

# Second Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium (ALCS), Penang, Malaysia

B.A. Daniel\*



The **Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium ALCS** is an initiative by Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, HK in 2006 and the first meeting was conducted at Hong Kong. The second Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium 2008 was hosted by Penang Butterfly Farm PBF, from 24 - 28 November 2008 in Penang, Malaysia. "*Conservation of Lepidoptera through Education & Research*" was the theme of the 2 ALCS 2008. The objective of the meet was to bring scholars and experts of the Lepidoptera and to discuss and review the conservation status of butterflies and moths of Asia.

The symposium focused on Lepidoptera conservation process including species status assessment and current conservation needs, the ongoing trend in Lepidoptera conservation initiatives in Asia, recent trends in research and formulation of strategies. The conference also discussed about forming a regional network through which the identified plan of action can be fulfilled.

The aims of the symposium are:

- 1) to assess the current conservation status of Lepidoptera;
- 2) to further develop a regional network of organizations under an umbrella body;
- 3) to continue to develop the regional conservation strategy and;
- 4) to spread the conservation message and promote interaction from public.

The symposium was attended by academicians, museum curators, Government institutions, Wildlife department personnel, photographers, teachers, NGOs, Zoo educators, scientists, farm owners and a wide range of participants involved in Lepidoptera research, conservation and education. A total of 60 participants from 11 countries took part in the 5-day symposium.

Mr. Gavid Goh, Director, PBF and the organising Chairman of the 2nd ALCS welcomed all the participants. Dr. Roger Kendrick, founder of ALCS while declaring the opening of the symposium explained the aims of the meet. Dr. Sivananthan T. Elagupillay, Director, Law and Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife & National Parks, Malaysia gave the key note address. He gave a detailed account about the conservation status of fauna in Peninsular Malaysia. During the symposium 18 papers were presented in four different sessions and the details are below.

## Session I: Status of Lepidoptera and its need in South East Asia

Dr. B.A. Daniel, Scientist, Zoo Outreach Organisation, India, gave the key note address. He explained the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan CAMP workshop process in detail. Followed by this two papers were presented on the challenges in Lepidoptera conservation in SE Asian and economic importance in forestry. In the afternoon a field trip was arranged to make a visit to Penang National Park which is located at the North-West corner of Penang and fronts the Straits of Malacca. All the participants were given an opportunity to plant an important butterfly host plant, *Aristolochia tagala*, to further sustain and enhance the population of *Troides helena* which is a threatened butterfly species. The highlight of the day was the visit to Penang Butterfly Farm. The PBF was established in 1986 and now it has 120 live tropical butterfly species. The PBF receives its daily replenishment from five different breeding centres which is maintained by PBF. Twenty percent of the captive bred butterflies are released back in the wild to strengthen wild populations. It also holds live unique tropical insects spiders and small harmless reptiles such as leopard Gecko and oriental water Dragon.

## Session II: Lepidoptera research and information sharing

Dr. Jermy D. Holloway, The Natural History Museum, London gave the key note address for this session on a topic entitled Moths of Borneo: Building on the past with the benefit of fresh field sampling to construct a taxonomic foundation for the future. He also gave a brief talk on the publications of the moth of Borneo. Followed by this address three papers were presented. Others papers were about using Lepidoptera to understand biodiversity and raising awareness of Lepidoptera conservation issues.

## Session III: Education towards Lepidoptera Conservation

Mr. Isaac Kehimkar, General Manager, BNHS, India gave a detailed talk on Butterfly conservation through education in India. In continuation of the key note address three papers were presented.

## Session IV: Global/Asian Lepidopteran trend

Dr. Peggie Djunijanti, Museum Zoologi, Bogor, Indonesia, presented a paper on Prospects for the Conservation of Asian Lepidoptera. Other interesting

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presentations were about the biggest live butterfly exhibition in the world by Clive Farrell, Founder of Butterfly World, Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly House and London Butterfly House, UK. Dr. Kodi Isparan from FRIM shared his experience on plant tissue culture and its application in propagating butterfly attracting plants. There were also 3 other papers on moth diversity in Singapore and a report from Assam on mortality of butterfly fauna due to vehicular traffic.

As part of the symposium a trip was planned to visit Matang Forest Reserve to see the world's best managed mangrove forest Reserve at Taiping. A visit to Taiping Zoo and Lake garden was also arranged.

Working group: Roger Kendrick, Senior Conservation Officer, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Gardens, acted as the facilitated on the last day of the symposium. Four working groups were formed to discuss issues related to Lepidoptera conservation. The participants were divided into four working groups to discuss about the Status of Lepidoptera and suitability of CAMP for Lepidoptera assessment; Environment Impact Assessment; Area/Size of nature reserves for Lepidoptera & Internet uses: Records and database.

The groups presented their points that will be taken up by the group as plan of action. It was decided that a proceedings of the symposium be published.

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## **Climatic changes & coastal Bioresources: Nat'l Conference Report**

### **B.A. Daniel\***

Human activities influenced global environment to a much larger scale, particularly from the beginning of the industrial revolution in 1750s. The composition of the atmosphere (areal ocean) was affected due to increase in the Green House Gases that had potential impact on regional and global climate. Now, climate change poses a threat to all ecosystems. The most significant impact is the rise in the sea levels and in land flooding. It has been predicted that people who live in the coastal areas will be worst affected due to rise in sea level.

To understand the recent trends on climatic changes and coastal bioresources, particularly in Peninsular India, the Department of advanced zoology and biotechnology, Aditanar College of Arts and Sciences affiliated to MS Manonmaniam Sundaranar University conducted a two day conference during 11-12 November 2008. The objectives of the conference are to create awareness on the climatic changes of coastal ecosystem; to discuss the impacts of climatic changes on estuarine, mangrove, sea grass, seaweed and coral reef ecosystem; to discuss strategies and operational plans for safe coastal environment; to provide an opportunity for researchers to discuss about coastal pollution management; to review current environmental legislation and for developing instant policy frame work for coastal environment and sustainable development and; to offer a platform to meet and interact with personalities from various universities, colleges, and other research institutions. About 200 members took part in the 2 day event.

The conference received a total of 38 papers including key note addresses. The organizing secretary and the Head of the department Dr. G. Lakshmanan welcomed the gathering during the inaugural and invited Mr. A. Kuttalingam to give the presidential address. Dr. B.A. Daniel, during the chief guest address stated that man had changed the chemical composition of the areal ocean there by created change in the climate which is affecting every organism in this world. He pointed out that it is the right time to take initiatives at individual level so as to bring back a better environment to live. Mr. Uthriapandian, Secretary, appreciated the efforts taken by the department to conduct this conference.

Mr. S. Jayakumar thanked the management for the financial support for the meet. The key note address was given by Dr. B.A. Daniel. He gave a detailed talk on the Climate change challenges with a particular reference to insect diversity. Climate change is now the most important environmental threat facing human today. While explaining the process of climate change he stated that Green house gases are a class of gases which can trap heat near Earth's surface. As the Green house gases increase in the atmosphere, the extra heat they trap leads to global warming. This warming in turn places pressure on Earth's climate system, and lead to climate change. He also said that Climatologists have predicted that a wide range of scenarios such as socio-economic, sea level, water resources, agriculture, forests, human health and biodiversity will be affected due to climate change. This will have severe impacts on the global hydrological system, ecosystems, sea level, crop production and related processes. The impact would be particularly severe in the tropical areas such as South Asia. During his talk he gave the definitions of climate change and associated terminologies such as climate, weather, green house gases, global warming, climate change and details on four layers of atmosphere such troposphere, mesosphere, stratosphere and thermosphere. He also talked about the maintenance of life-sustaining conditions on Earth, factors determine Earth's climate change, Human Influence on the Climate System, about the predictions of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and about scenarios of damages in 2050. He also gave a brief description about ZOO's methodology for teaching Climate change and its related issues and for attracting non-traditional as well as traditional educators to adopt new techniques which are more effective in influencing comprehension, retention and behavioural change.

After the key note address the participants presented their papers. Dr. A. John De Britto, Reader in Plant Biology and biotechnology, St Xavier's College during the invited talk explained the causes of global warming and its effect. He listed 62 major impacts that have been predicted to happen in next few decades. He also

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