

Foreword by the organizers

MMM is an international conference on mangrove ecosystems that is held every 6 years. Although dealing with a variety of ecological themes, incl. flora, fauna, biogeochemical cycles and human impacts, this conference originally stood for the ‘International Meeting on Mangrove Macrobenthos’ and was organized by the Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) as MMM in Mombasa (Kenya), 7-11 September 2000. Six years later a consortium including Griffith University and University of Queensland organized ‘MMM2: Mangrove Macrobenthos Meeting’ in Coolangatta (Australia), 25-30 June 2006, where it was decided that the meaning of the MMM could be opened up in order to continue this conference as the first global recurrent conference on mangrove ecosystems. Hence, the name for **MMM3: Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management**. MMM is to be organized by mangrove scientists world-wide, every 6 years, *i.e.* at an interval that allows scientific innovation. It is not aiming at massive attendance but at single sessions covering various topics, with plenty of time for discussion in each of them. As a matter of fact, macrobenthos will still form a solid theme together with vegetation, trophic relationships, restoration and management issues, just like MMM1 and MMM2. The conference is usually accompanied by a mid-conference excursion and followed by a mid-week workshop in a mangrove site aiming at identifying research gaps through joint-fieldwork, analyses and brainstorming.

The conference **MMM3: International Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management** is jointly organized by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the University of Ruhuna (UoR) and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and will be held in the premises of the University of Ruhuna in Galle, Sri Lanka, from 2 to 6 July 2012. It will be followed by a mid-week workshop (9-13 July 2012) in the Pambala-Chilaw Lagoon complex (Sri Lanka) at the premises of the Small Fishers Federation of Lanka in Pambala-Kakkapalliya.

In total, **MMM3** received 190 abstracts (>150 registrations) from all over the world. Due to single session operation throughout the conference, the number of Oral presentations was limited to 38 only. With no choice, several quality research works have been considered for Poster presentations. However, the special session called ‘**Oral pitching research highlights**’ would be able to give you an opportunity to listen to some of the notable works from Poster presentations. In fact, each **MMM3** abstract was peer-reviewed by 1-3 Scientific Committee members and the decisions were taken on the basis of their recommendations as well as conference program.

Hope **MMM3** would become a successful event and benefit all pioneer, young and mature mangrove researchers.



Farid Dahdouh-Guebas, Chair
On behalf of the MMM3 Organizing Committee