

The King of Thailand's Vetiver Awards

His Majesty the King has graciously provided the following vetiver awards:

First Series

His Majesty the King provided a gift of US\$ 10,000 to the Vetiver Information Network for promoting research and disseminating practical information on vetiver. This was announced in the June 1992 issue of the Vetiver Newsletter. The editorial of that issue noted that "His Majesty had previously expressed a keen interest in the vetiver technology; one of the King's special interest being the development of the tribal peoples in the hills of Northern Thailand where deforestation is accelerating, where soil erosion rates are very high and where there is a need to diversify away from growing poppies. His Majesty the King had been quick to see the value of vetiver grass for soil and moisture conservation and he started a testing program in 1991."

The donation to the Vetiver Information Network was presented to World Bank representative, Richard G. Grimhaw, who had been given an audience with His Majesty to discuss the vetiver program in Thailand. During the meeting, His Majesty expressed his belief that vetiver could well be the answer to stabilizing Thailand's fast eroding lands while reducing excess runoff and related problems.

Half of His Majesty's donation (US\$ 5,000) supported activities of the Vetiver Information Network; the other half was used as prize money to an individual contributing a significant piece of research work. The award was presented on 30 October 1993 at the Chitralada Villa, Dusit Palace in Bangkok to P.K. Yoon of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia. His rigorous analytical and eminently practical work on vetiver and its management, includes pioneering research on using vetiver for erosion control on steep slopes.

One of the many reasons that Dr. Yoon's research is regarded as successful in his weaving of scientific knowledge with a very practical approach to assure that the technology is properly applied. Dr. Yoon provided details of vetiver grass technology in a publication that is widely used as a bible among vetiver workers.

Second Series

His Majesty the King contributed US\$ 10,000 from His Majesty's Chaipattana Foundation to be used as a prize for the best achievement in vetiver research and development. The prize was divided into two awards, each \$5,000; one for the best vetiver research and the other for the best dissemination of vetiver technology work. All papers submitted for presentation in the Second International Conference on Vetiver (ICV-2) were eligible for the competition. The Selection Committee of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board, however, was unable to choose only one paper and instead selected the best three papers in each category to receive a King of Thailand vetiver award. The titles of the papers and the names of the authors and their affiliations are as follows:

Research Category:

1. "The global impact of vetiver grass technology on the environment" by Paul Truong, Resources Science Centre, Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane, Australia.

2. “The use of vetiver and three other grasses for re-vegetation of a Pb/Zn mine tailings at Lechang, Guangdong province: A field experiment” by W.S. Shu¹, H.P. Xia², Z.Q. Zhang¹, C.Y. Lan¹, and M.H. Wong³. ¹ School of Life Science, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China; ² South China Institute of Botany, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China; ³ Institute of Natural Resources and Waste Management, and Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong, China
3. “Research on methodologies for selection, propagation and cultivation techniques of vetiver grass and its application in Thailand” by the Land Development Department, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dissemination Category:

1. “Promoting vetiver grass technology in Venezuela” by Oscar S. Rodriguez, Institute of Agronomy, University of Central Venezuela, Maracay, Estado Aragua, Venezuela.
2. “Vetiver technology development and dissemination in China: From agriculture to engineering: by Liyu Xu, National Coordinator, China Vetiver Network, Nanjing, China.
3. “The use of vetiver grass system for erosion control and slope stabilization along the Yadana gas pipeline right-of-way” by the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand.

Third Series

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Chairperson of His Majesty the King’s Chaipattana Foundation, contributed US\$ 10,000 from the Chaipattana Foundation for the King of Thailand Vetiver Award for the most outstanding achievements on vetiver. As in the second series, the third series was divided into two prizes: one to the most outstanding research on vetiver and the other to the best program for dissemination of vetiver technology. The vetiver research award was divided further into two categories: agricultural applications (US\$ 2,500) and non-agricultural applications (US\$ 2,500). The titles of the papers and the names of the authors and their affiliations are as follows:

Research Category

1. *Agricultural Application:* “Vetiver research for agricultural production on red soils” by Shengluan Lu, Red Soil Research Institute of Jiangxi Province, Jingxian, Jiangxi Province, China.
2. *Non-Agricultural Application:* “Ecological effectiveness of vetiver constructed wetlands in treating oil-refined wastewater” by Hanping Xia¹, Honghua Ke², Zhaoping Deng², Peng Tan², and Shizhong Liu¹. ¹ South China Institute of Botany, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China; ² SINOPEC Maoming Refining & Chemical Co. Ltd., Maoming, Guangdong, China.

Dissemination Caegory

1. *Agricultural Application*: “The use of vetiver for soil erosion prevention in cassava fields in Thailand” by Wilawan Vongkasem¹, Kaival Klakhaeng¹, Watana Warananonta², and Reinhardt H. Howeler³. ¹ Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangkok, Thailand; ² Separtment of Agriculture, Bangkok, Thailand; ³ CIAR Regional Cassava Office for Asia, DOA, Bangkok, Thailand.
2. *Non-Agricultural Application*: “Vetiver Victorious: The systematic use of vetiver to save Madagascar’s FCE Railway” by Diti Hengchaovanich, APT Consult Co. Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand; and Karen Schoonmaker Freudenberger, FCER Project, Madagascar.

Fourth Series

In conjunction with the Fourth International Conference on Vetiver (ICV-4), Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Chairperson of His Majesty the King of Thailand’s Chaipattana Foundation, has graciously granted US\$10,000 from the Chaipattana Foundation for “The King of Thailand Vetiver Awards” for the most outstanding achievements on vetiver. The awards were split into two categories, valued at US\$5,000 each; one prize for the most outstanding vetiver research, and the other for the most outstanding vetiver dissemination. The Research Category was further split into two prizes, namely: Agricultural Application (US\$2,500); and Non-Agricultural Application (US\$2,500). The Dissemination Category was also further split into two prizes, namely: Government Agency (US\$ 2,500); and Non-Government Agency (US\$2,500).

Research Category:

1. *Agricultural Application*: “Vetiver potential for increasing groundwater recharge” by Boonma Deesaeng, Jamnian Pheunda, Cholada Onarsa and Arthorn Boonsaner, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bangkok, Thailand
2. *Non-Agricultural Application*: “Effects of soil amendment on growth and lead accumulation in vetiver grasses, *Vetiveria zizanioides* and *Thysanolaena maxima* grown in lead-contaminated soil” by Puttipar Rotkittikhun, Rattanawat Chaiyarat, Maleeya Kruatrachue, Prayad Pokethitiyook and Alan J.M. Baker, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dissemination Category:

1. *Government Agency*: “The Advantage of Vetiver Grass on the Royal Project’s Highland Development Areas in Thailand” by Juraiporn Kaewthip, Suphattra Butpluang, Akkadech Boonpongsri, Sawatdee Boonchee, Land Development Department, Bangkok, Thailand.
2. *Non-Government Agency*: “The Vetiver Handicraft: An Innovative Focus of Community Development in Venezuela” by Graciela Pantin, Oswaldo Luque, Grace Rivero, Edgar Ceballos and Humberto Fontana, Fundacion Empresas Polar, Caracas, Venezuela.