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AGU Fall meeting 2011: pondering the meaning of agriculture in the 21st century

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Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is obviously extensively applied to our daily life from the car navigational system to the Google map being useful to explorer a venue with laptop or smartphones. Also in the field of science, as it is a robust tool on assessing the spatio-temporal relationships among various attributes, the tool enables us to assess the interactions among history, socio-economic factors (i.e. income level) and infrastructures when assessing the land-cover changes. I am a first year PhD student working on the application of GIS on the global land use change to excavate the historical trajectories of the tree-based crop expansion in the tropics the post discussion of the forest cover reversals in temperate high-incomed countries.



Huge poster session hall embracing many exhibitions across the border of disciplinary

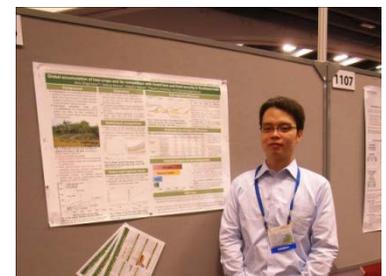


Cooperate exhibition hall; Google was demonstrating a new application of Google Maps ©by integrating the animal biodiversity information with the land cover map in Africa.

With the generous support from the JSPS Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits, I had an opportunity to participate in the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall meeting 2011 held in San Francisco, CA, US from 5th Dec to 10th Dec, 2011. The meeting is known as one of the largest conventions in the world, gathering twenty thousand attendances from multiple kinds of disciplinary and nationalities in earth and climate change sciences every year. Globalization and urbanization calls for a solid means of assessing potential trajectories of extreme natural events and the impacts to the global, regional and locals. Since many senior researchers I always passionate on their incredible articles were attending the scene, this opportunity was profoundly pivotal to ponder not only the future direction of my currently working topic but also the next step to extend the study with greater impacts.

On behalf of the authors, I did present the progress of our work entitled “*Global accumulation of tree-crops and its implications to the forest loss and food security in Southeast Asia*” on the land-use change III poster session, Biogeosciences (BGC) arena. The presentation features the global implication of the increasingly expanding tree-based commodity crops field such as oil palm and natural rubber from the analysis of the historical trajectories of the expansion process, potential profitability and trade trends. There were constructive and practical suggestions to further ameliorate the contents by introducing alternative methods. It will be of great importance in shaping and implementing a future direction of the work, and I do reckon it would have been impossible to reach the ideas without the participation throughout the JSPS fund this time.

Finally, I would like to show my sincere gratitude to Prof. Noriko Sato, a current academic advisor, Prof. Shigejiro Yoshida and Prof. Nobuya Mizoue, the former (Msc) academic advisors, for their constructive comments and encouragements to work on the presented information. The appreciation is also extended to the staffs of the strategic planning division for their procedures upon this participation with great alacrity.



The author in front of the presented poster