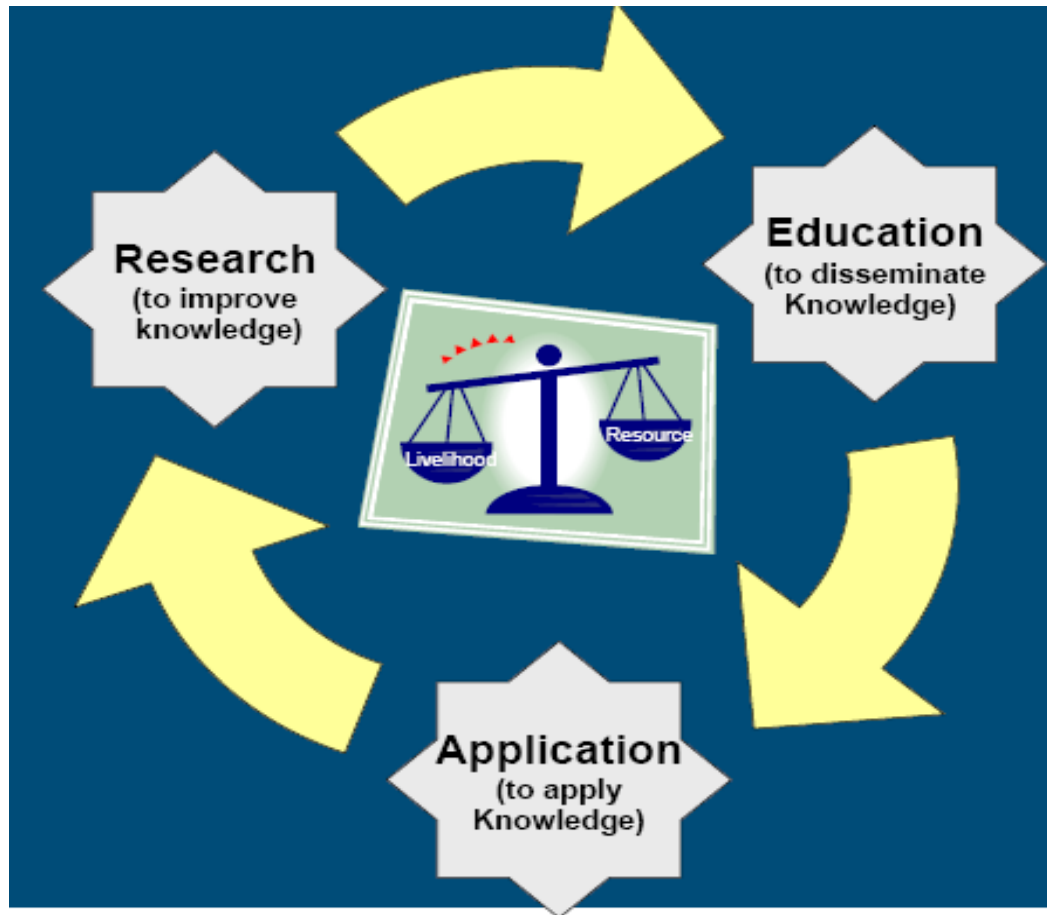
In 1997 80% of the MRP area burned in the El Niño promoted fires, liberating more CO₂ to the atmosphere in 3 months than is released from fossil fuel burning in the European Union in a year.



Photo courtesy of Prof Jack Rieley



The holistic approach:
Using the RESEARCH findings of 2 projects for an academic curriculum on peatland management (KNOWLEDGE;1 project) and field APPLICATIONS (1 project).



HOW ?

Capacity Building

for quality decision making & improved sector/
managerial planning & implementation

KNOWLEDGE

Focussed
objective
elements

Enabling
requisites

Institutional
Competence

Human
Resource
Dev.

Research – Education - Application

NRE sustainability - Livelihood
Globally – Locally relevant
Technology - Traditional knowledge
Interdisciplinary – Specialisation
Theoretical - Experiential

Actors & Beneficiaries / Stakeholders

Universities		Government	
NGO	Private sector	Public agencies	
Industries		Land users	



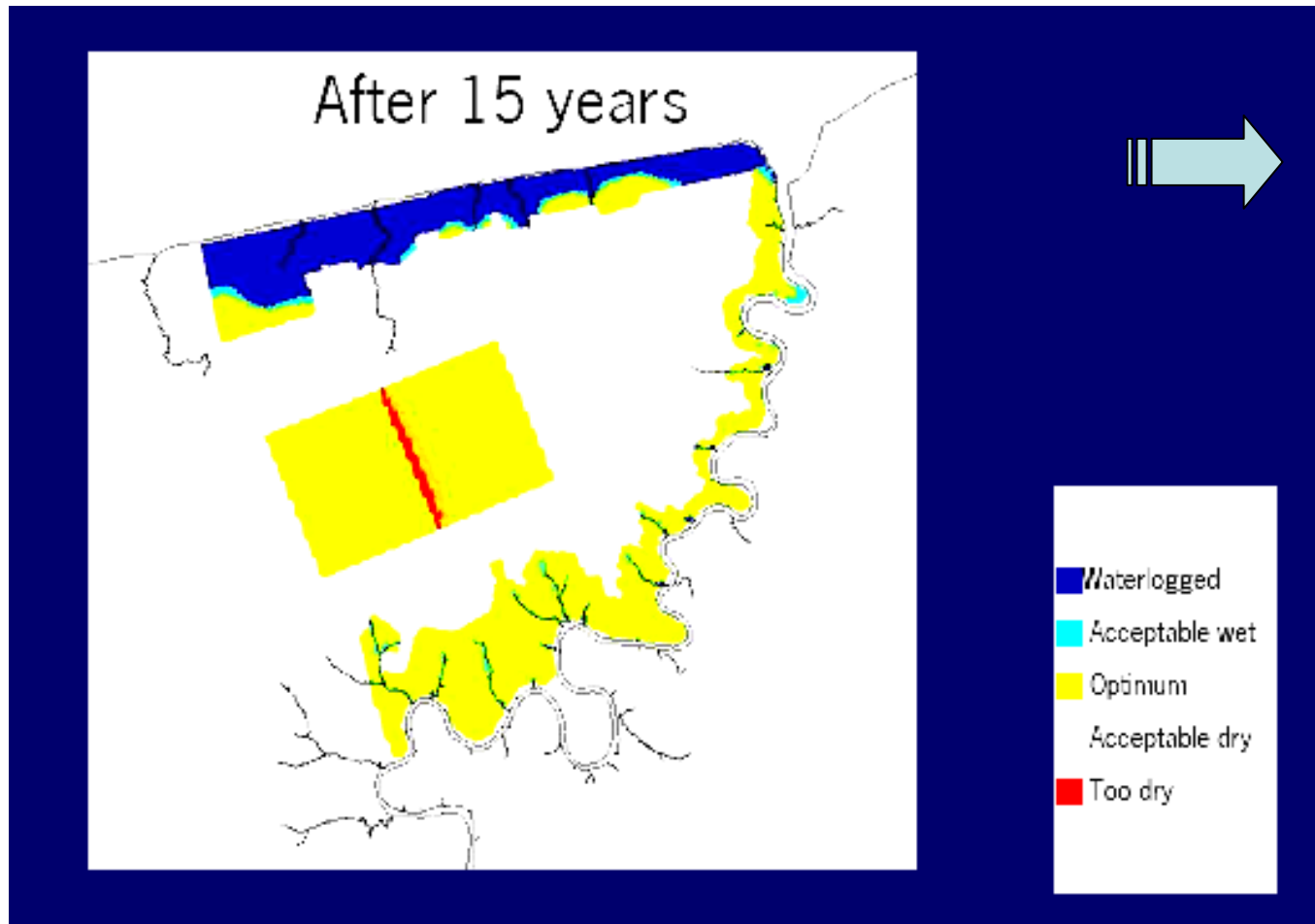
Focus
imple-
mentation
elements

I n d i c a t o r s
Monitoring & Evaluation



An example of technology/innovative tool developed from RESEARCH for EDUCATION and APPLICATIONS

- A decision support system (simulation) for agriculture development on peatland.



Partners and their contributions



Organisation	Research	Education	Application
1. Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia* (BPPT)	•		•
2. Alterra, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands ^a	•	•	•
3. Can Tho University, Vietnam ^b	•	•	
4. Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia ^a	•	•	
5. Ludwig Maximilians University, Germany ^b	•		•
6. Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Malaysia ^a	•		•
7. PS Konsultant Sdn Bhd, Malaysia ^c			•
8. Ecosol Sdn Bhd, Malaysia			•
9. Remote Sensing Solutions, Germany ^a	•		•
10. Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia ^a	•	•	
11. Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia ^a	•	•	
12. University of Helsinki, Finland ^a	•	•	
13. University of Leicester, UK ^a	•	•	
14. University of Nottingham, UK ^a	•	•	
15. University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia ^a	•	•	
16. University of Sriwijaya, Indonesia ^a	•	•	
17. Vapo Oy, Finland ^b	•		•



Indicators for capacity building activities of STRAPEAT, PEATWISE, RESTORPEAT projects



Indicator	Research	Education	Advisory
Collaborative research		4	2
Conference presentations	133	2	4
Decision support system		1	
Edited conference proceedings	1		
External funded projects	2	2	3
Guest-lectures		12	
Guidelines / handbooks	3		3
Joint action/studies and consultancies	1		5
Market survey		2	
MSc's and PhD's	7		
Papers published in International Journals	23		2
Partner Meetings	7	5	
Post-graduate course		1 (+ 1)	
Project evaluations	2	1	3
Training Modules		6	
Website	2	1	
Workshops/seminars/symposium	6	2	5





Lessons Learned

- Low success rate of ASIAN applications with EU programmes? Special considerations needed for technically sound proposals from ASIAN partners?
- Availability of relevant experts in newly established ASIAN institution counterparts: Advantage & disadvantages of involving senior staff/experts; effectiveness of short ToT programme for their substitutes etc.
- Excellent complement between EU-Asian counterparts in terms of strengths in theoretical base and data generation.
- Great interest shown by mid-career professionals to participate in CapBuild initiatives, but constrained by office duties albeit flexi-time arrangement



- Students preference: More hands-on/experiential components modules.
- Indicators are an essential tool for monitoring and evaluation; indicators should be defined for every activity at the start of a project (Logical Framework)
- CapBuild process, including its M&E, extends beyond the project life (i.e. the sustainability of projects).





Thank you

