

CGIAR Goes Out on a Limb

■ One of the world's key agricultural research organizations—the World Bank-affiliated Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)—is preparing to expand its scope from the smaller flora of the world to include research on trees. After more than 2 years of debate, the organization is finally moving ahead

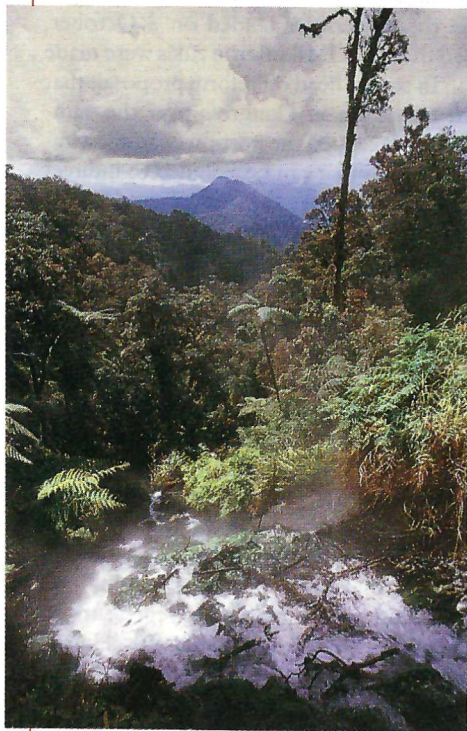
to open a new institute on social forestry research in southern Asia next fall. It will become CGIAR's 17th international agricultural research center.

"Why southern Asia?" asks Ian Bevege, an Australian researcher who is laying the groundwork for the new institute. "There's a very high level of deforestation there and a lot of forestry industry."

The new institute, scheduled to open with a staff of 30 to 50 researchers, will focus on a mix of applied and basic research intended to improve understanding of forest management and the social and biological factors that lead to deforestation. It will also begin a program aimed at preserving and storing the germ plasm of trees.

Several Asian nations, including Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia, are lobbying to host the center, which should initially bring in between \$4 million and \$5 million a year in research money, and perhaps as much as \$15 million a year by 1996, says Bevege.

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Studies of this Javan rain forest could help prevent future deforestation.

DOE Physicist Punished for Attending Disarmament Meeting

■ The Department of Energy (DOE) has punished an Argonne National Laboratory physicist for participating in a non-governmental workshop on nuclear weapons disarmament.

Through an intermediary, officials at DOE's Office of Arms Control (OAC) last week informed Alex DeVolpi, a specialist on arms control verification, that he has been barred from attending future DOE-sponsored arms control meetings and from authoring proposals to be circulated at these meetings, according to both a workshop participant and an Argonne official. DOE denies that DeVolpi is being blackballed.

DeVolpi and two retired weapons experts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory attended an 18-19 October workshop on warhead storage and dismantlement sponsored by the Federation of American Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Other weapons lab personnel at Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratory had planned to attend, but OAC officials pressured them to pass up the workshop because it "might be counterproductive to the president's arms control initiatives" (*Science*, 18 October, p. 365).

Critical Technologies Get a Think Tank

■ The Critical Technologies Institute (CTI), a congressionally mandated think tank for the rationalization of federal technology policy, will finally get off the ground. White House budget chief Richard Darman and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), who sparred briefly over CTI this summer, appear to have reached a compromise.

According to a Bingaman aide, the Administration fought the CTI proposal for several technical reasons: It would force an unwanted project into the Office of Science and Tech-

nology Policy (OSTP), which is funded in the White House budget, and CTI's proposed governing board, which included industry as well as government officials, was thought to violate the law.

In response, Bingaman offered to exclude the private sector representatives from CTI's governing board and to move the \$5 million already appropriated for the institute into the National Science Foundation budget. These concessions did the job, and now CTI has "full Administration support," says the aide.

Does SLAC Face Extinction to Save DOE's Other Energy Research Programs?

■ A budget disaster is looming for the Department of Energy's (DOE) high-energy physics program—and physicists are beginning to murmur that the Stanford Linear Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC) may be the most prominent casualty.

William Happer Jr., director of DOE's Office of Energy Research (OER), has advised laboratory directors that OER is facing a 10% rollback in 1993 from its 1992 budget of \$628 million. With the \$8.25-billion Superconducting Super Collider shielded

from the cuts as a "presidential initiative," this reduction would likely force deep cuts in the high-energy physics base program, in addition to delaying or killing off several proposed projects.

As a result, "[I]t is time to speak the unspeakable...[and] to face the fact that we are going to have to cut one of the major national labs," says Argonne physicist Edmond Bergere, a member of the

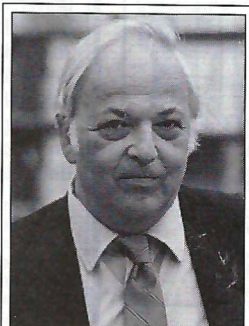
High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP). Both he and former Fermilab director Leon Lederman think that SLAC should take the hit. Most

HEPAP members, however, prefer to have both SLAC and Fermilab absorb a large portion of the reduction.

Ironically, the Office of Management and Budget was prepared to support an OER budget of

about \$660 million for 1993. But sources say DOE is coming in with a lower request in order to free up money for new and ongoing presidential research initiatives in materials, the human genome project, global climate change, and high-performance computing.

With the 1993 budget submission to Congress still 3 months away, nothing is final. And SLAC director Burton Richter, at least, is planning to make some noise: "I am not going to go softly into the night while the whole base program rots away."



Burton Richter