

I. EDITORIAL

This year it is 175 years ago that the Botanical Garden of Bogor ('s Lands Plantentuin, Buitenzorg) was founded. From a humble origin it became one of the most important gardens in South East Asia, if not of the whole tropical world. Its history has been extensively described by Rijnberg (1922) and briefly by Ms. Soegiarto (1992), unfortunately only in Dutch and Indonesian, respectively.

Set up as an experimental garden for the cultivation of species of economic importance, it has been instrumental in the introduction of the oilpalm, rubber, and kina in Indonesia and surrounding countries. As the various staff members made extensive exploration tours over the then Dutch East Indies many species were brought back of unknown value, and at its height there were perhaps 10,000 different ones in cultivation! Sadly that number has declined considerably through natural causes as old age, storms, floods, drought, and also by war, neglect, mismanagement, and changes in attitude about the aims of the Garden. Today it seems more a tourist attraction than a pinnacle of scientific research, but that problem has always been present in various forms. New plans are in the making to elevate the status whereby it will be supervised directly by the Chairman of LIPI, with the intention that the management will become more decisive, and that the scientific impact will be enhanced.

The Kebun Raya celebrated her anniversary by with three major events: the Kebun Raya Bogor International Conference, Flora Tourism, and the Bogor-Leiden Historical Exhibition.

In a letter the current Director, Dr. Suhirman, wrote: "Kebun Raya is very much aware of its increasing responsibility about the effect of accelerating development on the increasing needs of flora conservation. And Kebun Raya is conscious about the need of cooperation to fulfill that responsibility. Cooperation, not only between Kebun Raya and other Botanic Gardens and Research Institutes all over the world, but not less important is cooperation between Kebun Raya and people. Because, in this era when the globe is becoming more and more crowded, and the need of natural resources for economic development is increasing, conservation can only be done properly by tightening those two cooperations. The Kebun Raya Conference was an international cooperation to make the strategy for Indonesian flora conservation, whilst Flora Tourism is to develop public consciousness about the role of the flora for welfare and survival.

But Kebun Raya is very conscious that cooperation alone is not sufficient, because conservation these days is a very tough challenge. Pioneer spirit is needed. Lucky enough, Kebun Raya understands that she was born in the atmosphere of pioneer spirit, she developed with pioneer spirit, and she is facing the tough conservation with pioneer spirit. The title of the Bogor-Leiden exhibition is: 'Kebun Raya' The Pioneer Spirit'."

Let us hope that this beautiful Garden will continue to flower for many years to come!

As a result of a meeting of representatives of the organizations dealing with the Flora Malesiana area, at the Rijksherbarium in June, 1991, a Board has been set up and an Action Plan has been developed. For more details see Chapter V.

Be sure to read The Manila Declaration concerning the ethical utilization of Asian biological resources (Chapter VII), which of course applies to any other country as well.

The views expressed in the Flora Malesiana Bulletin do not necessarily reflect those of the Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, or the Rijksherbarium, Leiden.