

Eco-tour in Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve of Riau, Sumatra

31 July – 2 Aug, 2009

[Participants]

Kyoto University (K. Mizuno, S. Kawai, T. Hayashi, O. Kozan, M. Fujita, A. Kabasawa, H. Gunawan, R. Kaida); Riau University (S. Sofyan, A. Muhamad); LIPI (E. Sudarmonowati, W. Dwiyanto); Sinar Mas Forestry (A. Argaataja, A. Rosadi, G. Gumilar); Rangers (Ujang, B. Sivavahi)

The Eco-tour was held prior to the Humanosphere Science School to gain footholds for investigations in Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve. The tour was approved by BBKSDA (Natural Resources Conservation Agency of Riau).

[Program]

31 July

All the members assembled at Riau University, and visited the research Institute of Sinar Mas Forestry (Perwang). After receiving an explanation and summary of the Sinar Mas Forestry project and the ways of being sustainable for the plantation and paper company from Shen Tse An, we visited their laboratory where they were developing tissue culture of trees. Then we traveled to the camp in Bukit Batu District and arrived there at night.

1 Aug

Participants visited the core area of Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve, travelling by boat for about 3 hours. Almost all valuable and worthwhile trees in the core zone had been cut. However, when we entered into the forest on foot, we could find and observe some important trees for the eco-system of peat land growing (Jelutung lator, Meranti batu and *Shorea celiginosa* etc.).

2 Aug

We visited an *Acacia crassicarpa* plantation in PT. Mapala Rabda, Forestry Division Riau in peat land (buffer zone of Bukit Batu Reserve of Riau). Here we received an explanation of all the procedures for the cultivation of *Acacia crassicarpa* from Mr. S. Ramalingam, whilst observing the nursery of the trees. Then, we traveled to Pekanbaru and arrived at night at the hotel in Pekanbaru.