

## **Lecture II**

### **International Training Program: Education for Sustainable Development**

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#### **Abstract**

World development have been achieved through heavy reliance on natural resources and the implications this might have on the environment could potentially leave adverse footprints for future generations. Climate change and loss of biodiversity have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities, especially in developing countries. Food security, safety, and sustainability are going to be the most important global issues during the current multiple and interrelated financial and economic crises. The need for sustainable development is more critical than ever. The time is ripe to renew the call for changes in higher education system so that it could effectively and efficiently address the massive needs in high quality human resources required by the above challenges.

Education collaborations/networks have started to address global and regional challenges by pooling and rationalizing limited resources and leveraging on international partnerships to implement joint and collaborative training program. Increasing mobility of staff and students, pooling of human and other resources, improving resource mobilization, and strengthening partnerships with both public and private partners have made education system much more efficient. New international training partnerships between Northern and Southern Universities, such as offering joint degrees, sandwich programs, and conducting joint researches should be encouraged while the existing partnerships should be strengthen.

In addition to academic competence, international training program should emphasize non-academic capacity development, for example, social and human skills, communication and negotiation skills, and leadership competence. Besides critical thinking, ability to apply knowledge, hands-on experiences, be adaptive to change, analysis in multi-disciplinary teams, and other conventional 'soft' skills, it is crucial to promote respect and appreciation for all peoples and cultures in the international training program. Therefore, the international training program should extend beyond simple training in academic field, it must be able to create enabling environments to learn from joint experience and implement changes.

Examples of international training program in agriculture education will be discussed in the presentation.

### **Short Biography**

Poonpipope Kasemsap, Ph.D.

Poonpipope Kasemsap is Associate Professor of Crop Eco-Physiology, Chair of the Horticulture Department, and Director of the International Studies Center at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand. He is the chair of the International Biology Olympiad (2008-12) and has been the National Coordinator of ThaiFlux Network since 2007. His research and teaching focuses on the effects of climate changes and air pollutants on the eco-physiology of horticultural crops and on the physiology of horticultural crop production.