

Dr. Ernst Mutert Retires, Dr. T.H. Fairhurst Named Director of PPI/PPIC East and Southeast Asia Program (ESEAP)

Dr. Ernst Mutert, who served as Director, PPI/PPIC-ESEAP, based in Singapore for 11 years, has retired and returned with his family to live in Germany. Dr. Thomas H. Fairhurst, who served as Deputy Director of the program since 1996, succeeds Dr. Mutert as Director.

A native of Osnabrück, Germany, Dr. Mutert received his D.I.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Kiel and worked as a researcher and lecturer there. He was involved with a soil survey project in Germany and Libya from 1972 to 1981, then joined the staff of Büntehof Agricultural Research Station, Department of Tropical and Subtropical Crops. As a soil scientist, he worked in advisory responsibilities with projects in Africa, South America, and Asia.

In 1991, Dr. Mutert became Director of PPI/PPIC-ESEAP. Numerous accomplishments and advances in the region are credited to his skillful direction.

Dr. Fairhurst was born in England, UK, and earned his Ph.D. at the University of London, Wye College. He has extensive background and experience as an advisor and leader in tropical agriculture. Over the past five years, PPI/PPIC-ESEAP has placed major emphasis on nutrient management in oil palm and rice. Sustainable crop management in both these crops requires attention to the recycling of crop residues and adequate mineral fertilizer use to ensure maximum yield in the short term and to avoid the depletion of soil nutrient reserves in the longer term. **BCI**



Dr. Mutert



Dr. Fairhurst

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