

The Second International Conference on Vetiver: Vetiver and the Environment

**To Commemorate the Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary of
His Majesty the King of Thailand
18 -22 January 2000, Cha Am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand**

Dick Grimshaw

Some 340 engineers, researchers, practitioners, development experts, donors and businesses from 5 continents and 31 countries attended the conference which was organised and hosted by the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board with support of the Chaipattana Foundation.

The Executive Chairperson of the Foundation, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attended the Conference which was Chaired by Dr. Sumet Tantivejkul, the Foundation's Secretary General.

The conference must be regarded as a great success bringing together vetiver users and researchers from all over the World. Over the past four years since the first conference in Thailand the Vetiver Grass system has moved from just being an agricultural technology to one that can be applied over a wide range of environmental needs. The technology has taken hold in more than 100 countries and it attracts new users daily.

At this conference the quality of presentations were good, as were the wide range of R&D topics. There were excellent demonstrations set up at the Conference and in nearby areas. Additionally the Conference was enriched by the feedback from regional and national networks, and by the presentations from users around the world. In addition to the excellent Preceedings of some 480 pages, the conference organisers also provided some very useful documents, including: 3 new PRVN Technical Bulletins and the excellent Factual Tips About Vetiver Grass (A Manual with photos).

Also the Royal Projects Development Board stands good on its offer to train bonafide vetiver users in various applications of vetiver. Training in handicraft and propagation would be of special value. Trainees have to get to Thai at their own cost.