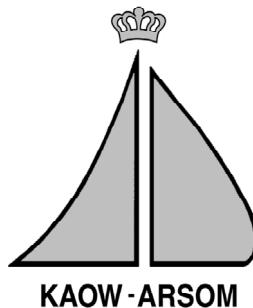


LES ACTIONS DE LA DGD

DGD'S ACTIVITIES

DE ACTIVITEITEN VAN DE DGOD

LAS ACTIVIDADES DEL DGD

**CONCOURS ANNUELS****ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES D'OUTRE-MER**

En vue de promouvoir la recherche scientifique de haute qualité relative à des matières propres aux régions d'outre-mer, l'Académie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer organise des concours annuels. Des questions sur des sujets bien spécifiques sont formulées par chacune des trois Classes de l'Académie, à savoir la Classe des Sciences humaines, la Classe des Sciences naturelles et médicales et la Classe des Sciences techniques. Les ouvrages soumis aux concours annuels doivent être récents et inédits, atteignant au moins le niveau d'une thèse de PhD. Chaque ouvrage primé est doté d'un prix de 1000 EUR, qui sera majoré à 2500 EUR à partir de 2013.

YEARLY COMPETITIONS**ROYAL ACADEMY FOR OVERSEAS SCIENCES**

In order to promote high-quality scientific research regarding subjects peculiar to overseas regions, the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences organize yearly competitions. Questions on specific topics are put forward by each of the three Sections of the Academy, *i.e.* the Section of Human Sciences, the Section of Natural and Medical Sciences and the Section of Technical Sciences. The works submitted to yearly competitions should be recent and unpublished, reaching at least the level of a PhD thesis. Each award-winning work is granted a prize of 1,000 EUR, which will be increased to 2,500 EUR from 2013 onwards.

**ACADEMIE ROYALE
DES
SCIENCES D'OUTRE-MER**

Questions du concours 2012

Première question. — On demande une étude sur les aspects sociolinguistiques et/ou linguistiques de la disparition de langues en Afrique, en Asie ou en Amérique latine.

2^e question. — On demande une étude inscrite dans la problématique des liens entre Etats, institutions (inter)nationales et rapports sociaux de genre dans les pays en développement.

3^e question. — On demande une étude sur l'exploitation des ressources alimentaires marines en région tropicale, compatible avec la préservation de la biodiversité.

4^e question. — On demande une étude de la biodiversité d'un groupe de plantes terrestres tropicales.

5^e question. — On demande une contribution à l'étude de la composition chimique, minéralogique et biologique des boues de dragage des fleuves tropicaux, y compris les estuaires et les zones portuaires, en vue de réduire le déversement des polluants à leur source et/ou de leur valorisation ou de leur stockage dans des conditions protégeant l'environnement de manière durable.

6^e question. — On demande une étude de faisabilité technico-économique sur tous les types d'énergie renouvelable susceptibles d'être appliqués dans les pays en voie de développement. L'étude inclura la description technique du ou des procédés envisagés et donnera l'estimation des coûts d'investissement, d'exploitation et d'entretien. Comment ces énergies peuvent-elles contribuer à la diminution de la déforestation et de l'usage du bois de coupe?

**KONINKLIJKE ACADEMIE
VOOR
OVERZEESE WETENSCHAPPEN**

Vragen voor de wedstrijd 2012

Eerste vraag. — Er wordt een studie gevraagd over de sociolinguïstische en/of linguïstische aspecten van het verdwijnen van talen in Afrika, Azië of Latijns-Amerika.

2de vraag. — Men vraagt een studie over het verband tussen Staten, (inter)nationale instellingen en genderrelaties in de ontwikkelingslanden.

3de vraag. — Men vraagt een studie over de exploitatie van de mariene voedselhulpbronnen in de tropen in overeenstemming met het behoud van de biodiversiteit.

4de vraag. — Men vraagt een biodiversiteitsonderzoek voor een tropische groep van de landplanten.

5de vraag. — Men vraagt een bijdrage aan de studie van de scheikundige, mineralogische en biologische samenstelling van slib dat uit tropische rivieren, met inbegrip van estuaria en havengebieden, wordt gebaggerd, met als doel het dumpen van verontreinigende stoffen aan de bron te beperken en/of het slib opnieuw te gebruiken op of te slaan met oog voor een duurzame bescherming van het milieu.

6de vraag. — Men vraagt een technisch-economische haalbaarheidsstudie over alle mogelijke types hernieuwbare energie die in de ontwikkelingslanden van toepassing kunnen zijn. De studie zal tevens een technische beschrijving van de weerhouden procédés omvatten en een schatting maken van de investerings-, exploitatie- en onderhoudskosten. Hoe kunnen deze energieën bijdragen tot de vermindering van de ontbossing en het gebruik van kaphout?

**ROYAL ACADEMY
OF
OVERSEAS SCIENCES**

Questions for the 2012 Competition

First question. — A study is requested on sociolinguistic and/or linguistic aspects of the disappearance of languages in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

2nd question. — A study is requested on the links between States, (inter)national institutions and gender relations in the developing world.

3rd question. — A study is requested on the exploitation of marine food resources in tropical regions, which would be compatible with the preservation of biodiversity.

4th question. — A study is requested on the biodiversity of a tropical group of land-adapted plants.

5th question. — A contribution is requested to the study of the chemical, mineral and biological composition of dredged material extracted from tropical riverbeds, including estuaries and harbour areas, so as to reduce pollutant dumping at their source and/or reuse or store dredged material in such a way that the environment is protected on a permanent basis.

6th question. — A technical and economic study of feasibility is requested on all kinds of renewable energy sources that can be applied in developing countries. The study will include a technical description of all the considered processes and comprise an estimate of the investment, operating and maintenance costs. How may these energies contribute to the reduction of deforestation and/or the use of cutting wood?

Les ouvrages présentés au concours doivent parvenir au secrétariat de l'Académie avant le 1^{er} mars 2012.

Des renseignements complémentaires peuvent être obtenus au secrétariat de l'Académie, avenue Louise 231, B-1050 Bruxelles (Belgique).

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E-mail: kaowarsom@skynet.be
Web: <http://www.kaowarsom.be>

De werken die voor de wedstrijd ingediend worden, moeten op het secretariaat van de Academie toekomen vóór 1 maart 2012.

Bijkomende inlichtingen kunnen verkregen worden op het secretariaat van de Academie, Louizalaan 231, B-1050 Brussel (België).

The studies must reach the secretariat of the Academy before 1st March 2012.

Additional information may be obtained from the secretariat of the Academy, avenue Louise 231, B- 1050 Brussels (Belgium).

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Questions du concours 2013

Première question. — On demande une étude microsociale de l'impact des changements économiques sur les rapports hommes/femmes dans un pays en développement

2^e question. — On demande une recherche sur la gestion des risques naturels en milieu tropical.

3^e question. — On demande une étude sur la contribution des pays d'outre-mer aux ressources mondiales et au recyclage des éléments chimiques d'importance pour l'industrie de l'électronique.

Les ouvrages présentés au concours doivent parvenir au secrétariat de l'Académie avant le 1^{er} mars 2013.

Des renseignements complémentaires peuvent être obtenus au secrétariat de l'Académie, avenue Louise 231, B-1050 Bruxelles (Belgique).

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Vragen voor de wedstrijd 2013

Eerste vraag. — Men vraagt een microsociale studie over de impact van de economische veranderingen op de man-vrouwrelaties in een ontwikkelings-land.

2de vraag. — Men vraagt een onderzoek naar het beheer van natuurrisico's in een tropisch milieu.

3de vraag. — Men vraagt een studie over de bijdrage van de overzeese landen aan de wereld-grondstoffen en aan de recyclage van de zeldzame chemische elementen van belang voor de elektronische nijverheid.

De werken die voor de wedstrijd ingediend worden, moeten op het secretariaat van de Academie toekomen vóór 1 maart 2013.

Bijkomende inlichtingen kunnen verkregen worden op het secretariaat van de Academie, Louizalaan 231, B-1050 Brussel (België).

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Questions for the 2013 Competition

First question. — A micro-social study is requested on the impact of economic changes on gender relations in a developing country.

2nd question. — A research is requested on the management of natural risks in a tropical environment.

3rd question. — A study is requested on the contribution of overseas countries to the world resources and the recycling of rare chemical elements important for electronics industry.

The studies must reach the secretariat of the Academy before 1st March 2013.

Additional information may be obtained from the secretariat of the Academy, avenue Louise 231, B- 1050 Brussels (Belgium).

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Temas Concurso 2013

1. — Se pide un estudio microsocial del impacto de los cambios económicos sobre las relaciones hombre/mujer en un país en desarrollo.
2. — Se pide una investigación sobre la gestión de los riesgos naturales en un ámbito tropical.
3. — Se pide un estudio sobre la contribución de los países de ultramar para los recursos mundiales y el reciclado de los elementos químicos raros que son importantes para la industria electrónica.

Los estudios deben llegar a la secretaría de la Academia antes del primero de marzo de 2013.

Más información puede obtenerse por parte de la secretaría de la Academia, avenue Louise 231, B-1050 Bruselas (Bélgica).

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ERRATUM

In the previous edition of Tropicultura, on page 190 we mentioned erroneously that the first abstract was written by a laureate from Benin. The abstract, however, was written by the nominee from this country."



& BE-REDD-I

KLIMOS Policy brief 1

The Undervalued Role of Ecosystem Carbon in Climate Change Mitigation

Intensive tree use in East-Java *Photo by B. Verbist*Forest frontier *Photo by B. Muys*

Executive summary

- For **technical and political reasons** the role of ecosystem carbon has so far been undervalued in climate change mitigation negotiations.
- **Permanence** and **leakage** are an issue for **ALL** greenhouse gas emissions, not only for ecosystem carbon, like forests.
- Since 2005 ecosystem carbon is prominently back at the UNFCCC negotiations, although its exclusion from past agreements is still in force.
- REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) holds huge **socio-economic opportunities** to reward the preservation of ecosystem carbon in developing countries.
- **Development Aid** can play a crucial role in preparing developing countries to make **REDD pro-poor and development oriented**.

Introduction

The growing levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere are now directly and unequivocally linked with changes to the global climate (5). Among the anthropogenic sources of GHG the conversion of natural forests and woodlands, particularly in the tropics, is estimated to account for 12-18% (5, 14).

It is therefore remarkable that the Kyoto protocol only accepts af-/reforestation of the ecosystem carbon pool under the Clean Development Mechanisms and does not consider initiatives to halt deforestation. In 2001 the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) – by far the most important carbon market of the world – excluded all ecosystem carbon emissions from forest, agriculture, peatland and any other land use. The reasons to do this were both technical and political.

Technical reasons

For reasons of permanence and leakage it was claimed that ecosystem carbon could not function as an effective sink (6, 9).

Permanence

How can we make sure that a forest area conserved today will not be destroyed tomorrow through e.g. drought, pest or fire? At least three arguments can be presented against the categorical distinction between reduction of fossil emissions and carbon management in ecosystems:

1. Given the finiteness of fossil fuels, it is likely that they will anyway end up in the atmosphere over the long run. Reduced fossil fuel use today preserving a part of the reservoirs of coal, oil and gas, carries the risk of exploitation and consumption in the future. The question of permanence is therefore **not limited to forest carbon only**.
2. Even if ecosystem carbon sequestration would be **temporary**, it will still have a positive climate mitigation effect (see the ‘ton-year approach’ discussed below).
3. To deal with permanence it is important that one party assumes liability for both fossil fuel and ecosystem carbon stocks. Non-permanence may then still be a threat, but its damaging effects to the atmosphere can then be compensated for. Dutschke and Angelsen (1) present a list of mechanisms to deal with the permanence issue under REDD, which in fact also applies to ecosystem carbon:
 - a. **Temporary crediting** is being applied under the af-/reforestation (A/R) clean development mechanism (CDM). Depending on the specific agreement, emissions reductions have to be either recertified or reverified after five years in order for the credit to remain valid. Temporary crediting thus creates a future debit, independently of the fate of the carbon stocks built up.
 - b. The so-called '**ton-year approach**' was discussed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (15). It departed from the ideas that (i) the present value of mitigation is higher today than the same mitigation effect tomorrow, and that (ii) there is a limited residence time of CO₂ in the atmosphere. The combination of human time preference and the natural decay period led various authors (4, 10) to the calculation of an ‘equivalence period’, after which forestry mitigation could be considered permanent. With an equivalence period of 100 years, keeping 100 tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over 1 year would be equivalent to 1 ton of CO₂ permanently removed.
 - c. With **project credit buffers** only a certain share (e.g. 50%) of the credits generated is sold, while the remainder is held in an escrow account for a predetermined period. A proportion of these credits are liberated as the guarantee period ends and when no losses have occurred.
 - d. With **risk pooling** several projects maintain a joint credit buffer, thus minimising the risk of damages occurring simultaneously and allowing individual project buffers to be smaller than non-pooled project credit buffers.
 - e. **Insurance** is an advanced version of risk pooling through a third-party insurer. The risk premium is paid in emission reduction units. In case of a damage event, the insurance company replaces credits lost by the ones held in stock.
 - f. Another option is a **shared liability** or forest compliance partnership (FCP) where developed countries would bear a share of the liability for the permanence of REDD credits. The FCP suggests that a developed country receives preferential access to REDD credits for compliance if it shares the liability.

Several combinations of the above options are possible, illustrating that permanence can be dealt with.

Leakage

Forest protection or reforestation in one area is completely ineffective if it stimulates deforestation in another area. E.g. leakage could occur if slash-and-burn farmers simply move and cut another part of the forest outside a newly established national park. Carbon emissions are perfectly fungible: to reduce emissions to the atmosphere it does not matter where the carbon emission reduction is happening. Globally, fossil fuel emissions increased by 29% between 2000 and 2008 (7).

For many years only the production of CO₂ emissions was considered, creating the impression that Annex B countries were successful in curbing the increase of their emissions (Figure 1a). However, Figure 1b illustrates that the increasing emission contributions from emerging economies are not only due to e.g. the increased use of coal, but also to the production for international trade of goods and services. An increasing share of carbon emissions from developed countries has thus been outsourced to non-Annex B countries that are not bound by the Kyoto protocol (12). This illustrates that leakage is not uniquely reserved for ecosystem carbon.

Political reasons

National governments and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) have taken varying positions on mitigation measures such as planting trees and avoiding deforestation (3). Major European environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace (8) and Friends of the Earth-UK (11) published reports in which both planting trees and reducing tropical deforestation were put forward as high priorities in the fight against global warming. However, soon after the Kyoto Protocol was signed in December 1997, the European governments and Europe-headquartered NGO's would abruptly turn against all forms of “sinks”, including avoiding tropical deforestation.

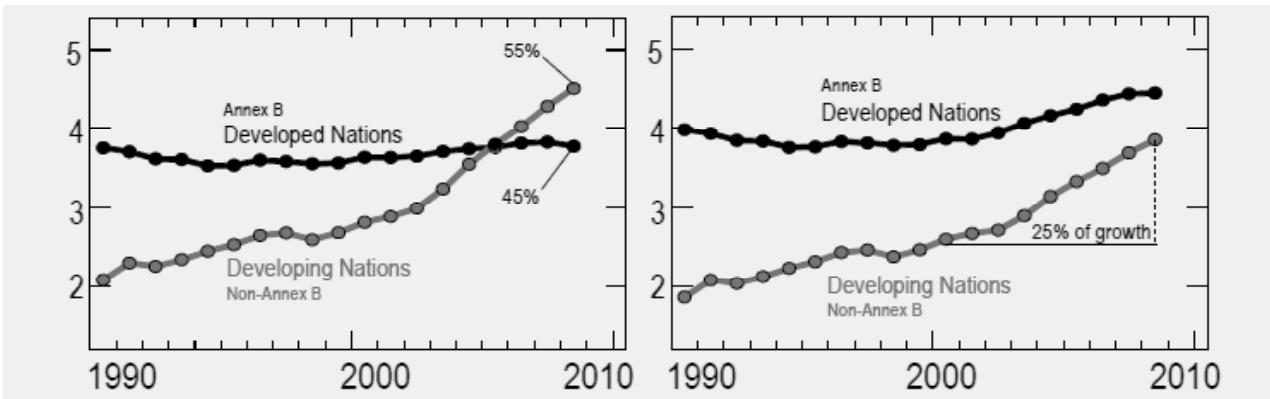


Figure 1: (a) Production and (b) consumption of CO_2 emissions (Pg C/year) in Annex B and non-Annex B countries (7). The difference is largely due to embodied trade.

Free riding?

The motivation of European NGO's was not only resentment of the United States for its foreign policies, including that country's role as the largest single emitter of greenhouse gases and its repeated obstruction of progress in climate negotiations (3), but also the fear for free riding. Free riding refers to the idea that first world countries might buy their way out rather than make a transition themselves towards a low-carbon economy.

The March 2001 withdrawal of the Bush administration from the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period (2008-2012) led to reactions of disappointment, not only from many European NGO's, but also from the remaining countries.

Economic competition

For European governments a different agenda became dominant: "If the doors could be effectively closed to purchase of significant quantities of carbon credits from projects in developing countries, then the United States would be forced to sharply increase its domestic fossil fuel prices in order to reduce emissions to the quota agreed in Kyoto, thereby levelling the competitive playing field with Europe (3). At the UNFCCC session in Bonn in July 2001 avoided deforestation for credit under the CDM was ruled out (3).

Sovereignty

Countries like Brazil felt that their sovereignty – and rightful development - could come under threat by accepting carbon funds for tropical forests to be kept as carbon sink.

Why the current change in attitude?

The Coalition of Rainforest Nations has been successful in highlighting the importance of tropical forest since the international climate change negotiations in Montréal in December 2005 (COP-11). Sovereignty issues are less of an issue now that Brazil has its own REDD proposals. Influential reports (2, 13) indicate that it will not be possible to keep temperature increases below 2 °C without addressing GHG produced from land-use change.

Conclusions

Ecosystem carbon emissions and mitigation cannot be left out of the carbon equation and should be part of future climate agreements. Growing consensus on this point amongst the UNFCC parties (including the support of 15 developing countries) has resulted in the recent COP-16 agreement which confirms REDD as the way forward. However, insufficient progress was made on the framework to execute the program. To avoid leakage, the justified call for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) for ecosystem carbon should also be applied to the other (fossil fuel) emissions and be applied at a global scale.

Implications for development aid

Development aid could help to acquire the needed capacity for improved ecosystem carbon management by integrating **research and capacity building** in planned programs on increased food security, better land use management and poverty reduction.

Investments can be made in increased institutional capacity of the relevant ministries (energy, environment, forestry, agriculture, economics,...) of individual countries in a learning-by-doing mode. Both government administrations and the private sector in Annex-B countries could be encouraged to participate in pilot projects to ensure that REDD is pro-poor and development oriented. The COP-16 REDD agreement states that these and other safeguards should be promoted and supported, but fails to specify how they should be effectively

operationalized. More case studies to test various approaches will be needed. Universities from both North and South could make significant contributions to this effort.

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KLIMOS is an interdisciplinary and interuniversity **research platform** working on **climate change adaptation and mitigation in development aid**.

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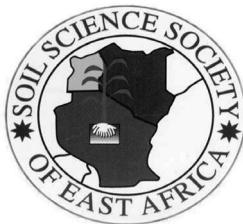
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Cover photo: Intensive tree use in East-Java *Photo by B. Verbist*; (b) Forest frontier *Photo by B.Muys*

26TH SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF EAST AFRICA CONFERENCE

on theme “*Strategic Management of Soil Resources to Mitigate Climate Change for a Prosperous East Africa Region*” 21st – 25th November 2011 in Jinja, Uganda



SECOND CALL FOR TITLES & ABSTRACTS

The 26th Annual Conference of the Soil Science Society of East Africa (SSSEA) will be held on **21-25th November 2011** in Jinja town, Uganda. The event will draw participants from research organizations, Universities, non-governmental organizations and farmers' groups and international soil related organizations operating in the East African region. Following the integration of eastern African community, participants from Burundi and Rwanda are by default members but will be formally admitted to SSSEA during the SSSEA general meeting that will sit at the end of the 26th SSSEA Conference.

The Conference will be preceded by a regional training course on **Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM)**. More details will be announced by Dr. Mary Silver Rwakaikara or she can be directly contacted on Tel: +256-777-238178; marysilv@agric.mak.ac.ug or contact SSSEA Secretariat, Uganda Chapter.

There will also be symposiums on Land resources research in the Lake Victoria Basin and Below Ground Biodiversity during the conference.

CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of the Conference will be: “**STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF SOIL RESOURCES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE FOR A PROSPEROUS EAST AFRICA REGION**”. The Conference will be organized under the following sub-themes:

- SF11: Soil Fertility Management and Agricultural Productivity
- SW11: Management of Soil and Water for Sustainable Land Productivity
- CB11: Strengthening Capacity Building in mitigating climate change
- RT11: Research and Technology Transfer for Improved Agroecosystems Management
- SP11: Socio-economic and Policy issues in Soils and Environment Management
- BD 11: Biodiversity and environmental quality management
- LR 11: Land Resources Characterization, Assessment and Use Planning

All intending participants are requested to electronically **submit paper title before End of August, 2011** through the contacts below. Titles will be used for booking slots on the conference program. **Abstracts** and full papers can to be submitted either as a hard copy or electronic version as e-mail attachment **by end of August, 2011**. We are currently updating the society website and on-line submission will be possible after April, 2011. Authors should indicate the appropriate sub-theme for a submission using the codes. **Deadline for submission of full papers is Friday 30th September, 2011.**

CONTACTS

Send your title/abstract/paper/posters to

Dr. John Baptist Tumuhairwe
SSSEA Secretariat, Uganda Chapter,
Department of Soil Science
P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda
jbtumuhairwe@agric.mak.ac.ug
and SSSEAUganda@agric.mak.ac.ug
Tel. +256-772-463092/702-463092

Dr. Isabirye Moses

Chairman SSSEA
Isabiryemoses@yahoo.com

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING PAPERS

Presenters are required to prepare their papers or posters using the following outline:

- Title author name(s), contact address
- Abstract (maximum 250 words)
- Introduction
- Materials and methods
- Results and discussion
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References

PAPERS AND POSTERS PREPARATION

Papers Format

Full papers should be 10 to 15 pages, double spacing (including Tables, Figures and References), typed using MS-Word, Font size 12 pts (Times New Roman).

Posters Format

Poster size should be of dimension A0 (841mm x 1189mm), upright format and should be legible from at least 5 m distance. Please note that the organizers are not able to provide a printout of posters.

MID-CONFERENCE EXCURSION

A mid conference excursion/tour will be held. More details on the tour will be given in the 2nd announcement.

REGISTRATION

A registration fee of US\$ 120 will be charged to cater for the conference and mid-conference excursion. Registration will be done on Sunday, 20th November, 2011 starting at 3.00 p.m.

ACCOMMODATION

Jinja town is 70 km Southeast of Kampala on the northern shores of Lake Victoria. It is easily accessed on the way to Kampala from Busia or Tororo for those who may travel by road from Kenya. There are several Hotels in Jinja town, ranging from US\$ 10 – 150 per day. For more information, please contact the organisers.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

For new membership and annual subscription fee (US\$ 10 and US\$ 5 for students) please contact the following:

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