

Jérôme Duminil  
Email : [Jerome.duminil@ird.fr](mailto:Jerome.duminil@ird.fr)  
Tél.: +33 (0)4.67.41.63.09

Montpellier, the 26th February 2020

Object: Candidature of Yao Tze Leong to IAPT research grant

Dear IAPT grant review committee,

I am a French researcher working for IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement) and together with Dr Nazre Saleh from Universiti Putra Malaysia, we are coordinating the PhD project of Mr Yao Tze Leong entitled "Ensuring the future of fruit trees in South East Asia in a context of global change: the case of fruit trees of the genus *Garcinia*".

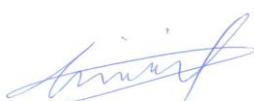
Attempts had been made in several past studies to elucidate the origin of mangosteen using phylogenetic methods. However, the results were hampered by limited sampling and arrived at conflictive conclusions. In current study, we plan to include materials of the species throughout the full extent of its distribution range in hope to confirm the origin of mangosteen convincingly.

In this context Tze Leong needs to acquire herbarium samples and DNA materials of a mangosteen wild variety, namely *Garcinia mangostana* var. *borneensis* previously recorded from East Kalimantan. Also, he would visit the regional herbaria, viz. BO and WAN to examine specimens of wild relative species. Tze Leong will liaise with Dr Rismita Sari (Bogor Botanic Garden) and Mr Gregori Hambali (Mekarsari Fruit Garden) to collect wild *Garcinia* species samples planted in their affiliated gardens.

Dr Deden Derajat Matra (Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Bogor Agricultural Institute) had agreed to collaborate in the laboratory analyses of DNA materials collected in Indonesia and proposed to host Tze Leong laboratory work. This collaboration would ensure comparable results between working groups focus on mangosteen research. Synergy between molecular Laboratories at Bogor Agricultural Institute and The Research Institute for Development, France would positively impact the studies of edible fruit species originated from Southeast Asia. Undoubtedly, regional collaboration established in this study will strengthen the networking of regional herbaria and research institutes in France, Indonesia and Malaysia.

I am thus fully supporting the application of Yao Tze Leong for his IAPT research grant application. The grant is crucial to ensure his mobility for collecting trips to several localities in Indonesia and to conduct DNA analyses at Molecular Science Laboratory, Bogor Agricultural Institute, Indonesia. Granted funding would make his project a more inclusive one and strengthen the regional collaboration in safeguarding fruit tree species wild relatives.

Faithfully yours,  
Jérôme Duminil, PhD



**Centre IRD de Montpellier - UMR DIADE**, équipe DYNADIV –  
911, avenue Agropolis - BP 64501 - F-34394 Montpellier cedex 5 – France.  
Tél.: +33 (0)4.67.41.63.09 ; Fax.: +33 (0)4.67.41.62.22