

BOARD NEWS

Composition of the Board of the Foundation Flora Malesiana. At the last Board meeting in Kew, during the Third Flora Malesiana Symposium, the members Drs. Aprilani Soegiarto, K. Larsen, P. Morat, M.A. Rifai and A. Latiff Mohamad, of whom the term expired, were happy to continue on the Board.

The term of Dr. B.A. Barlow was finished and he is replaced by Dr. J. G. West. Dr. G. Ll. Lucas resigned from the Board because he has retired as Keeper of K. Dr. J. Dransfield replaces him.

Dr. Aprilani expects to stand down as Vice-Chairman of LIPI and suggested that he should be replaced as Chairman by Dr. Rifai. This proposal was unanimously accepted. Dr. Rifai has outstanding scientific qualifications as newly appointed professor at the University of Indonesia, also as member of the Indonesian Research Council, and has recently been appointed as Assistant Minister of Science and Technology.

The Board of Foundation Flora Malesiana now consists of:

Chairman: Dr. M.A. Rifai (BO)

Vice-Chairman: Dr. P. Baas (L)

Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. M.C. Roos (L)

Other members of the Executive Committee: Dr. A. Latiff Mohamad (UKMB), Dr. K. Larsen (AAU).

Other members: Dr. Aprilani Soegiarto (Jakarta, Indonesia), Dr. J. Burley (A), Dr. J. Dransfield (K), Mr. O. Gideon (LAE), Dr. K. Iwatsuki (Tokyo, Japan), Dr. D.A. Madulid (PNH), Dr. P. Morat (P), Dr. F.S.P. Ng (CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia), Dr. D.H. Nicolson (US), Dr. S.H. Sohmer (BRIT), Dr. H. van der Werff (MO), Dr. J.G. West (CANB).

Permits. Many signs of discontentment with the present situation are being perceived. The Australian, American and European members of the Board all stress the importance of good arrangements for processing permits. In general, Malaysia, Philippines, PNG and Indonesia will require compliance with the provisions with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Manila Declaration, the Bukit Tingi declaration, and the Malacca Accord.

The Indonesian presidential decree 193/4 states that all foreign researchers carrying out research in Indonesia must obtain permission from LIPI. Approximately 30-50 proposals per year are received by Professor Kasian, Deputy for Natural Sciences at LIPI and once these have been approved by the National Research Council they are processed through an inter-departmental national committee consisting of LIPI, the Ministry for Science and Technology, the Agency for Science and Technology Application (PPT), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and police and security agencies. Delays in processing research applications have occurred due to a backlog in processing by the security agencies.

Prospective collaborative scientists are advised to prepare proposals jointly with counterparts and to submit proposals early to provide PPPB enough time to secure internal budgets for counterparts. Take into consideration that the fiscal year in Indonesia starts in

April and budget discussions take place in July/August. In principal, no fees were required by counterparts for FM- related field work.

For Malaysia a similar system of rules and regulations is being developed for field-work. The procedures will take 6 months and everybody needs a counterpart, but no fees will be charged. Also for the Philippines similar procedures will be introduced and in the future proposals will need to be endorsed by the head of a local counterpart institution and these applications will be considered at 3 monthly intervals by an interagency committee including the Departments of Education, Science and Technology, and of Foreign Affairs. PNG is also adopting a similar system of counterparts with local institutions and applications for research visas should be submitted to the National Research Institute with a AU\$250 fee.

Flora Malesiana and related (national) Flora projects. A concern appears to be becoming more prominent recently and particularly during the Third Flora Malesiana Symposium relating to the dichotomy which exists between the in-depth revisional style treatments of FM and the clearly enunciated requirements/needs of those working in the countries of the Malesian region. The New Guinea Flora workshop held during the Third Flora Malesiana Symposium provided a clear message that there is a strong demand for information on biodiversity, and that it is wanted immediately, not in 30 or 40 years time. The need to understand more about the biology of the flora of the region is recognized, and the revisional-level treatments is supported, but we have to consider alternative approaches for the regional or country level. The Board intends to explore ways of creating better links between the different kinds of output from systematic research, and especially links between the different ways in which the results are delivered. One clear way to make the linkages between the FM treatments and the identification manual type of product would be through increased efficiency in electronic data handling.