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| National University of Laos | Muséum national d’histoire naturelle | Institut de recherche  pour le développement |

**International Congress: Botanical research in Tropical Asia**

**6th – 11th December 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

First circular

**This congress, broadened to include all of tropical Asia, follows the first two international symposia on the Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in Phnom Penh in 2008 and Hanoi in 2010 which were of considerable interest to the botanical community of SE Asia.**

The principal aim of this congress is to stimulate North-South collaboration in the study of the tropical flora. The delegates, who come from numerous tropical Asian countries, including those of ASEAN, will compare their expertise in various subjects such as taxonomy, plant systematics, phytochemistry, biogeography, ethnobotany and conservation.

**A note on the first two symposia:**

The first symposium (8th – 14th December 2008) was organised by the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and gathered 350 participants from more than 20 countries. There were 57 oral presentations and 60 posters, and a workshop in botanical illustration which attracted about 40 people.

In a film recorded in Paris, Professor Jules E. Vidal gave a message of encouragement to the researchers and scientists of the region at the close of the symposium.

The second symposium (6th – 11th December 2010) was organised by the Muséum national d’histoire naturelle, the Institut of Ecology and Biological Resourcesand the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. Two hundred participants from about 10, mainly Asian countries, attended. They presented 66 oral papers and 56 posters. A workshop on watercolour illustration was included in the programme.

The final recommendation was an undertaking to share knowledge for the benefit of biodiversity in this region.

**This third meeting has been eagerly awaited as a forum where recent research results can be presented, advice on plant conservation policy in tropical Asia can be given, and the sustainable use of plant resources can be promoted.**

**Organized by:**

**Muséum national d’histoire naturelle (MNHN), Institut de Systématique, Évolution, Biodiversité (UMR7205 ISYEB), Paris**

**National University of Laos (NUOL), Faculty of Science, Vientiane**

**and**

**Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), Pharmacochimie et Pharmacologie pour le Développement (UMR 152), Toulouse**

**With financial support from:**

**Muséum national d’histoire naturelle (MNHN)**

**and**

**National University of Laos (NUOL)**

**Honorary president: Professor Jules E. VIDAL,** MNHN, Paris.

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Dr. Van Sam HOANG (VFU, Hanoi)

Dr. Ngoc Sam LY (ITB, Ho Chi Minh City)

Dr. Mehalingam PALANICHAMY (VHNSNC, Virudhunagar)

**Thematics :**

1 - Taxonomy, Systématic and Evolution

2 - Biodiversity Conservation

3 - Ethnobotanics/Ethnopharmacology

4 - Ecology

5 – Phytochemistry

6 - Informatics/Data bases

7 - Botanical gardens/Horticulture/Natural history collections

**Registration:**

**Before September 15th 2015, please fill in the form on line:** <http://botatropasia.sciencesconf.org/>

**1) To register on line:**

**- click on « register », click on “I do not have an account”, and then fill in the form**

**- at the end, click on “register”; verify on overview and correct if necessary**

**- click on “submit”; a message appears “thank you for your account…, you will receive**

**an activation link by email”: click on “ok”**

**- on the email you receive, click on the link**

**- on the website, a new message appears; you must click on “ok”**

**2) Contribution (in French or English), before October 1st 2015.**

**To add your contribution on the Website:**

**You must be connected (login and password), then find “My Space”, click on “Submission”, then on “Submit an abstract”.**

An official letter of invitation will be sent to participants on demand.

**Visas:**

Most visitors will need an entry visa to Lao PDR with the exception of citizens of ASEAN member countries, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Luxembourg and Switzerland. It can take a long time to issue a visa for entry into Lao PDR so you should apply in good time.

On arrival in Vientiane Airport, you can also get a visa (bring 30$ US and 1 passport photo). You must have 6 months validity still on your passport. Keep safely a photocopy of your passport.