

Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation  
National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

Conference Attendance Report

4<sup>th</sup> International Ecosummit, Ecological Sustainability:  
Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services

Venue and Date:

Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus Ohio from  
Sep. 30 to Oct. 5, 2012

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## Conference theme:

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Eco-Summit Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services

## Introduction

The 4<sup>th</sup> International EcoSummit, Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services held in Columbus Ohio, USA from September 30 to October 5 of 2012. The first EcoSummit took place in Copenhagen Denmark, August 16 to 20, 1996. Prior to the 2012 EcoSummit Columbus Ohio, there has been four EcoSummits hold every four years. EcoSummit 2012 was the room for about 1600 delegates from 75 different countries to hear 10 plenary presentations from some of the world's premier ecologists and environmental scientists. Moreover, there were over 500 presentations in 65 symposia, 21 forums and workshops, and 472 poster presentations.

The process to attend the conference started on December of 2011 when I saw the advertisement on Elsevier's web page. The 2012 Eco Summit is the second oversea international conference I attend. I was looking forward to participate in a conference of this magnitude, not only for gathering the most respected mind in the ecological fields, but for constituting one of the two component of my PhD studies, Agribusiness and Sustainability.

Sustainability was the key component cover by all plenary speakers, symposia, workshop, and sessions. My participation with the poster presentation offered important insights of sustainability on the cattle farming of tropical America. My participation to 2012 EcoSummit will have a profound effect on my present research and future carrier. Starting from the firsthand knowledge and trend I obtained about the management of natural resources management in tropical America, which is the research area of my PhD studies. In the following subsections I provide more details of my participation to the five days of EcoSummit conference.

## Eco Summit Program:

The program of this scientific event was as follow. Plenary sessions (10 in total) were from Monday to Friday in the morning and the afternoon of each day. Symposia (65 in total), workshop (21), and general sessions (over 350) were from Monday to Friday in concurrent time after the plenary session of the morning and afternoon. Poster presentations (472 in total) were divided into two sessions, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday. Thirty three mid conference field trips were on the third day of the conference, Wednesday 3.

In addition, throughout the week of EcoSummit was the Pagetech Film Festival inside the exhibit hall. The Sustainability & Materials Management Green Events guide took place throughout the week, in which, planners, venues, exhibitors, vendors/suppliers, and hotels participated diverse sustainable practices (about 74 companies).

My objectives in attending the 4<sup>th</sup> International Eco-Summit Ecological Sustainability in Columbus Ohio, 2012:

1. To present my research paper in a prestigious international conference on ecological economic field
2. To disseminate the results of my study, sustainable practices in cattle farming in tropical America.
3. To networking with other researchers on the Ecological Economics and other Ecology fields.
4. To obtain firsthand knowledge of future trend in the management of natural resources in tropical America and rest of the world.

## Poster presentation

In the poster presentation I was scheduled in the first section, Tuesday 2 (See Appendix 1). The poster remained in the conference exhibition hall until the fourth day of the conference. During the networking and field trip I invited other researchers to see my poster to receive comments and questions. By the end of the conference I have explained my research to over 20 people, including researchers, professors, and PhD students (see Appendix picture 2).

Among the distinguished attendees include Prof. Lia Hemerik from Wageningen University of The Netherlands, Patric Lavelle from CIAT Colombia, and Jasmin Mantilla from Hildesheim University, Germany.

### Field trip: Sustainability and Food Security

There were over 40 different field trips to choose and I attended to the number 16, sustainability and food security. The mid conference field trip took place in the third day of the conference, October 3, and included the visit to two sustainable farms and the Ohio Research Station. We started the visit in Malabar Farm State Park, located 1.5 hours north from Columbus, where we had a tour along the corn, soybean and hay plantations. The second visit was the Ohio Research Station from the government of Agriculture. We were introduced to the honey bees building, waste management treatment, and no tillage corn plantation. The third visit ended in an Amish Community, where we observed a more sustainable way of living based on agriculture.

### Attending to plenary speakers, symposia, workshop

I joined all the ten plenary speakers by the most respected mind in the ecological fields, such as the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics, Elinor Ostrom, the president of Iceland, Olafur R. Grimsson (see appendix 4), among others distinguished speakers that have a tremendous influence in the ecological fields. I had the chance to hear firsthand knowledge and future trends concerning the management of natural resources in tropical regions of the world, in which my study takes place.

I also attended the symposia and workshop where researchers from more than 74 countries presented their research on all ecological fields. I had the opportunity to raise my questions and comments to presenters, meet other researchers, and exchange knowledge. Among some of the respected researchers I had the chance to meet include Robert Costanza who is the editor of the journal of ecological Economics. I am currently preparing a manuscript for submitting to that journal.

During the networking break, I had the great chance to interact with professors, students, policy makers and other attendees. I obtained a book entitled “full Planet, Empty Planet: The new Geopolitics of Food Scarcity,” from one of the plenary speakers, Lester Brown from the Earth Policy Institute, Washington DC. I also visited the poster display and share ideas with some of the participants.

## Lessons learned

The 4<sup>th</sup> EcoSummit has given me a great experience to interacting with some of the most respected minds on ecology, which will have a profound effect in my future career. I listed below some of the specific experiences that I particularly want to mention:

The process of joining a prestige international conference organized by Elsevier, 4<sup>th</sup> International EcoSummit, Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet’s Ecosystem Services.

I received valuable feedbacks of other expertise from the Ecological Economic and Ecology fields.

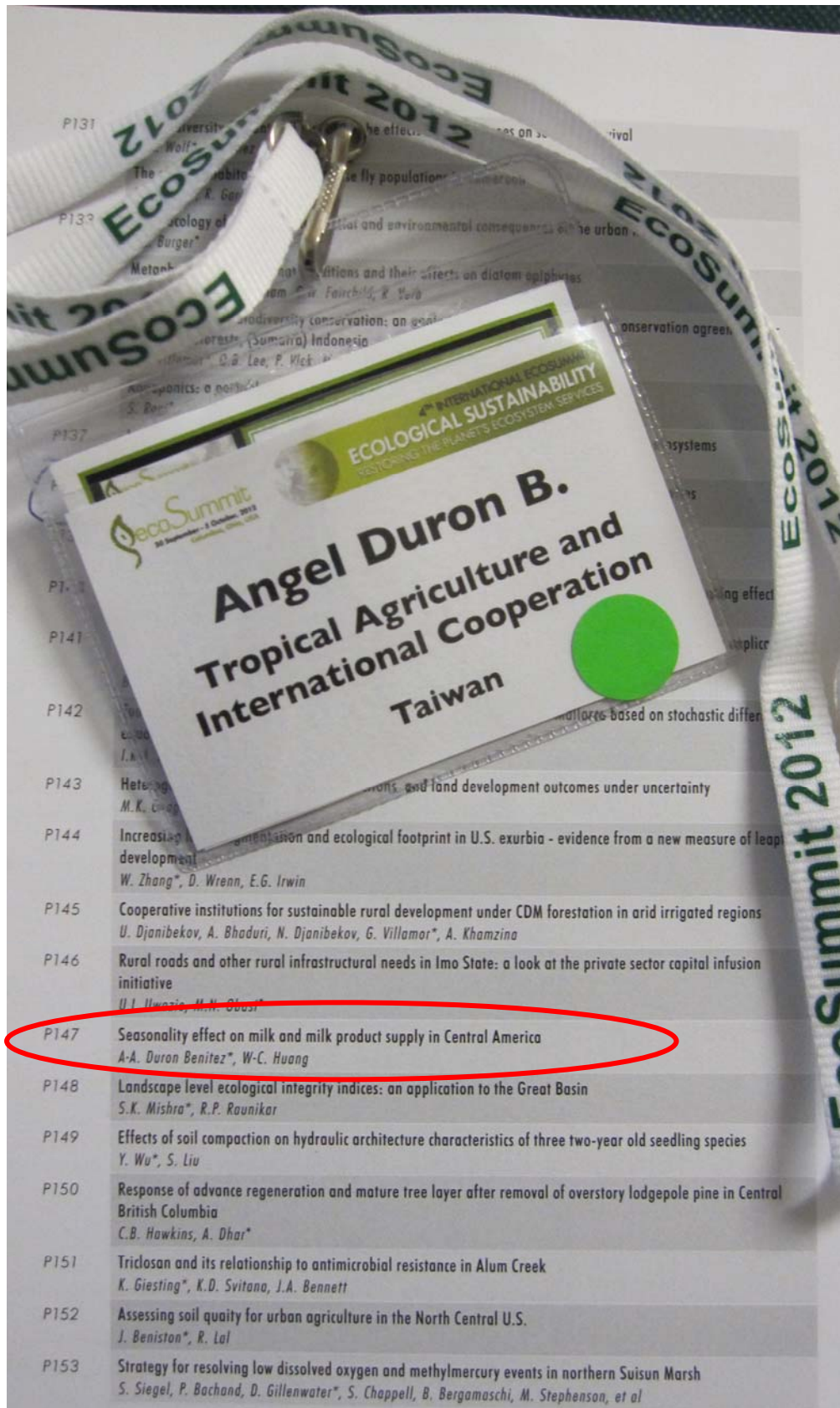
I listened to firsthand knowledge about sustainability and resources management in the tropical regions of the world.

I met editors and reviewers from Top Journals like Ecological Economics (see appendix 3) and Ecosystem Services, which create a link for the future publication of my research presented in the conference.

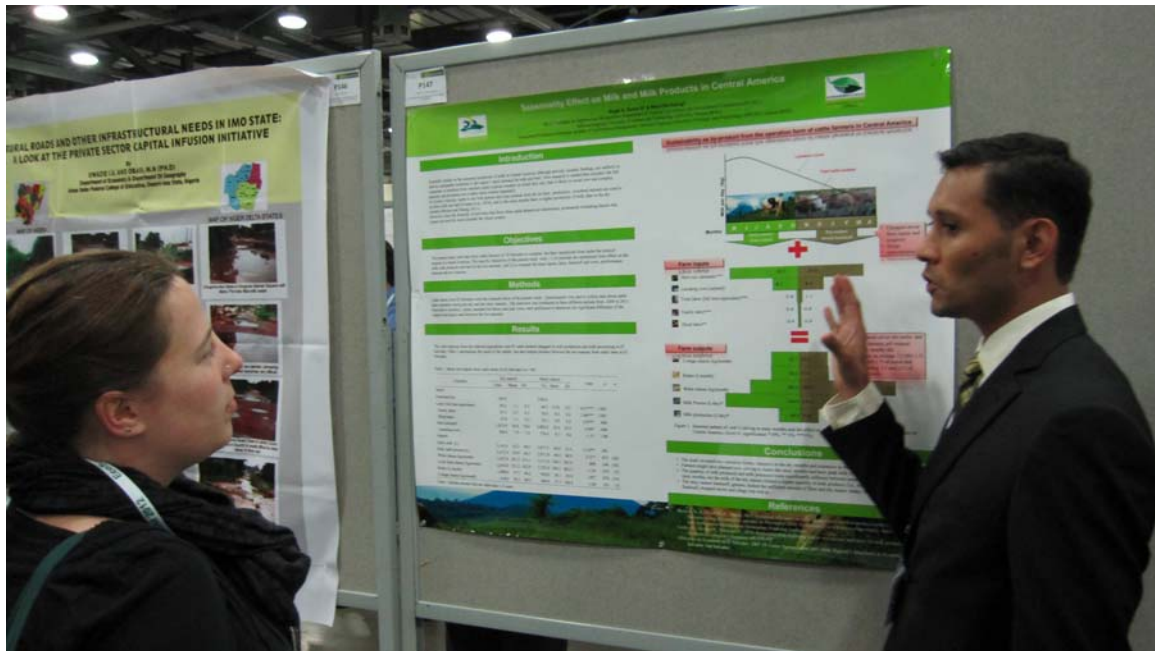
## Acknowledgement

Presenting the poster in the “4<sup>th</sup> International EcoSummit, Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet’s Ecosystem Services” was possible due to the financial support of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology which also provide me the scholarship for my PhD studies. Special thanks go to my advisor Dr. Wen-Chi Huang, for all her intellectual support.

Appendix 1: The program, slot number, of my poster presentation on October 2, 2012.



Appendix 2: Myself explaining the research to Maria Eugenia from the University of Cordova, Argentina.



Appendix 3: Robert Costanza plenary speaker and editor of the journal Ecological Economic, myself, and Martha G. presenter after one of the sections.



Appendix 4: The president of Iceland Mr. Olafur R. Grimsson, plenary speaker and myself after hearing his plenary section.

