

Muragwa also shares that he learned the power of community participation through this class. "I saw how it makes a big difference to engage the communities we serve in the planning of their own development plan and implementation. As the founder and the executive director of my organization, I always recognize the influence I have over my team, the beneficiaries, and the direction of the organization, and this course also enlightened me about opening the conversation space so that each team member feels safe and comfortable to share their ideas and to always make sure that, in the meetings for example, my idea is just like any other's idea, without a tendency to impose my ways on the rest of my colleagues." Other classes that he looks forward to taking online from Regis University include: Humanitarian Development Nexus, Education for Sustainability, and Financial Resource Development.

In addition, Muragwa is the co-founder and executive director of the Root Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Kigali, Rwanda. The Root Foundation arose from the belief that the response to the issue of street children should be directed at its root causes. Therefore, as important as it is to help many children to leave the streets, it is more important to protect every child from having to live there in the first place. As of February 2021, the Root Foundation serves 409 children and youth and their families. The Root aims to serve 2300 vulnerable children and youth by July 2024 and to affect their lives by building their character, talent, and confidence through a personal development program, encouraging their minds and passion for learning through a scholarship program, and building their parents' parenting skills and financial capacity through a parents' empowerment program.

The Root Foundation was founded in July 2012 by Muragwa Cheez Bienvenue and Patrick Kiruhura. In January 2014, the Root Foundation was first approved by the Rwandan Governance Board (RGB) as an NGO operating provisionally in Rwanda. In June 2016, the Root Foundation was officially declared a Legal Personality with the official name Root Foundation.

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIAL ISSUE OF A JOURNAL

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we are looking for writers! Interested MDP faculty members, alumni and students are welcome. Please review the concept note, [here](#), and let us know what topic(s) interests you or propose one that does.

MDP STUDENT RESEARCH: OBSERVATIONAL AND NUMERICAL RESEARCH OF TAIWAN'S MOUNTAINS



Montane Cloud Forests (MCFs) are defined as forests situated on mountainous terrain with constant immersion in low clouds and fogs. It features low light, high humidity, and a wide range of the eco-hydro-climatological system. MCFs can alter the water and energy supply by intercepting cloud/fog and provide unique ecosystem services.

Critical economic crops, such as tea and coffee, usually exist over the fog-cloud-forest regions; thus, MCFs have an ecological and economic importance. The MCFs' ecosystem is very productive globally even though its spatial distributions are in very limited regions in the mountain area of tropical and subtropical regions. However, the amount of cloud-water interception by the cloud forest canopy structure and its effect on the surrounding environment remains a big issue for researchers to characterize the hydrological and biogeochemical properties in such an ecosystem. However, since climate change and land-use changes may directly affect the water, energy, and carbon cycles as well as the cloud and fog conditions, a grand challenge research area in the MCFs is the complex interactions among the ecology, hydrology, and climate as well as the vulnerability of the ecosystem, especially under a changing climate. This project is the first attempt to evaluate fog formation and its impacts on the earth system under climate change through direct measurements and numerical model simulations. In order to quantify how the occurrence and formation of upslope cloud/fog affect the cloud-water interception, energy patterns, nutrient exchange in the subtropical montane cloud forest, a series of field experiments and data analyses are conducted by using the micro-meteorological measurement in Chi-Lan Mountain Flux Site in northeastern Taiwan.



This study proposes quantifying the amount of cloud-water interception collected by the canopy volume and establishing the relationship between the cloud-water interception and the environmental factors (temperature, humidity, and wind components). This project also analyzes the allocation and dynamics of energy components throughout the canopy volume under the influences of upslope cloud/fog and further quantifies the seasonal variation over different meteorological and environmental conditions. This research is expected to provide the knowledge background and quantitative data to understand the water cycles, energy budget, and flux patterns in low-latitude mountain cloud forest ecosystems from watershed to regional scales.

By: Jehn-Yih Juang, Cho-Ying Huang (NTU's Department of Geography) and Min-Hui Lo (NTU's Department of Atmospheric Sciences)



ADDITIONAL SAAC HIGHLIGHTS

SAAC: Logo Available

We are happy to announce that SAAC finally has a logo. We hope that each MDP program can feature the logo on its webpage. The SAAC regional leaders will soon share the logo with their region.