

**Brief Report on the GCUA Graduate Summer School “The Future of Forests –  
Managing Forests for People”**

**Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden**

**August 24-Sep 4, 2015**

**Prepared by**

**Ismail Muhammad, Chai Ee Wen and Muhammad Aizat Abd Ghani  
Phd Candidates, Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor,  
Malaysia**

The GCUA Graduate Summer School was organized by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and conducted at Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre, Alnarp, Sweden from August 24 to September 4, 2015. The course took place at several locations starting at Alnarp and on to Tonnersjoheden, Vaxjo, Asa, Jonkoping, Rogberga, Ostad, Goteborg and Vaxtorp. The objectives of Summer School were gathering an international group of selected graduate students with strong background in forest sciences, forest ecology or natural resource economics. Students were introduced to the Swedish forestry model as a base line for critical discussions, also based upon the student’s experience from their home countries. In the global context, new methods of forest management, planning tools and governance for sustainable wood production and biodiversity conservation were discussed such as thinning machine tools.

The selected participants consisted of 24 PhD students from thirteen countries, representing 12 different universities. The students were selected based on their research interest which is directly related to some aspects of forest management, forest sciences, forest ecology or natural resource economics and who have shown interest in addressing the global challenges. The participants were from Sweden, Australia, Malaysia, Estonia, Turkey, China, Brazil, Ecuador, Uganda, Russia, Germany, Austria and Italy. Among the universities involved are the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU, Sweden), University of Murdoch (Perth, Australia), University of Tokyo (Tokyo), University of Melbourne (Australia), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Vienna, Austria), University of Florence (Italy), Makerere University Kampala (Uganda), Universiti Putra Malaysia (Malaysia), Saint Petersburg State University

(Russia), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), University of Freiburg (Germany) and the University of Tartu (Estonia).

The course covered different aspects in forestry which included forest management, forest policy, forest economy, forest products, forest security, forest conservation, silviculture and global challenges in forestry views. As a young scientist, we need a network linking international relations, keep sharing and propagation of the new information we can learn and share across borders between countries and continents of the world as recognized system of forest management practice and differences between participating countries, and recognize culture. During the course, we identified and addressed issues and global challenges in tackling climate change, global change, deforestation, degradation, food security, energy security, water security, wood demand, to promote forest conservation, protect biodiversity. Furthermore, different aspects of genetic, dendrology, risk analysis, governance, law and forest policy, knowledge transfer program, sustainable forest management were also explored with tools like the logical framework analysis.

This summer school was very interesting and gave us the opportunity to learn many new things and discussed many important issues regarding the global challenges in forestry sector as well as forest management practices in Sweden. As PhD students in the Faculty Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia, it was a very enriching experience for us to attend this summer school and provide a broader view of international forestry, especially in a developed country such as Sweden. We hope that the GCUA Graduate Summer School program will be continued in the future and it may be conducted in other countries so that more young scientists and researchers will be given the opportunity to gain new experience, knowledge and skills in forestry practices.

Last but not least, we would like to thank SLU for organizing and sponsoring this programme. Special thanks go to Ass. Prof. Dr. Lars Drössler, the course coordinator for giving us this opportunity to attend the programme and his excellent logistic and course programme. We also extend our sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Awang Noor Abd Ghani and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Craig Nitschke for their encouragement to attend the course, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for providing partial financial support and promote student

mobility. We would also like to thank the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry for providing partial funding for the airfare to attend the course.