

47TH SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH SEMINAR

SEPT
2025

SUSTAINABLE FOOD FOREST



A seminar by
Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi
International Foundation (SGRA)
in collaboration with
Faculty of Management and Development Studies (FMDS)
of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU)





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47th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (KKK47) @

3RD INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE (IFSS3)

KKK47: Sustainable Food Forest
IFSS3: Circularity, Renewability,
and Regenerative Futures for
Food Systems

Our Speakers:

FMDS = FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
UPOU = UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES OPEN UNIVERSITY
SGRA = SEKIGUCHI GLOBAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
AISF = ATSUMI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



DR. MAX MAQUITO

FMDS/UPOU Senior
Lecturer; SGRA/AISF
Research Fellow (A Case
Study of a Farm in Laguna)



DR. JABEZ FLORES

FMDS/UPOU Senior
Lecturer (A Design for
Zones 4/5 of the UPOU
perma GARDEN)



DR. JUN BUOT

Professor Emeritus,
University of the
Philippines
(Discussant)



18 SEPTEMBER 2025
11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

ON SITE: MEETING ROOM 1,
NEGROS RESIDENCES, BACOLOD
CITY, PH

ONLINE: VIA ZOOM

REGISTRATION FOR KKK47 ONLY
(NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR KKK47)

<https://url.upou.edu.ph/KKK47-Reg>



INTRODUCTION

September 18, 2025

47th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar / SUS304 Public Session

KKK Seminar #47

Topic: Sustainable Food Forest

Description:

Through this Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) Seminar series, organic gardening or farming, which does not declare biological, chemical, or nuclear warfare on Mother Nature but rather enlists her as an ally, has been considered as a mechanism to achieve sustainable (environmentally friendly - kalikasan), shared (equitable - katarungan), growth (efficient - kahusayan). We hold the 47th KKK seminar as a panel session at the 3rd IFSS Conference on one of the components of organic gardening or farming: sustainable food forest.

"In layman's terms, a food forest is a type of garden where you grow many different fruits, nuts, herbs, and even vegetables. It is designed to mimic a natural forest and has many different layers, from trees to shrubs, ground cover plants, vines, and more.

These plants all work together, help each other grow, and create a balanced ecosystem that provides an abundance of food and resources for you and an ideal habitat for your wildlife helpers." —from "Permaculture Apprenticeship"

This KKK seminar looks at food forests in more detail and provides case studies.

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, Sekiguchi Global Research Association

Executive Director, Atsumi International Foundation

PRESENTATION

- PRESENTATION 1| A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)
Dr. Max Maquito (FMDS/UPOU)
- PRESENTATION 2| A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden
Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

DISCUSSION

Dr. Inocencio E. Buot (Professor Emeritus, UP)

OPEN FORUM

Dr. Joane V. Serrano (Chancellor, UPOU)

Dr. Max Maquito (FMDS/UPOU)

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Dr. Jun Buot (Professor Emeritus, UP)

CLOSING REMARKS

Dean Fina Taylan (FMDS/UPOU)

OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

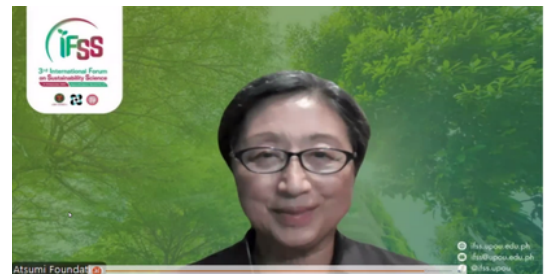
Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF

Konnichi wa! Good day from Tokyo!

I am Junko Imanishi, Chief Representative of the Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) of the Atsumi International Foundation.

We are delighted once again to be joining the International Forum on Sustainability Science.

This time we focus on a different mechanism for sustainable shared growth: the sustainable food forest. This topic was originally inspired by Dr. Max Maquito's exposure to the permaculture garden in UPOU, which was pushed under the leadership of Dr. Joane Serrano when she was still Dean of FMDS. It is good to know that the change in leadership at UPOU did not change the direction with regards to the permaculture garden.



" It is good to know that the change in leadership at UPOU did not change the direction with regards to the permaculture garden. "

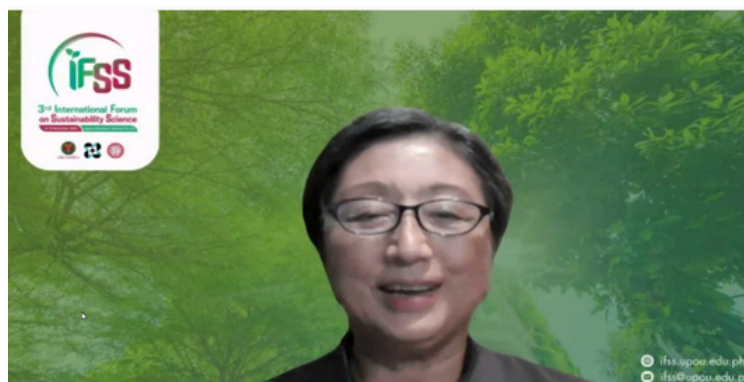
OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF



In today's seminar/panel session, Max will present a case study of a food forest in the province of Laguna. We will also hear from the main designer of the permaculture garden, Dr. Jabez Flores, about a possible design of the outermost zones of the permaculture garden, where a food forest could be possibly located. Finally, our esteemed discussant, Professor Emeritus Jun Buot will give his thoughts on the two presentations.

Thank you to FMDS Dean Fina Taylan for continuing our collaboration on the sustainable shared growth seminar series. I wish you all a fruitful IFSS conference.



OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF

どうもありがとうございます
Many Thanks!



The Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA), under the Atsumi International Scholarship Foundation, promotes global citizenship and harmony through international research and collaboration.

PRESENTATION I

A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)

Dr. Max Maquito

Introduction and Context

- The presentation examined the interconnections between agroforestry, Satoyama, permaculture, and the food forest approach, framed around a case study conducted in Laguna. The study was inspired by his exposure to the Permagarden initiative and the Satoyama concept, both of which emphasize the harmony and coexistence between humans and the natural environment. The term "Satoyama," derived from Japanese words meaning "village" (sato) and "mountain" (yama), symbolizes a traditional and sustainable rural landscape where people live in balance with nature. Dr. Maquito's session sought to organize these concepts within a coherent framework that highlights how sustainable practices in farming and land use can embody cultural, ecological, and scientific integration.

Objectives

- Identify conceptual and practical links between agroforestry, Satoyama, permaculture, and food forest systems.
- Relate these systems to UPOU's Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) framework – emphasizing:
 - Efficiency (economic feasibility)
 - Equity (social inclusion)
 - Eko (environmental sustainability).
- Encourage multi-disciplinary, participatory approaches to land management and sustainability.



PRESENTATION I

A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)

Dr. Max Maquito (UPOU)

Case Study: The Laguna Food Forest

- **Explored several Laguna sites:** Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve, MCME, Institute of Agroforestry, and LLA Farm.
- **Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve (4,244 ha) under UPLB management:** practices agroforestry but not Satoyama-based.
- **Final focus:** Learning Laboratory for Agroforestry (LLA) Farm at the foot of Mt. Makiling.



LLA Farm (UPLB)

- 8.1-hectare demo and training farm under UPLB-CFNR
- Serves as a learning site for students, farmers, and researchers.
- Uses SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) from MBRLC, Davao.
- Combines shrubs/trees (coffee, cacao, citrus) with crops (corn, legumes, rice).
- Promotes:
 - Soil and erosion control.
 - Low-cost, organic, non-chemical farming.
 - Farmer-focused and community participation.
- Embodies KKK principles — efficient, equitable, eco-friendly.



PRESENTATION I

A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)

Dr. Max Maquito (UPOU)

Agroforestry and Satoyama

- Agroforestry: science-based integration of trees, crops, and animals.
- Satoyama: community-managed, traditional land-use system.
- Convergence: both value sustainability, biodiversity, and local stewardship.
- Japan's Satoyama Initiative now expands to Asia-Pacific; similar ideals seen in local agroforestry programs.

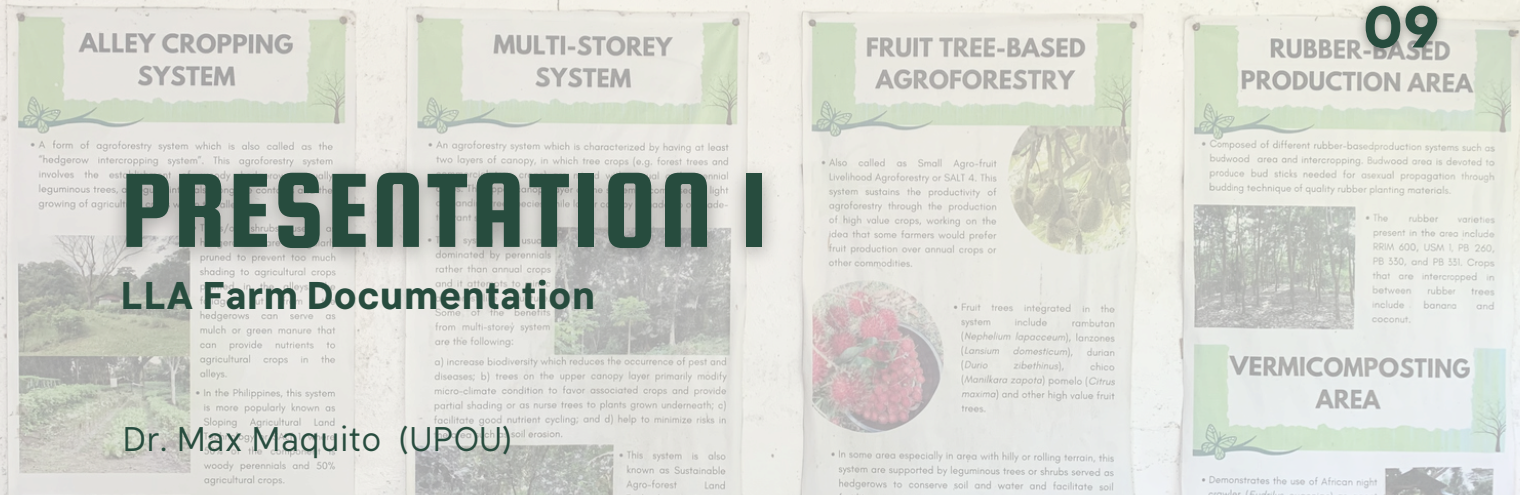
Permaculture as a Bridge

- Combines Satoyama's traditional wisdom and Agroforestry's scientific base.
- Mimics natural ecosystems; avoids monocropping and agrochemicals.
- Acts as a link between cultural and scientific approaches to sustainability.



Epilogue and Insights

- **Satoyama Initiative:** Japan's global outreach promoting human-nature balance.
- **LLABS (Maahas-Fujino Project):** UPOU-Japan partnership on permaculture and transition-town models.
- Now developed as CNNC microcredential course under UPOU.
- UPOU's role: advancing sustainability through research and education.
- Key takeaway: Blend science, tradition, and community for lasting, inclusive sustainability.



Learning Laboratory for Agroforestry (LLA Farm), University of the Philippines Los Baños

Dr. Max Maquito along with Columbus "Eboy" Maquito and Bella Gayoso (SGRA Tech Team), visited LLA Farm in UPLB last September 12, 2025. They were assisted by the Farm's Director, Dr. Aying Sabino.



PRESENTATION I

LLA Farm Documentation

Dr. Max Maquito (UPOU)

Rubber-based Production System

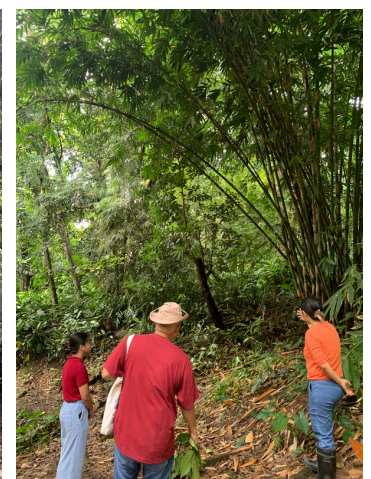


LLA Brochure

or type
<https://bit.ly/LLA brochure>

Gmelina Stand (AKECOP Area)

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17/12/2025	99	Dr. Max Maquito
18/12/2025	100	Dr. Max Maquito



TESTIMONIALS

A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)

COLUMBUS MAQUITO, BELLA GAYOSO (SGRA TEAM)



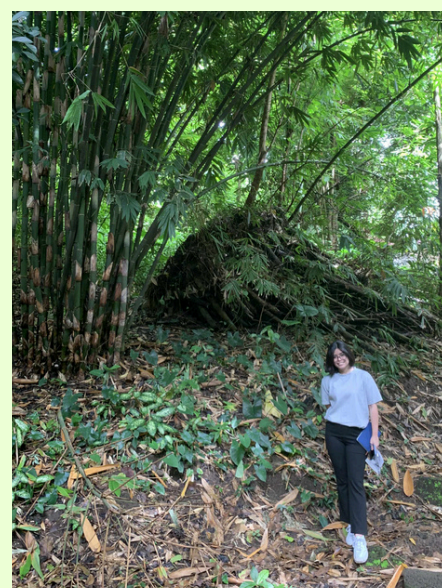
E-Mail: ccmaquito@up.edu.ph

Columbus “Eboy” Maquito

My visit to the 8.1-hectare UPLB LLA Farm on September 12 was eye-opening. I was inspired by how they use smart, sustainable agroforestry to help farmers move past unsustainable farming practices. The team explained techniques like alley cropping and forest farming, and conservation methods like rockwalls, check dams, and fascines. After the visit, we got to taste two of the farm's special harvests, comparing the flavors of the usual Chanee Durian with the unique UP Gold Durian. The UP Gold was noticeably sweeter and had much less of the strong durian odor. The biggest takeaway is their current challenge of financial constraints. It's a huge farm, but only 2 to 4 staff members manage everything, relying mostly on interns. This small team means they can't help as many farmers as they should. I am hoping one day that they could truly maximize their potential, training more people and sharing their amazing work. I believe this project is a real solution for rural development across the Philippines.

Bella Gayoso

Last September 12, I had the chance to visit LLA Farm in UPLB, and while the beautiful photos we took captured its scenic views and lush greenery, they barely scratch the surface of the deeper story behind the farm. Beneath the surface lies a hardworking community doing their best with limited funds and support. We saw firsthand the passion and dedication poured into maintaining the farm, especially through their slope farming system and various techniques, approaches thoughtfully tailored to their land's conditions. Despite having only a few basic facilities, the care and effort were truly inspiring. I also got to try the “UPLB Gold” durian variety which was carefully grown and harvested in their farm. It was incredibly sweet and delicious, a small but memorable reminder of the farm's rich potential. Overall, LLA Farm is a place full of heart and promise, with so much to offer to the agro-food and forestry industries if given the support it truly deserves.



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PRESENTATION I

A Case Study of a Farm in Laguna (a conceptual framework)

Dr. Max Maquito (UPOU)

Dr. Max Maquito (FMDS/UPOU)

PRESENTER



In his "previous life", DR. FERDINAND C. MAQUITO (nickname: Max) was a mechanical engineer at a state-owned shipyard, after finishing his BS at the Engineering Department of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. A series of scholarships enabled him to shift specialization and earn his MS in Industrial Economics from the Center of Research of Communication (now within the University of Asia and the Pacific). Right after that, he was able to get into the Japanese Ministry of Education scholarship to get into the PhD in Economics program of the University of Tokyo. From then the Atsumi International Foundation enabled him to finish his doctorate in Economics. He was an Adjunct Professor in Temple University Japan campus, before coming back to the Philippines to join the College of Public Affairs and Development of UPLB. He is now a Senior Lecturer in FMDS/UPOU. His long stay in Japan, and work with the Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi International Foundation have fueled his lifelong research and advocacy on sustainable shared growth.

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disclaimer

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PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Introduction and Context

The presentation by Dr. Jabez Flores focused on the research project titled "A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden" which aims to demonstrate how permaculture principles can be applied to create sustainable, ecologically connected, and resilient landscapes within the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) campus in Los Baños, Laguna.

Objectives

- Design Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden using permaculture principles for sustainability and resilience.
- Establish a food forest (Zone 4) to enhance biodiversity and act as a natural buffer and wildlife corridor.
- Connect the campus ecosystem with the Mount Makiling-Laguna de Bay corridor to strengthen ecological links.
- Use GIS and drone mapping to identify and address habitat fragmentation.
- Promote long-term monitoring and management of ecological corridors.

The Food Forest Concept

Flores explained that a food forest is an agroforestry system in permaculture that mimics a natural, self-sustaining forest ecosystem. It consists mainly of perennial plants that need little maintenance but remain productive and resilient. Typically located in Zone 4, the food forest serves as a natural buffer, offering wind protection, enhancing biodiversity, and acting as a wildlife corridor that supports ecological balance.



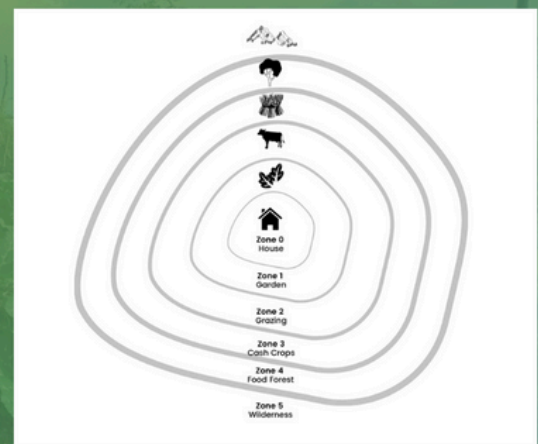
PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Introduction: Permaculture Zones

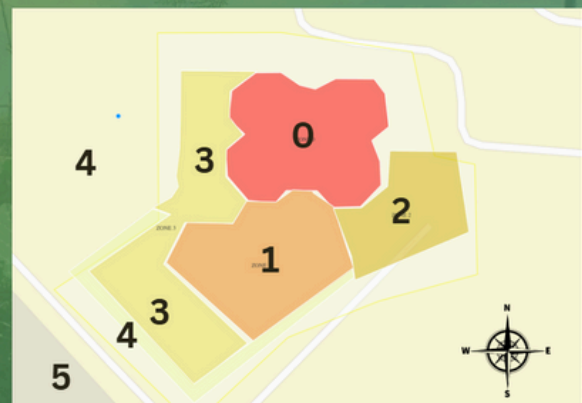
Permaculture zones, as studied by Flores and Buot (2021) in the Philippines, are spatial arrangements on a farm that organize elements based on **frequency of use** and energy expenditure. It consists of Zone 0 (the house), Zone 1 (the garden), Zone 2 (grazing areas), Zone 3 (cash crops), **Zone 4 (food forests)**, and **Zone 5 (wilderness)**.



The FMDS Perma GARDEN's Zones

The classic permaculture zoning pattern in farms, demonstrates how practitioners integrate interrelated components to achieve sustainable household food security.

These zones contain diverse biological, man-made, and socio-economic components, reflecting the holistic approach of permaculture in the Philippine agricultural landscape.



The Perma Garden's Zone 4 was intentionally designed to integrate with an existing corridor that connects UPOU to the foot of Mount Makiling.

PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Permaculture Zoning System

Based on the work of Dr. Flores and Dr. Buot, permaculture zoning arranges farm components according to how often they are used and the amount of energy they require. This ensures efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. The six zones are:

- Zone 0: The house or main living area where daily activities occur.
- Zone 1: The garden closest to the home, for herbs and vegetables that need frequent care.
- Zone 2: The grazing area for small livestock or low-maintenance crops.
- Zone 3: The zone for cash crops that require less attention but generate income.
- Zone 4: The food forest, a natural buffer with mostly perennial plants.
- Zone 5: The wilderness zone, left untouched to support natural ecological processes.

This zoning system integrates biological, human, and socio-economic elements, showing how Philippine permaculture promotes sustainable food production and ecosystem balance.

Integrating the UPOU Wildlife Corridor

- The project's Zone 4 design was intentionally connected to an existing wildlife corridor that links the UPOU campus to Mount Makiling. Using geographic information systems (GIS) and aerial mapping, the team found that this corridor also serves as a riparian corridor that follows natural streams flowing toward Laguna de Bay—the Philippines' largest lake.
- This makes the UPOU campus a key ecological bridge between Mount Makiling and Laguna de Bay, two major ecosystems in Los Baños. The corridor helps maintain biodiversity and facilitates wildlife movement across these natural areas.



Integrating Zone 4 with Mt. Makiling (Zone 5)

On a landscape scale, the Perma GARDEN's Zone 4 was intentionally designed to integrate with an existing wildlife corridor that connects the UPOU campus to the foot of Mt. Makiling via IRRI and the Institute of Plant Breeding in UPLB.



PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Overlaying the Stream Network

When overlaid with a stream network using GIS, it can be observed that the wildlife corridor is actually a **riparian corridor** that stretches northward and downstream toward Laguna de Bay. This makes the UPOU campus a "stop over" between two major ecosystems in Los Banos: **the mountain and the lake**.



Identifying Gaps in the Corridor

Using drone mapping technology and remote sensing, we can see gaps in the corridor caused by concrete roads and other infrastructure.

The Greenness Index (GI) was used in this visualization to emphasize vegetation patches with GI pixel values between 0.27 to 0.68.



Maahas - Fujino Greenway Corridor

Environmental Analysis and Findings

Through drone mapping and remote sensing, the team identified gaps in the riparian corridor caused by infrastructure such as roads and buildings. Using the Greenest Index (GI) with pixel values between 0.27 and 0.68, they visualized vegetation density and detected where corridor connectivity had been disrupted. These findings highlight the need for ecological restoration to ensure continuous habitat linkages.

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Initiatives

To address these environmental challenges, UPOU launched Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) projects to enhance ecological resilience. Two native tree arboretums were established in the northeast and southwest areas of the campus. These arboretums are connected to Zone 4 and the main wildlife corridor, forming an interconnected network that:

- Increases overall vegetation cover
- Enhances biodiversity and habitat connectivity
- Builds a resilient and integrated ecosystem across the campus

Dr. Flores emphasized that future NBS projects should align with the wildlife corridor to prevent landscape fragmentation and support species movement.

PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

Recommendations and Future Directions

The project recommends the following actions:

- Integrate all current and future NBS projects into the wildlife corridor network.
- Monitor vegetation cover and conduct regular flora and fauna surveys.
- Prevent fragmentation caused by infrastructure development.
- Collaborate with other UP units, such as the Organic Agriculture Research, Development, and Extension Center (OARDEC) of UP Los Baños, which serves as a successful example of integrated ecological design.

Flores concluded that maintaining the UPOU ecological corridor is essential to ensure biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability for future generations.

Conclusion

The “Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden” showcases how permaculture principles and ecological planning can be applied to achieve sustainability, biodiversity, and climate resilience. The project demonstrates UPOU’s commitment to environmental stewardship and serves as a model for integrating education, research, and nature-based solutions in promoting a sustainable future.

It can be observed that the wildlife corridor is actually a riparian corridor that stretches northward and downstream toward Laguna de Bay. This makes the UPOU campus a stop-over for two major ecosystems in Los Banos.



PRESENTATION 2

A Design for Zones 4 and 5 of the UPOU PermaGarden

Dr. Jabez Flores (FMDS/UPOU)

DR. JABEZ JOSHUA FLORES (FMDS/UPOU)

PRESENTER



Jabez Joshua M. Flores is a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in UP Los Banos, Master of Environment and Natural Resources Management major in upland resources management in UP Open University, and Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science with a cognate in Development Communication in UPLB. He was a DOST-SEI graduate scholar and a SEARCA PhD Research Scholar. Jabez was also a former board member of the Philippine Permaculture Association and a current member of the International Association for Landscape Ecology-Europe. He started "Permaculture Research PH" as a research initiative together with his friends and colleagues from his university. His research interests include agroecology, landscape ecology, GIS and drone photography, network science, and environmental communication. Currently, he works as a Senior Lecturer for UP Open University and UP Rural High School

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disclaimer

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DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Dr. Inocencio Buot

Overview of the Presentation

Professor Inocencio Buot discussed the importance of conserving evolving socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), emphasizing how traditional land-use systems—such as Satoyama in Japan and Muyong in the Philippines—demonstrate the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. His presentation linked these traditional systems to modern conservation approaches and the ongoing efforts to reconnect people with ecological balance.

Global Food Forest Landscapes

Professor Buot explained that food forest landscapes exist in many cultures under different names:

- Satoyama – Japan
- Muyong – Philippines
- Picarangan – Indonesia
- Dehesa – Spain
- Ahupua'a – Hawaii
- Woodland – United Kingdom

Despite their cultural differences, these landscapes share a common principle of sustainable land use that supports biodiversity and human well-being.

The Satoyama Initiative and IPSI

The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) recognizes these systems as socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS).

Originally introduced in Japan, the Satoyama concept was confirmed to have global parallels through IPSI studies.

Officially adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, the initiative aims to mainstream human-nature harmony through sustainable practices, local stewardship, and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods.



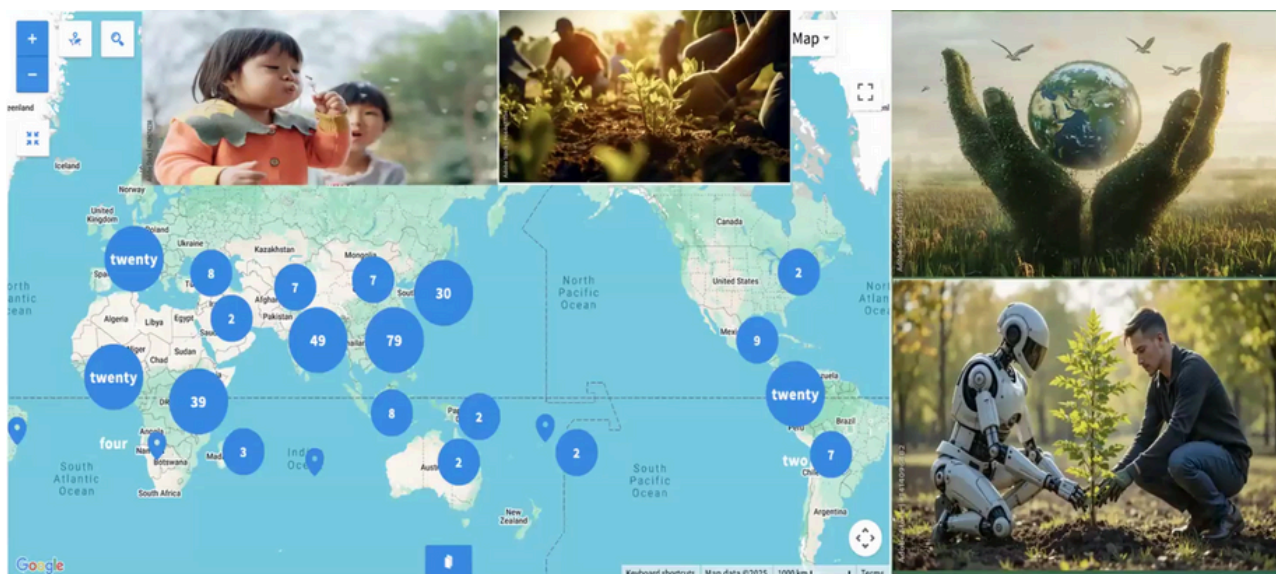
DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Dr. Inocencio Buot



The main goal in mainstreaming these landscapes is for humans to live harmoniously and sustainably with nature...



IPSI has documented numerous Satoyama-like landscapes worldwide

The ANTHROPOCENE 21

DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Dr. Inocencio Buot

... endangers food forest landscapes as humans dominate over nature

Population pressure...

<https://pmpaspeakingofprecision.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/population.jpg>

Types of Societies	Cultural Orientation toward NATURE	Type of Human-land relationship
Preliterate	Human is not set apart from nature but a part of a single order consisting of human, nature and the gods	Mutual relationships
Modern	Natural resource, an entity to be dominated and manipulated by human for his/her own advantage	Human is dominant over nature



The pressure is even worse in the YUXI Circle

Large-scale land use conversion
Use of HUGE external subsidies in farming as fertilizers and pesticides

...triggering pollution and producing farm products detrimental to health and human wellbeing for DECADES

Mutualistic Human-Nature Relationship

A shared characteristic of SEPLS is the mutualistic worldview—humans, nature, and spirituality existing as parts of a single interconnected order.

However, the onset of the Anthropocene epoch (1950s) led to ecological imbalance as industrialization and population growth drove humans to dominate over nature.

The Yuxi Circle and Environmental Pressures

- The Yuxi Circle, encompassing China, the Philippines, and other East and Southeast Asian nations, houses over half of the global population.
- These regions experience rapid land-use change, heavy dependence on fertilizers and pesticides, and ecological degradation.
- Such pressures result in pollution, soil depletion, and health risks, threatening both the environment and food security.

Return to Indigenous and Organic Practices

Communities are now reconnecting with indigenous and sustainable farming traditions to restore balance with nature.

This includes:

- Reviving indigenous rice varieties
- Promoting organic and healthy food production
- Practicing the Four Principles of Organic Agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care

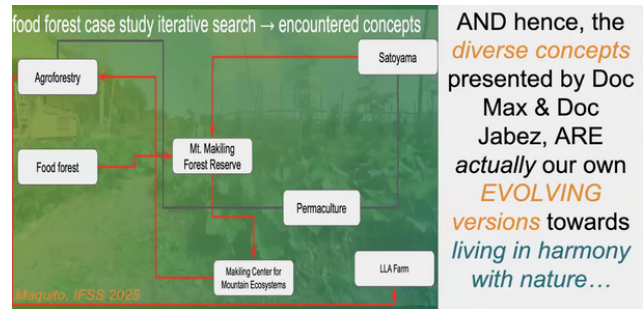
These efforts reflect society's growing desire for wellness, sustainability, and ecological respect.



DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Dr. Inocencio Buot



AND hence, the *diverse concepts* presented by Doc Max & Doc Jabez, ARE *actually* our own *EVOLVING versions* towards *living in harmony with nature...*

We need to conserve these evolving versions of SEPLS. "The New Conservation Science", never anthropocentric nor ecocentric can guide us.

Evolving Concepts Toward Harmony with Nature

Professor Buot highlighted that the research of Dr. Max and Dr. Jabez represents local, evolving models of socio-ecological landscapes that share the same vision as the Satoyama concept.

Their designs, such as the UPOU PermaGarden and wildlife corridor, show practical examples of how ecological connectivity and sustainability can be achieved through permaculture and landscape planning.

New Conservation Science

Referencing Karieva and Maravir (2011, 2012), Professor Buot introduced the New Conservation Science, a framework that integrates human well-being and environmental protection.

- It moves beyond purely anthropocentric or ecocentric views, focusing instead on collaboration between communities, ecosystems, and scientific networks.
- The Local-to-Local (L2L) Labs coordinated by Dr. Max were mentioned as a model for community-driven conservation and cross-border cooperation.



DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Can I count on everyone of you..?

Dr. Inocencio Buot

New Conservation Science

Professor Buot concluded by citing Barry Commoner's Four Laws of Ecology as guiding principles for sustainable action:

- Everything is interconnected evident in the ecological linkage between Mount Makiling, the UPOU corridor, and Laguna de Bay.
- Everything must go somewhere. Land-use disruption affects natural water flow, leading to flooding and pollution.
- Nature knows best. Ecological restoration should prioritize native and adaptive species, not arbitrary reforestation.
- There is no free lunch. Environmental damage and corruption carry long-term costs —flooding, eutrophication, and social inequality.

Conclusion and Call to Action

Professor Buot emphasized that Philippine landscapes are unique, evolving, and worth conserving as part of a global network of SEPLS.

- By integrating New Conservation Science, organic principles, and the Four Laws of Ecology, societies can transition toward true harmony with nature.
- He called on researchers, policymakers, and citizens to actively safeguard these landscapes and support efforts aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a sustainable and equitable future.

Nature knows best, and therefore we have to ask nature what to plant here, for example, we cannot just reforest a denuded mountain by any tree you would think of.



DISCUSSION

Diversity and Conservation of Food Forest Landscapes

Dr. Inocencio Buot

DR. INOCENCIO E. BUOT JR. (FMDS/UPOU)

PRESENTER



Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., Ph.D. is a professor of botany, ecology and systematics at the Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS), College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB). He heads the Plant Systematics Laboratory of IBS and organized a strong award-winning research program, CONserve KAIGANGAN (forests over limestone), funded by the Department of Science and Technology and DOST- PCAARRD, where his team discovered new plant species playing key roles in ecosystem processes and community's socio-economics. At the UP Open University he was dean for 2 terms at the Faculty of Management and Development Studies. Learning from his leadership roles as the Deputy Director of IBS from 2006-2010 and as president of the Philippine Society for the Study of Nature (PSSN) and the Association of Systematic Biologists of the Philippines (ASBP). The University of the Philippines Open University Faculty of Management and Development Studies (UPOU-FMDS) proudly celebrates the recognition of our former Dean, Dr. Inocencio E. Buot, Jr., as Professor Emeritus of the University of the Philippines.

E-Mail: iebuot@up.edu.ph

disclaimer

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OPEN FORUM

**Chancellor Joane Serrano, Dr. Max Maquito,
Dr. Jabez Flores, Dr. Jun Buot**

What are your thoughts or feedback on the design and concepts presented, particularly related to UPOU?

- All concepts discussed are interrelated.
- Under the guidance of Sir Jun, UPOU is now a member of IPCC and has conducted extensive research on socio-ecological production landscapes (SEPLs).
- The Ifugao Rice Terraces serve as an excellent model of a SEPL, featuring:
 - Muyong – the community-managed forest that provides water and fertilizer.
 - Boble – the settlement area.
 - Payo – the rice terraces.
- UPOU has produced five volumes of research on SEPLs, edited by Chenxi and Dr. Ang, covering different ethnolinguistic groups in Ifugao.
- Research collaboration was done with Japanese partner Nakamura Sensei.
- Encouraged inclusion of these works in future references.

Can you confirm if Negros Island is truly the organic agricultural capital of the Philippines?

- Yes, Negros Island is recognized as the Organic Agricultural Capital of the Philippines.
- The island has NICERT (Negros Island Certification Services), an accredited organic certifying body under the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).
- The certification allows farms to be officially recognized as organic.
- Negros Oriental also promotes organic farming.
- Some feed industry issues were mentioned but not elaborated.

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OPEN FORUM

Chancellor Joane Serrano, Dr. Max Maquito,
Dr. Jabez Flores, Dr. Jun Buot

What challenges exist in balancing community development and environmental protection, particularly in areas like Mt. Makiling?

- Barangay Bagong Silang, located within the Makiling Forest Reserve, faces challenges balancing community livelihood with protected area conservation.
- Around 190 families live there, and greenhouse projects are being proposed for livelihood.
- Coordination with UPLB, which has stewardship over the reserve, is necessary.
- The Satoyama approach emphasizes harmony between communities and nature.
- There have been instances of mistrust between local communities and UPLB due to past displacement issues.
- Importance of community engagement and trust-building highlighted, especially in projects like LLA (Learning Laboratory for Agroforestry) where petty thefts occur.
- Collaboration with communities is key to sustainable landscape management.

Can you share about UPOU's permaculture initiatives and how they function as living laboratories?

- The UPOU Permaculture Garden integrates permaculture design principles into the campus environment.
- It serves as a nature-based solution addressing environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic needs.

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OPEN FORUM

**Chancellor Joane Serrano, Dr. Max Maquito,
Dr. Jabez Flores, Dr. Jun Buot**

- The initiative:
 - Strengthens community involvement.
 - Inspires students, researchers, and visitors to seek sustainable, nature-based solutions.
 - Promotes food security, climate resilience, and cultural reconnection.
- Permaculture acts as a peaceful form of activism and protest against industrialized food systems.
- It revives the Filipino tradition of food-secure, community-based living.
- The project helps reconnect people to the land and soil, reshaping work culture in the university.
- The cultural value of Mt. Makiling and Laguna Lake is emphasized — these landscapes hold emotional and cultural significance beyond measurable metrics.
- The landscape approach integrates permaculture with community development for holistic sustainability.
- ols (asking permission before entering/leaving sites).

Closing points from speakers:

- It was noted that the forum's insights would feed into the plenary sessions later in the day, where broader implications and recommendations could be further discussed.
- Participants were also reminded of the ongoing SDG Fair (Sustainable Development Goals Fair), which highlights various projects and initiatives aligned with sustainability, climate action, and community-based development.
- Attendees were encouraged to visit the fair's booths and exhibits, which feature innovations, research outputs, and partnerships related to the SDGs.

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LOOKING BACK

Dr. Max Maquito's Bacolod Trip and Research (March 2013)

March 2, 2013
University of Tokyo, Komaba Campus
The 2nd International Symposium
Environmental Friendly Agriculture Based on Community
Resources
(A Strategy for Sustainable Development and Biodiversity)

THE DIRI MODEL: A MODEL FROM NEGROS

Discussion by Max Maquito



DIRI Model

Downstream-Integrated
Radicular Import-
Substitution Model (in
cooperation with Dr. Joe
Medina, Mr. Nonoy Moraca,
and Mr. Ramon Uy)

To make the model widely
available to practitioners and
researchers

Quotes from Mr. Ramon Uy
(social entrepreneur of
Negros)



Source: MORACA and UY @
SGRA 15th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (Feb. 8, 2013)



There is a saying that "a person who wakes-up early
in the morning and works all day deserves to be rich"
but how come our farmers are still poor today?

Source: MORACA and UY @
SGRA 15th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (Feb. 8, 2013)

DIRI Model

Where are these machines made?

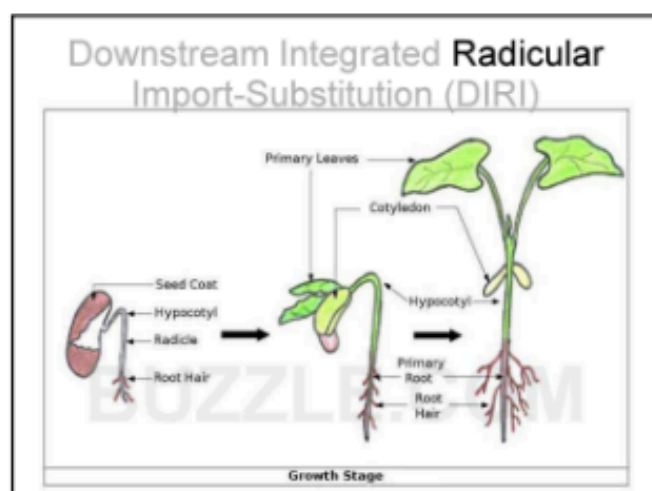
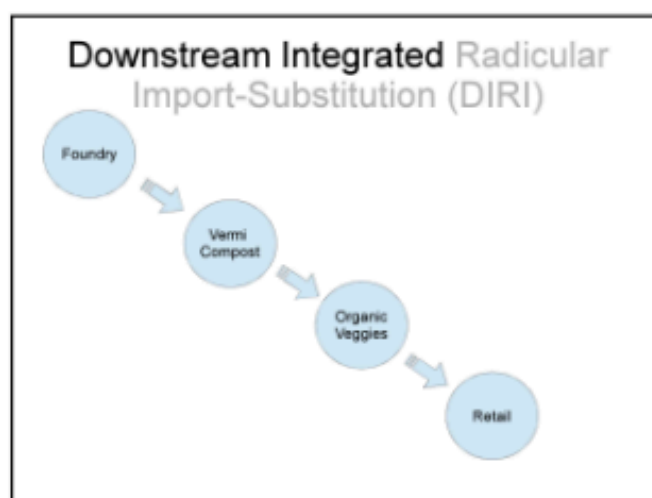
Diri – many (vs. Germany)

Originally,

"Diri man ini" (it's made here) – based on
interview with Mr. Nonoy Moraca

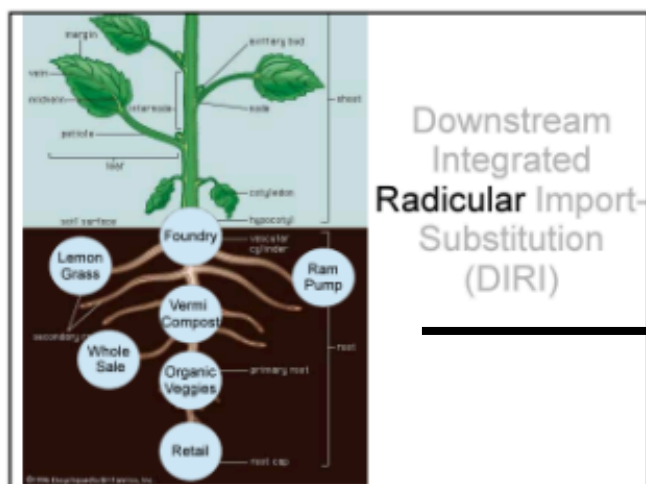
LOOKING BACK

Max and Columbus' Bacolod Trip and Research (March 2013)



LOOKING BACK

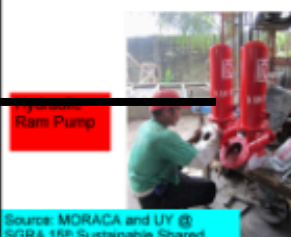
Dr. Max Maquito's Bacolod Trip and Research (March 2013)



Downstream
Integrated
Radicular Import-
Substitution
(DIRI)



Shredder
Machine
(Heavy Duty)



Hydraulic
Ram Pump



Essential Oil
Extractor

Source: MORACA and UY @
SGRA 15th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (Feb. 8, 2013)



Source: MORACA and UY @
SGRA 15th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (Feb. 8, 2013)

C. Hydraulic Ram Pump

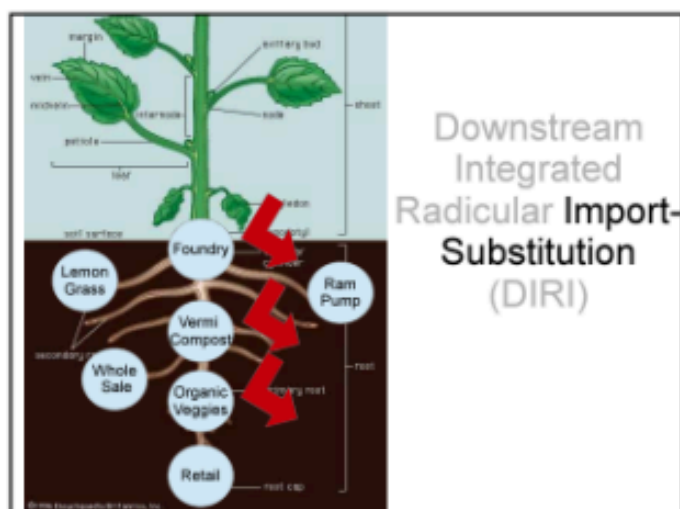


A seventy two (72) year old woman and a boy
fetch water everyday for drinking and
households uses.

Source: MORACA and UY @
SGRA 15th Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar (Feb. 8, 2013)

LOOKING BACK

Dr. Max Maquito's Bacolod Trip and Research (March 2013)



Some Significance of the DIRI Model

Rethinking of Import-Substitution Strategy

1950's – 1960's: Import-Substitution Industrialization (ISI)

1970's – present: Export-Promotion Industrialization (EPI)

General View: ISI and EPI are independent

Flying Geese View (Japan's Development Model): ISI and EPI are dependent

Import Dependence → Import Substitution → Export Promotion → ...

Some Significance of the DIRI Model

The DIRI Model pushes Sustainable Agriculture

15th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar: "Import-Substitution in Manufacturing for Sustainable Agriculture", Feb. 8, 2013, University of the Philippines http://www.aist.or.jp/sga-in-english/2013/02/seminar_15.html

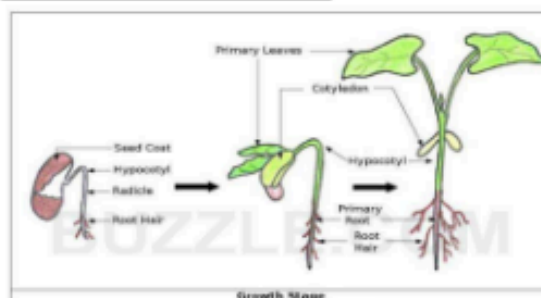
Sustainable Agriculture is a good vehicle for delivering Sustainable Shared Growth (= Efficiency + Equity + Environment)

= 効率 (Kouritsu) + 公平 (Kouhei) + 環境 (Kankyō)

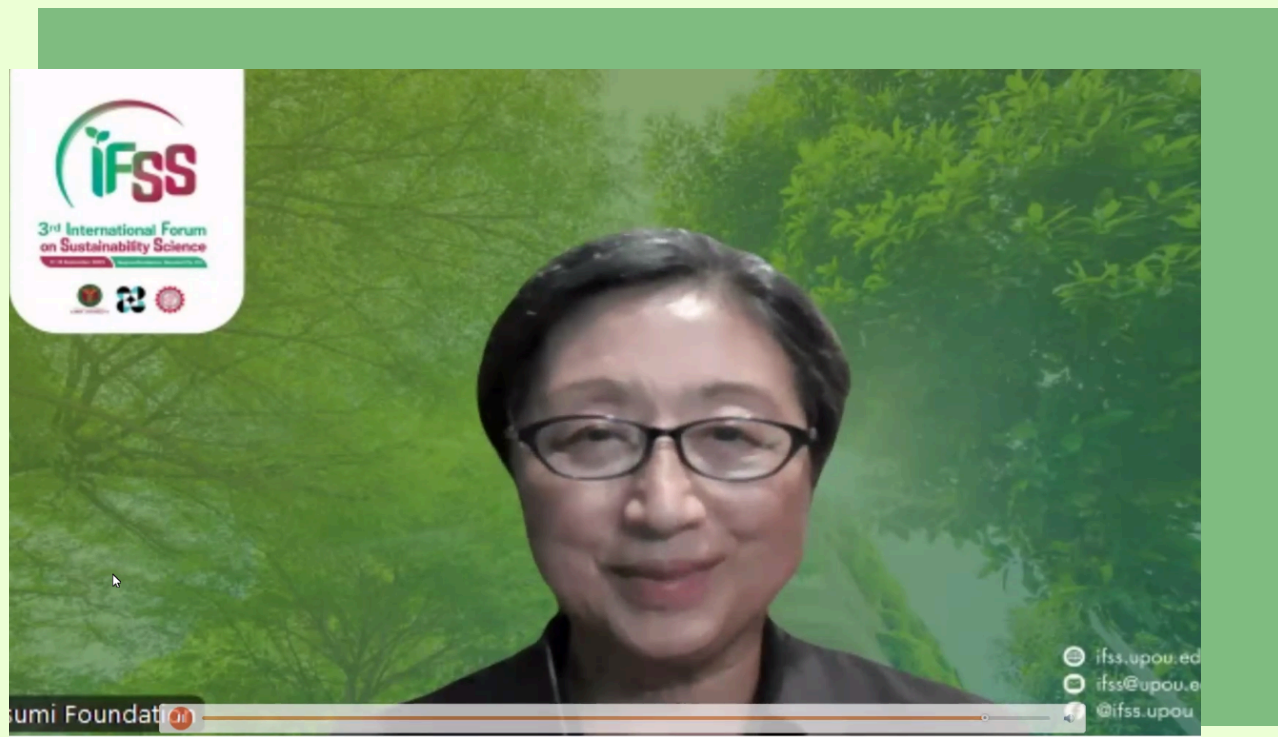
= Kahusayan + Katarungan + Kalikasan (KKK)

Some Significance of the DIRI Model

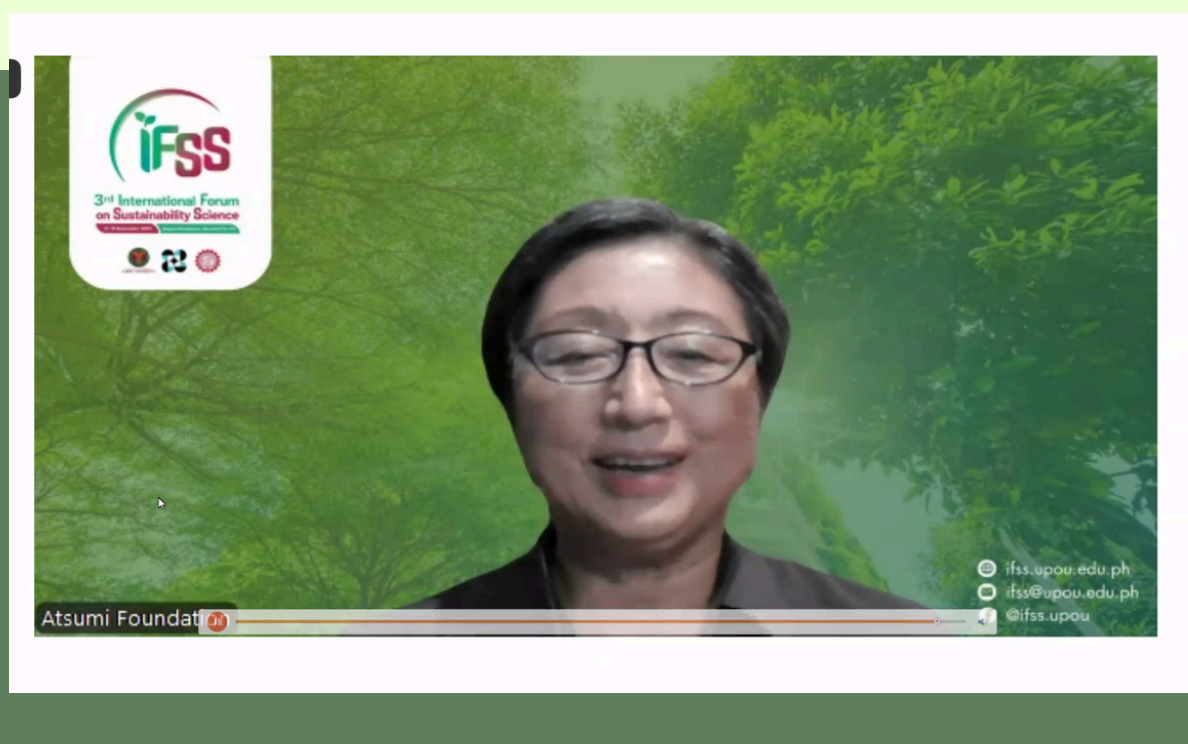
May lend itself well to Social Network Analysis → Sustainable Shared Growth



GALLERY



AISF MANAGING DIRECTOR JUNKO IMANISHI
@KARUIZAWA



SGRA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE JUNKO IMANISHI
@KARUIZAWA

GALLERY



GALLERY



Gallery



IFSS3

CONGRATULATIONS!



CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Finaflor Taylan (Dean, FMDS/UPOU)



As we conclude the 47th Sustainable Shared Growth (KKK) Seminar—held as part of the 3rd International Forum on Sustainable Solutions (IFSS)—we are reminded of a profound truth: that sustainability, equity, and efficiency are not just ideals, but practical goals we can realize through harmonious collaboration with nature and with everyone.

Today, we explored some of the most promising components of sustainable gardening and farming. More than a method, these discussions embody a philosophy: that we thrive not by dominating nature, but by working alongside her. The case studies exemplify what we mean by sustainable (kalikasan), shared (pagsasama para sa katarungan)), and growth (kahusayan at para sa kaunlaran).

The case studies and insights shared in this session are living laboratories for climate resilience, community empowerment, and food sovereignty. These are not just gardens; they are blueprints for a better future.

May we continue to plant the seeds—not just in soil, but in three Ps: policy, practice, and partnerships—for a truly sustainable and just world.

Thank you to all our speakers, organizers, and participants. Let us continue to grow together, naturally and equitably.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay tayong lahat!

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CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Finaflor Taylan (Dean, FMDS/UPOU)

Dr. Finaflor F. Taylan (Dean, FMDS/UPOU)



Finaflor F. Taylan, DProfSt, is a distinguished academic and social work professional who brings extensive experience in teaching, research, and leadership to the role.

Dr. Taylan has been a faculty member at UPOU since 2012, serving as the Program Chair for the Diploma in/Master of Social Work program and Director of the Office of Gender Concerns. Her leadership in national and international organizations, such as the National Association for Social Work Education, Inc. (NASWEI) and the Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS), highlights her commitment to academic excellence and social advocacy.

With a strong background in research and public service, Dr. Taylan has led various projects focusing on gender, sustainability, and social work education. Currently, she serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Development Studies at UPOU.

E-mail: finaflor.taylan@upou.edu.ph

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NEXT STEPS



The 8th Asia Future Conference
第8回アジア未来会議

Space and Distance **空間と距離**

- Crossing, Closing, Creating - ~こえる、縮める、つくる~

Date
August 25 (Tue) – August 29 (Sat), 2026
2026年8月25日(火)～29日(土)

Venue
Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan
東北学院大学(日本、仙台市)

Host : Atsumi International Foundation
Sekiguchi Global Research Association
渥美国際交流財団関口グローバル研究会 (SGRA)

Co-host : Tohoku Gakuin University
東北学院大学

Call for Papers
<https://www.aisf.or.jp/AFC/2026>
(Open on May 1, 2025)

The Asia Future Conference aims to provide a platform for researchers and scholars who have studied in Japan or who are interested in Japan to meet and discuss the future of Asia. The AFC is interdisciplinary at its core and encourages diverse approaches to global issues. The AFC is not a conference for a specific field of study, so please try to make your presentation comprehensible to a general public.

NEXT STEPS

“Space and Distance – Crossing, Closing, Creating”

空間と距離 -こえる、縮める、つくる-

“Social distance” became a familiar phrase to all during COVID, and despite the distance it invokes, a phrase that crossed cultural and geographical divides to create a rare universal experience. In this way, distance can serve to divide as well as unite us. Space and distance can be physical or intangible, and in many cases, both. It can be examined in the physical and categorical barriers that serve to draw distinctions between groups of people, the geographical distance that leads to different concentrations of power as well as maintains different hierarchies (urban/rural, wealthy/poor), the creation and dissolution of categorical differences in the sciences, and literal discussions of space/distance in different fields. Through this theme, we encourage diverse perspectives and seek to explore how space and distance function in and across various fields – what relationships do they foster, how are they used to maintain or break down specific power dynamics, how may they be desirable, necessary, or even harmful?

コロナ禍により「ソーシャルディスタンス」は馴染み深いフレーズとなったが、ディスタンス（距離）を謳ったスローガンとは裏腹にこの言葉は文化的・地理的な隔たりを軽々と越えた。距離は物理的にも心理的にも存在し、私たちが分かっただけでなく“結びつける何か”を示す役割も果たす。社会の中で人々を区別しカテゴライズする境界線が生み出す距離感、都市と地方という地理的な条件がそのまま権力との距離となり様々な階層（都市と農村、富裕層と貧困層等）を社会に生む現象、科学技術における様々な創造や再編が織りなす異分野・多分野間の距離の伸縮など、あらゆる分野においてそこに存在する空間／距離を考察することができる。このテーマを通じ、私たちは多様な視点から空間と距離の分野横断的な役割や機能を見つめ直し、特定のパワー・ダイナミクスの維持や打破にどのように利用されているのか、どのように利用されることが望ましく必要なのかを一緒に考えたい。

■ Screening Procedure

If your proposal (abstract) submitted by September 20, 2025 is accepted, you will be asked to submit a full paper and present it at the 8th Asia Future Conference to be held in Sendai in August 2026. You can also apply for AFC Scholarships. The Best Papers will be selected from the full papers submitted by March 31, 2026. We look forward to your active participation.

■ Schedule A: Eligible for AFC Scholarships and Best Paper Award

May 1, 2025	Call for abstracts, online user-registrations and submissions
October 31, 2025	Announcement of screening results of abstracts
February 1, 2026	Registration as participant (Early Bird 20% discount until April 10)
June 10, 2026	Announcement of screening results for Best Papers
June 20, 2026	Deadline for registration
July 31, 2026	Announcement of session schedule

■ Schedule B: General Participants (Not eligible for AFC Scholarships and Best Paper Award)

May 1, 2025	Call for abstracts, online user-registrations and submissions
February 28, 2026	Deadline for abstract submissions
May 31, 2026	Deadline for online submissions (PDF file upload) of full papers
June 20, 2026	Deadline for registration
July 31, 2026	Announcement of session schedule

Session Themes & Topics for Parallel sessions

Natural Sciences	Innovation / Automation Robotics / Climate Change and Disaster Management / Environment and Energy / Bioengineering Food and Water / Health / and other topics related to the Natural Sciences
Social Sciences	Globalization / Peace / Area Studies / Social Development and Human Security Management / Human Resource Development Income and/or Wealth Gap / Aging Society / and other topics related to the Social Sciences
Humanities	Philosophy / Religion / History / Ethics / Literature / Linguistics / Language Education / Arts / Media / Culture / and other topics related to the Humanities

■ Languages of presentations/papers Japanese or English

■ Contact **Asia Future Conference Organization Committee**(Atsumi International Foundation Sekiguchi Global Research Association)
3-5-8 Sekiguchi Bunkyo Tokyo 112-0014 Japan TEL: +81-(0)3-3943-7612/FAX: +81-(0)3-3943-1512 Email: afc2026@aisf.or.jp

NEXT STEPS

48TH SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH (KKK) SEMINAR TRANSITION TOWNS AT THE FRINGES

Organized by: Faculty of Management and Development Studies (FMDS) of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) and Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) of Atsumi International Foundation (AISF)

We focus on one engine by which we could achieve KKK: a Transition Town (TT). More specifically, we focus on issues at the fringes of a society where a TT could play a role. One such issue is about a community across the national border. We take the recent report of Transition Town Fujino (TTF) of their visit to Hong Kong and Mainland China as departure point to explore Local-to-Local Across Border Schemes (LLABS), and the other fringe issues of gender and aging. Hong Kong, Mainland China, and even Japan are now aging societies. The Philippine Statistics Authority has also forecasted that the Philippines will be an aging society come 2030. In deepening the relations with TTF, we could also go farther in our exploration of UPOU's vision of sustainability through its Sustainability in Action-Living Laboratory Campus initiative (SiALLC).

HK Report



Mikae Koyama
Director, TTF

Mainland China Report



Shunro Yoshida
Co-Director, TTF

Role of TTs: Lab Notes from SiALLC



Max Maquito
FMDS/UPOU



21 Nov. 2025 (Fri)
9 AM - 12 NN
(PH Time)



UPOU or ZOOM



Junko Imanishi
Exe. Dir. SGRA/AISF
Opening Remarks



Fina Taylan
Dean FMDS/UPOU
Discussant



Joane Serrano
Chancellor UPOU
Closing Remarks

Accepting Registrations Soon

- open to the public
- no fees
- limited slots
- language: English + Japanese

**QR
CODE
SOON**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(The summaries were generated with the help of Turboscribe and Tactiq AI app., but was subjected to further editing by the team)

TravelswithCharie

Behind-the-Scene Assistance

- Lenie M. Miro
 - SGRA PH



- Columbus C. Maquito
 - SGRA PH



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to Sustainable Shared Growth.



- Isabella O. Gayoso
 - SGRA PH



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**Sustainable Shared
Growth Seminar
#47 Report**

