

SYMPOSIUM PAPER

Ethnobotanical Aspects of an International Cooperative Biodiversity Group project in Asia

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The University of Illinois at Chicago is leading an International Cooperative Biodiversity Group program aimed at drug discovery, conservation and economic development with institutions in Vietnam and Laos, and with Glaxo-Wellcome as an industrial partner. Analysis of plants used in traditional medicine is part of the project. Scientists from the Vietnamese and Lao institutions are conducting surveys of medicinal plant use in the two countries, and in Vietnam the project is assessing herbal medicines for use in economic development. The ethnobotanical methods and benefit-sharing goals and the challenges in implementation in this multi-institution, multi-cultural situation will be discussed.