

LEARNED NEWS

Mr. D. Filer (OFI-Oxford) visited FRIM between 29 October and 13 November 1995 to conduct a workshop on the application of the updated version of the Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System (BRAHMS). It was attended by 10 participants.

A short course on 'Herbarium Techniques' was conducted between 5 and 22 March 1996 at FRIM. 25 herbarium staff from various herbaria in Malaysia and Singapore and 4 resource persons from the Royal Botanic Gardens and Herbarium of Kew and FRIM were involved. The course was sponsored by The Darwin Initiative.

Between 11 November and 13 December 1996 the five-week 'Regional Training Course on Plant Taxonomy: Methods and Approaches on the Preparation of Flora of Biosphere Reserve and Other Protected Areas in Southeast Asia' in Bogor was presented again after a lapse of four years. Fourteen participants (7 from Indonesia, 2 from Thailand, 2 from Vietnam, 1 from Malaysia, 2 from the Philippines) and 7 Indonesian auditors followed the course successfully. After a 2-week training in the basic principles of plant taxonomy and a week of field work involving plant collecting and ecological sampling, pairs of students prepared revisions of small taxa during the last two weeks. The subjects were taken from the *Cucurbitaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae*, Ferns, *Gramineae*, *Lauraceae*, *Palmae*, and *Sapotaceae*. Lecturers were provided by BO and L, funding by UNESCO/MAB, McArthur Foundation, and the Office for International Cooperation of Leiden University.

A workshop on 'Scientific Flora Writing & Editing' was conducted 24–29 March 1997 at Sandakan, Sabah. 19 participants and 4 resource persons from the collaborating institutions attended. The meeting was sponsored by ODA-UK and ITTO.

Training at Leiden — Supported by the Dutch branch of the WWF, the Forum Indonesia–Netherlands and L, Mr. A. L. Suebo, a staff member of the Lorentz National Park in Irian Jaya, has followed a three-month training course in herbarium management and basic taxonomy at L in the period April–June 1997.

Supported by the Tropenbos Foundation and L, Mr. Arbainsyah, staff member at the MOF Tropenbos-GO Indonesia field station Wanariset (East Kalimantan), will follow a three-month training course in herbarium management at L in the period April–July 1997. Under the guidance of Dr. P. J. A. Keßler and Mr. G. Thijsse he will pay special attention to the use of the collection-related computer software package BRAHMS.