The 2\textsuperscript{nd} UNTA Meeting at Kasetsart University

Kasetsart University in association with Food Security Center, University of Hohenheim hosted the 2\textsuperscript{nd} UNTA Meeting during the period of September 8-11, 2014, at the Kamphol Adulavidhaya Conference Room, the KU Golden Jubilee Building, Bangkhen Campus with the topic “Tropical Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Security”. This international gathering comprised three sessions, as follows:

- **Session 1**: Advancement and Innovations in Tropical Agriculture
- **Session 2**: Roles of Higher Education Institutes towards Global Food and Nutrition Security
- **Session 3**: Collaboration and Networking

In the Opening Session, Associate Professor Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Kasetsart University, expressed his appreciation to the forum since the topic for this year—Tropical Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Security—was harmonized with FAO’s campaign on “SAVE FOOD NETWORK” that Kasetsart University is one among Key Players and Sponsors in Thailand. He also encouraged all members to work together for the benefit of the regional community.

The first session on Advancement and Innovations in Tropical Agriculture allowed participants to share idea on their initiatives and collaborative programs and innovation, namely, the activities of Agricultural Biotechnology Park (PABP) by National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, the project on Sustainable Crop Production by Universiti Putra Malaysia, the collaborative programs between Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and University of California, Davis, the Agro-Tourism Destination for ASEAN by Maejo University, and researches by School of Agriculture, University of Queensland to increase Agricultural Productivity and Profitability while reducing the impact of agriculture on the environment.

The second session on Roles of Higher Education Institutes towards Global Food and Nutrition Security was emphasized on lessons learned from respective universities and organizations, for example, the Roles of Bogor Agricultural University toward Global Food and Nutrition Security through the implementation of three pillars of higher education institutions: education, research and community outreach. Security, the Engagement in Transformative Higher Education to Leverage Global Food and
Nutrition Security by AGRINATURA with the suggestion that food and nutrition security should not become disciplinary study programmes. Rather, professionals and university educators need to integrate them as cross-cutting themes in all curricula offered at agricultural universities. A case of Yezin Agricultural University reflected the essence of linkage and networking activities towards the improvement of higher education, training and research in the area of tropical agriculture, a case of Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosae demonstrated the need of this new country on human capital development for the Agricultural Sectors by the support of international agencies and a case on Kasetsart University pinpointed that universities should realize the essential role in producing graduates to become global leaders and global citizens who should devote themselves to the sustainable development of the society and the well-being of the public as a whole.

The last session was an open forum for all participants to exchange their idea on the roles and the collaborative works among members in the future. The applications from four universities to become the UNTA members were approved, namely University of Queensland, Australia, Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia, King Mongkut Institute of technology, Lad Krabang, and Mahasarakham University, Thailand. On the other hand, the Collaborating and Networking of UNTA will be focused on several training programs for educators and university members while Summer School Programs will be initiated under the support of AGRINATURA for the benefits of students.

In this connection, it sis agreed that the 2015 Meeting will be hosted by Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia, and the 2016 Meeting will be at Thai Nguyen University, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

University Network for Tropical Agriculture (UNTA) was established on December 13, 2012 as a result of the Roundtable Discussion during President’s Forum on Agriculture for Leading Universities in Southeast Asia in National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan. This network aims to implement integration and to create closer ties in order to improve higher education, training and research in the area of tropical agriculture.
The Special Meeting with CEOs of partner universities

On September 9, 2014, Associate Professor Vudtechai Kapilakanchana, President, Associate Professor Dr. Somprach Thanisawanyangkura, Vice President for Research, and Associate professor Dr. Poonpipope Kasemsap, Vice President for International Relations, had a special meeting with honorable guests from respective universities who paid a visit to Kasetsart University to participate in the 2nd UNTA: University Network on Tropical Agriculture. On this occasion, President of Kasetsart University expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to all honorable guests for their devotion to spend two days in the tough discussion on this international gathering with the theme. He also encouraged all members to work together for the benefit of students and the closed academic ties among members. The guests of honor in this meeting are:

1. National Pingtung University of Science and Technology
   1.1 Professor Dr. Chang-Hsien Tai, President
   1.2 Dr. Jik-Chang Leong, Dean, International College
2. Champasack University
   2.1 Dr. Sikhamtath Mitaray, Rector
   2.2 Dr. Bounmy Phonesavanh, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs
3. Bogor Agricultural University
   3.1 Professor Dr. Herry Suhaediyanto, Rector
   3.2 Professor Dr. Anas Miftah Fauzi, Vice Rector for Research and Collaboration
4. Yezin Agricultural University
   4.1 Dr. Maung Maung Myint, Former Vice Rector