

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Kepong, Malaysia!

I am writing this message as the newly elected Chairman of APAFRI Executive Committee 2009-2012. My sincere thanks to all the members, who were present at the Fifth General Assembly convened on 4 October 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, for electing me to the post. This is going to be a very challenging task for me for the next three years, especially in view of the fact that I just assumed the position of Director General of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) 18 months earlier. My two immediate predecessors – Dr Abdul Razak Mohd Ali, former Director General of FRIM; and Mr Sarath Fernando, Conservator General of Forests, Sri Lanka – have made the task of even sustaining APAFRI more challenging than ever, as APAFRI had experienced tremendous growth during their terms as Chairman of the APAFRI Executive Committee over the past nine years.

My increased involvement in APAFRI has made me realized that APAFRI is more than just a small NGO registered in Malaysia. APAFRI has genuinely grown, both in size and prominence, since its birth less than 15 years ago. It started with about a dozen or so members way back in 1995, and today it has 70 institutional and individual members. Likewise, APAFRI has increasingly being recognized as a representative of the Asia Pacific forestry research fraternity in many international fora. APAFRI is a chapter of International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), and is also the Asia Pacific coordinator of IUFRO's Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC). APAFRI has been a partner in numerous United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) forestry activities over these years.

APAFRI's active involvements in many regional events, organized by the Secretariat currently based in the Forest Research Institute Malaysia or by member institutions,



had contributed to all these achievements. The increased exposure of APAFRI has also helped to attract the attention of more donor agencies, and APAFRI has been able to secure quite substantial financial support from a number of funding agencies over the last decade. I sincerely hope that these agencies would continue with their support to APAFRI's activities in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the members of the new APAFRI Executive Committee 2009-2012: the Vice-chairman Dr GS Rawat, and members Dr Okochi, Dr Aida Baja-Lapis, Prof Simon Saulei, Prof M Al Amin, Dr Xu Daping and Dr Putera Parthama. Members and friends may notice that this Executive Committee is totally new; all its members had never served in the Executive Committee previously. Fortunately, the APAFRI Constitution stipulated that the Immediate Past Chair, Mr Sarath Fernando, shall stay on as a member in the Executive Committee. This would ensure some continuity as well as provide needed guidance to the current Executive Committee. With this well represented team, and the support from the experienced Secretariat staff, I am confident of pushing APAFRI to achieve even greater heights, both in terms of providing better services to the members as well as ensuring sustainability. I would also urge all members to continuously assist us by contributing ideas and suggestions to further improve the services that they expect from APAFRI.

I would like to put on record my appreciation to the Secretariat for hosting a very successful APAFRI's Fifth General Assembly this year in Kuala Lumpur. This General Assembly has a record attendance of representatives from 31 member institutions. Besides having the highest number of members represented, this General Assembly also had good representation of member institutions from all sub regions. I wish to thank

all members for making all these possible. Holding the General Assembly a day before the International Symposium on Forest Genetic Resources had contributed to the record attendance. My gratitude to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and FAO for funding the symposium and supported the participation of a number of representatives from APAFRI member institutions.

A major concern of many an APAFRI member is the hosting of the Secretariat. Currently the Secretariat is hosted by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) at Kepong. FRIM has dispatched a senior researcher, Dr Sim Heok Choh together with a personal assistant (currently Mrs Nor Azni Jafar), since 2002, to manage the Secretariat full time. In addition, FRIM has also provided appropriate and adequate office space and Internet connections, as well as a financial contribution of RM10000 (about USD3000) every year, besides other institutional support. As the Director General of FRIM, and also the newly elected Chairman of APAFRI, I would continuously convince the governing board of FRIM, the Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board, to continue hosting APAFRI Secretariat as well as

contributing in-kind and financially by FRIM. With APAFRI's illustrious track records, and the tremendous benefits that FRIM had gained over the past years, I am confident that the Board would even consider further increase the in-kind and financial contributions to APAFRI.

In closing, on behalf of APAFRI, I would like to extend our thanks to the various agencies for their contributions to support APAFRI's programmes and activities. Thanks also due to the various national research agencies, universities, forestry agencies and private companies for their contributions to many of APAFRI's activities.

As we are now approaching the end of 2009, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends of APAFRI a prosperous new year in 2010.

With best regards,
Abd Latif Mohmod
Chairman, APAFRI
December 2009

THE SIXTEENTH MEETING of APAFRI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4 October 2009, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Chair, Mr. Sarath Fernando, welcomed all the members present and thanked them for attending this meeting and also the General Assembly in the afternoon.

All the current Executive Committee were present. The Chair also welcomed Dr. S. Appanah and several others from national and regional agencies to this meeting.

There were some discussions on the issue off training courses and study tours. The general consensus was that these types of activities are highly beneficial to capacity building in the region, and more should be organized. These could also generate revenues for APAFRI. Dr. Appanah repeated the remarks he made previously that, APAFRI is now recognized in the region and any proposal would have a better chance of funding if submitted through this organization

On the issue of payment of fees for membership, the meeting was informed that due to the small fees and the high cost of remittance and amount of paperwork



involved, some countries were having problems in paying their dues. The meeting was told that the Secretariat would only intensely collect unpaid membership dues once in three years, coincides with the announcement for the General Assembly. Member institutions were reminded to pay up their membership dues to be able to nominate and vote during the General Assembly as stipulated in the APAFRI Constitution. This in effect allows the member institutions to pay their membership



fees only once in three years, greatly reduces the burden and paperwork of paying every year.

The Chairman noted that many of the research agencies and universities in the region are not members of APAFRI. He suggested that there should be another round of membership drive to attract more members.

The Chairman mentioned that the next General Assembly is due this year, and will be convened in the afternoon at this very hotel. The meeting was informed that in the current Executive Committee, two members: Korea Forest research Institute (represented by Dr Park JungHwan) and the Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection (represented by Dr Xiao Wenfa), had served the maximum of two terms, and are no longer eligible for re-election.

Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, Director General of FRIM, conveyed the decision of FRIM's top management that it would be inappropriate for FRIM to continue hosting APAFRI Secretariat if FRIM is not elected Chair of APAFRI. Dr Leocadio Sebastian, Bioversity International, proposed that an amendment to the Constitution be tabled to allow the member institution hosting the Secretariat be made an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. The meeting agreed that this amendment be tabled at the General Assembly in the afternoon.

Dr Park JungHwan, reminded all present about the IUFRO World Congress in Seoul next year. He urged the Executive Committee to ensure that APAFRI would be actively involved in this premier forestry research event which is organized once in five years. The Secretariat has already received enquiries for support to three technical sessions, on forest genetic resources, wood processing and invasive species. More discussions will be held in the next few months to finalize the details.

Dr Park JungHwan also suggested that APAFRI should have a booth during the IUFRO World Congress, and he would suggest to the Organizing Committee to give APAFRI preferential rate for the booth. The Secretariat shall follow up with this suggestion.

There were also some discussions about APAFRI's support to events organized by member institutions. The Secretariat reported that APAFRI has a tradition of providing support of up to USD3000 to each event organized by member institution, and over the years several member institutions had made such requests. However, the Secretariat would like to have more involvement in organizing such event, rather than been treated like a bank which member institution could make cash withdrawals. The Secretariat would appreciate that it be contacted from the very beginning of the planning and organizing an event, rather than only towards the end when the organizers need more funding. The meeting has agreed that this point be made known to all members, and the Secretariat may want to reject application where it has little or no planning or organizing role. The meeting further agreed that the maximum support could be increased to USD5000 per event.

The Chairman again thanked the various agencies, especially FRIM, FAO, Korea Forest Research Institute, USDA and many others, for the financial and in-kind contributions, which had been vital for the sustainability of APAFRI all these years.

UPDATE MEMBER'S PROFILE

We would like to update the profile of our member institutions. Please check the details at

http://www.apafri.org/imem/formated_list_toUpdate.cfm

and provide latest information if there is any. In addition, please provide email and contact details of a contact person.

For more information, contact Mrs Syuqiyah Abdul Hamid (syuqiyah@apafri.org).



FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 October 2009, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



The Fifth General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) was held on 4 October 2009.

Mr Sarath Fernando, Chairman of the current Executive Committee, welcomed all the participants, especially representatives of member institutions, and called upon them to participate actively and to contribute inputs for the further development of APAFRI. He was extremely pleased to note that there were representatives from 31 member institutions present at this General Assembly. This was the biggest General Assembly attendance in APAFRI's history!

The Chairman thanked the current Executive Committee, of which all members were present at this General Assembly and presented the General Assembly with the report that outlines the activities and programmes for the past three years. During the three-year period, the Executive Committee has met four times. The last meeting, the Sixteenth was held in the morning of 4 October 2009. The Executive Secretary had supplemented the summary with a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting a number of high profile activities during the past years. On the issue of APAFRI Semi-annually Newsletters, it was decided that subsequent issues will again be printed in hard copies as many still like to have printed copies.

The General Assembly was informed that membership fee collected have been kept in fixed deposits and interest earned used to fund activities. Some small earnings were also derived from sales of publications.

Members were also informed that APAFRI has a tradition of providing financial support of up to US\$3000 per activity organized by member institutions. To a query why incomes in 2006 and 2007 were less than expenses, the General Assembly was informed that APAFRI accounts are on 'cash-basis' and recorded only cash transactions. Promised contributions, expected earnings and committed expenses were not captured in these accounts. In addition, very often monies received in a year may be required to pay for expenses incurred in subsequent years. There were some discussions about membership fee collections, and many present at the General Assembly had suggested that the members be given the option of paying the membership fees for a number of years in a single lump sum.

Before moving on to the next agenda, the Chairman thanked the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI); the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF); the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM); The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and all the other agencies, for their financial as well as in-kind contributions to APAFRI.

Bioversity International (BI) moved a motion of inserting the following into Clause 1 of Article XII:

“If the member institution hosting the Secretariat has not been elected a member of the Executive Committee, this member institution shall be made an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee.”

The amended Clause 1 of Article XII will read as:

“The Executive Committee shall comprise a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and six members elected at the General Assembly from among the members by ballot of all member institutions. The immediate Past Chairperson shall continue as an ordinary member for another term. In the event that the Chairperson has been elected for a second term, the Immediate Past Chairperson shall continue as an ordinary member for a second term. If the member institution hosting the Secretariat has not been elected a member of the Executive Committee, this member institution shall be made an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee.”

Implication: This proposed amendment will improve the functioning of the Association and its Secretariat by having better coordination and greater participation in the decision making.

Decision: CIFOR proposed, seconded by IFES, that the proposed amendment to Article XII be adopted. The Executive Secretary explained that since APAFRI has registered with the Registrar of Society Malaysia, the amendment will need to be forwarded to the Registrar of Society Malaysia and will be in force thereafter.

ITC proposed that profiles of member institutions be maintained. The APAFRI's website has such a compilation of member institutions profiles. The Secretariat will take appropriate actions to update these profiles. The General Assembly was also informed of a Directory of Asia Pacific Forestry Researchers maintained by APAFRI, which was initiated in 2004 with funding from USDA-FS. Currently the Directory has over 800 entries, which is still far from complete. Continuous efforts have been taken to increase the awareness of this Directory and invite more entries.

Dr Efransjah of CIFOR stressed that APAFRI must continuously reminding itself of maintaining its relevancy



to the forestry research fraternities, particularly to those in the Asia Pacific region. This would then attract more institutions to join APAFRI, as well as contribute to some assurance of continuous support from the donor agencies. There were some discussions about improving communication and information dissemination. The

General Assembly had been informed that information and announcements of activities were typically posted on APAFRI website. Emails were then sent to all members and colleagues on APAFRI's mailing list, directing them to browse the website for more details. Briefs were also typically sent out as attachments to these emails. The mailing list has been continuously updated and expanded. The General Assembly supported the suggestion from Dr Alfredo Rabena of UNP, that communication between the Secretariat and member institutions be further strengthened by having the emails be sent to a focal point or nominated official representative of the member institution, and he/she shall forward to his/her other colleagues.

Dr Park JungHwan (Korea FRI) informed the General Assembly about the upcoming IUFRO World Congress in August 2010 in Seoul, Korea. He suggested that this would be a golden opportunity for APAFRI to further uplift its profile, and would like to see activities/events supported/organized by APAFRI including putting up a display booth during this once-in-five-year premier global forestry research event. The General Assembly was informed that the Secretariat has already received at least three enquiries on the possibility of jointly organizing technical sessions/side events on the topics of forest genetic resources, wood processing and forest invasive species. The Secretariat would step up the discussions and also actively looking for sponsors.

The Chairman explained that, in accordance with Article XII of the constitution, Executive Committee members who have already served two terms would not be eligible for re-election. He expressed his appreciation to the Executive Committee members for their contributions and support during the term of office. He then declared that the term of the present committee terminated and the committee dissolved. As a token of appreciation, he presented a pewter plaque to each one of them. A pewter plaque was also presented to the former Executive Secretary, Dr Daniel Baskaran, for his contributions to APAFRI.

The new Executive Committee of the Association for 2009–2012 elected by the Fifth General Assembly:



Immediate Past Chairman
Mr Sarath Fernando
FD Sri Lanka



Chairman
Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod
FRIM



Vice Chairman
Dr GS Rawat
ICFRE

Committee



Dr Isamu Okochi
FFPRI



Dr Aida Baja-Lapis
ERDB



Prof Simon Saulei
PNG FRI



Prof M Al Amin
IFES



Dr Xu Daping
RITF



Dr Putera Parthama
FORDA

Dr Efransjah of CIFOR and Assoc. Prof Dr Awang Noor Abd Ghani of UPM were unanimously elected to be the Internal Auditors 2009–2012.

Dato' Dr Abd Latif Mohmod thanked the members present for electing FRIM as the Chair of APAFRI Executive Committee 2009–2012. As Director General of FRIM, he promised, with the endorsement from the governing board: the Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board and FRIM's top management, to continue hosting and further strengthening the APAFRI Secretariat. In so doing, he would strive to uplift the recognition of APAFRI's contributions by the Malaysian Government, as well as the Governments in the Asia and Pacific region. He stressed the importance of collaboration and cooperation among all member institutions in APAFRI's future activities. He would welcome positive criticisms and remarks to assist him in improving the performance of APAFRI in the next three years. Last but not least, he also thanked the past Chairmen: former Director General Datuk Dr Abdul Razak Mohd Ali of FRIM and Mr Sarath Fernando,

Conservator General of Forests Sri Lanka, for their contributions in moulding APAFRI to its present status of a highly respected premier regional network for forestry research.

Concluding his address, he announced that he would retain Dr Sim Heok-Choh to continue serving as Executive Secretary of APAFRI.

Dr Sim Heok-Choh, the Executive Secretary, thanked all present for making this General Assembly a very successful and fruitful gathering of members. He also thanked the new Chairman for having the confidence in retaining him as the Executive Secretary of APAFRI, and looking forward to work closely with the new Executive Committee. He further pledged to continuously improving the services that the Secretariat could provide to the members.

With these notes, he declared the Fifth General Assembly of APAFRI adjourned.

NEW MEMBER

APA-FRI welcomes its 65th member: **Forest Research Institute, Yetzin, Myanmar**

For more information on the institution, please contact:

Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Forest Research Institute, Yetzin, Myanmar
Phone: +95-67-416524/ 416522
Fax: +95-67-416524
Email: friyezin@gmail.com

SECOND ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION OF A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES (SOW-FGR)

9 October 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Second Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Preparation of a Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SOW-FGR) was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur on 9 October 2009. The objectives of the workshop are:

- (i) to update national and regional experts and partners on the progress in preparations for The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, including proposal for structure/contents, preparatory process, and a tentative list of thematic studies;
- (ii) to discuss thematic studies of interest to the Region, and possible participation in their preparation;
- (iii) to review draft guidelines for country reports for the SOW-FGR (made available to participants two weeks before the workshop): information availability, accessibility and gaps.

It was held back-to-back with the International Symposium on Forest Genetic Resources funded by an ITTO Project. The project implemented by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in collaboration with Bioversity International and the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APA-FRI) involved implementing a series of consultative workshops in seven countries.

A total of 24 participants from 17 countries attended the workshop. The workshop was moderated by Dr Daniel Baskaran and Mr Oudara Souvannavong, who was assisted by Dr Judy Loo of Bioversity International.

Definition of FGR for the preparation of the national reports was discussed. Species for which there was some confusion included

- *Artocarpus* spp., *Canarium* spp (esp. in the Pacific).
- Species for which active domestication programmes may be in place in some countries; e.g. cashew nut, macadamia, *Camellia*, sago (Indonesia). It was noted that management practices and objectives may differ between agriculture and forestry. Therefore is important to include information on all species which are seen relevant for the countries, including the species on the grey areas between agriculture and forestry.
- Both native and exotic species should be included, no matter how recently the species have introduced in the country.

It was stressed that it is important to assess those forest genetic resources which are important to the countries themselves. The process thus also emphasizes the importance of priority setting for efficiency and effectiveness in resource use.

Several thematic studies were proposed during the meeting, and their scopes discussed at length. It was highlighted that the studies should focus on identifying knowledge gaps, which may then lead to development of joint research proposals. A number of colleagues from the region had volunteered to coordinate the preparation for these thematic studies. They would start off by preparing a first draft for study outline and distribute it to participants for their comments and subsequently submit to Oudara Souvannavong by the end of December 2009.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES Conservation and Sustainable Utilization Towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

5–8 October 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The international Forest Genetic Resources Symposium was organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5-8 October 2009. The main objective of the symposium was to review the status of national efforts in conserving, managing and sustainably using forest genetic diversity in the Asia Pacific region. It also served as platform for the researchers and forest administrators to discuss and share information on conservation and sustainable use of the resources.



The symposium was part of the project: Strengthening National Capacity and Regional Collaboration for Sustainable Use of Forest Genetic Resources in Tropical Asia. The project is implemented in years 2006-2009 and funded by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Project countries are Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand.

The symposium brought together 63 participants from 19 countries. The symposium focused on tropical Asia, but participants came from all across the region, including China, Japan, Pacific Islands and Australia. In total 39 presentations were given, including keynote presentations from the ITTO, the FAO and Bioversity.

The symposium was jointly organized by Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), and Bioversity. Other collaborating institutions were the ITTO, the FAO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Forest Tree Breeding Centre of the Japan Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

One morning session in the symposium was reserved for discussion and planning of future work of the APFORGEN network. The objectives were to identify thematic areas for future work and agree on follow-up activities. After the presentations, the participants were divided into four sub-regional groups of South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific. Each group

was asked to identify concrete action needs and areas of common interest.

The group discussions seemed successful in identifying potential action needs, and there was active discussion around some suggested topics. The general discussion, however, mainly took place between a few participants only, suggesting that small group dynamics are more conducive to full participation. Additional work will be required to ensure follow-up and commitment of members to carrying out specific activities. Finally, time was a major constraint for reaching agreement on common, concrete action needs among the heterogenous group of countries.

Outcomes of the planning session were incorporated in the recommendations of the symposium.

Recommendations of the symposium

Recommendation 1: Recognizing the important roles of FGR, and the significant contributions of the ITTO project, the participants recommended a follow up project be formulated. The participants further recommended that be extended to cover all interested countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Recommendation 2: The participants recommended that the following objectives, of the current project be re-emphasized in the new phase:

- To develop a regional programme to support national activities implementing conservation of forest genetic resources for sustainable use, in the changing scenarios of climate change.

- To develop regional mechanisms and coordination capacity for gathering, sharing, and analysing information on conservation and use of FGR, contributing to the global efforts such as State of the World Forest Genetic Resources Report.

Recommendation 3: Recognizing the increasing emphasis and growing debate on climate change and its impacts, the participants recommend that attention should be focused on forest genetic resources' roles in mitigation and especially the adaptation, as well as their vulnerability, to climate change.

Recommendation 4: The participants recommend that official endorsement, both at national and regional levels, should be obtained for the project and also APFORGEN shall be extended to interested countries in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Recommendation 5: The participants identified the following common areas of interest among participating countries:

- Development of the comprehensive national FGR strategies and action plans,
- Species priority setting for efficient FGR C&M,
- Evaluation, characterization, documentation and sharing the information of FGR,
- in situ and ex situ conservation,
- Exchange of genetic materials,
- Strengthening national programmes on forest genetic resources, and enhancement of the linkage between conservation of forest genetic resources and national forest programmes,
- Participation of local communities and the role of livelihood in conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources,

- Assessment of climate change impacts on FGR vulnerability, and management of FGR to facilitate adaptation,
- Assessment of impact on livelihood of local communities and its vulnerability to climate change, and implications on FGR conservation and sustainable management.

Recommendation 6: The participants identified several regional action items such as:

- developing (sub)regional action plans for priority species,
- developing institutional capacity for managing FGR,
- developing guidelines for prioritizing species, assessing genetic diversity, and common strategies for FGR conservation wherever applicable,
- strengthening national programmes and coordination.
- short- and long-term training courses, including e-courses, and exchange of scientists,
- collaborations in developing training materials, and
- workshop and fellowships for scientists and professionals.

Recommendation 7: The participants stressed the importance of communication at national and regional levels to ensure the continuity of the APFORGEN's activities.

Recommendation 8: The participants recommended that funding from various sources be identified and accessed to fund FGR activities in the Asia and Pacific regions. Collaborations of interested parties shall be actively sought to develop joint proposals.

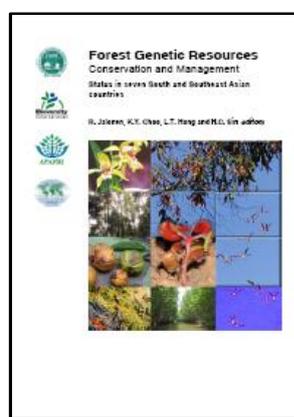
NEW PUBLICATIONS



Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management

National Consultative Workshops of Seven South and Southeast Asian Countries

Editors: K.Y. Choo, R. Jalonen, L.T. Hong and H.C. Sim



Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management

Status in seven South and Southeast Asian countries

Editors: R. Jalonen, K.Y. Choo, L.T. Hong and H.C. Sim

For copies write to: secretariat@apafri.org

Asia and the Pacific Forest Products Workshop

Green Technology for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

14-16 December 2009, Marawila, Sri Lanka

Climate change is a global problem, with global causes and effects.

Climate change affects the basic elements of life for people around the world – access to water, food production, health, and the environment. Hundreds of millions of people will potentially suffer from hunger, water shortages, and more frequent severe natural disasters such as droughts, typhoons and floods, as the climate changes. Addressing climate change and dealing with the impacts requires urgent efforts by all.

The recently intensified debates and discussions on climate change in many international fora have introduced many additional challenges in the efficient and sustainable utilization of forest products. Efficient processing technologies and full (maximized) wood utilization constitute major components in the green business strategy designed to conserve resources, reduce impacts to the environment and human safety and health, and promote greater overall efficiency. On the other hand, alternatives, using bio-fibre waste or by-product of other industries, are continuously being sought to reduce dependence on non-renewable natural resources besides alleviating environmental impacts. The ultimate objective is to improve carbon reduction, carbon sequestration and carbon conservation leading to overall carbon emission reduction for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Several nations, over the past decade, have initiated various mitigation and adaptation measures to cope with future climatic conditions. Theories and technologies have been proposed, discussed and implemented to meet these challenges for climate change adaptation and mitigation. While many of these technologies and products have been well researched and documented, many factors have hindered the adoption by the industries. Overcoming such hindrances will require commitments and responsibilities to invest in capacity and capability building.

The main objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for linking various international, regional and



national agencies and institutions dealing with climate change issues in forest products processing and utilization, and to share strategies, experiences and knowledge, related to green forest products technology. This workshop provided the much needed opportunities for individuals and their associated agencies, organizations and

networks to build collaborative linkages and better align programmes to capture synergies. Various organizations, including IUFRO, were able to take this opportunity to assess capacity-building needs in terms of research and extension related to green forest products research, development and utilization in the Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop was an initiative of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO). It was funded by an allocation from the contributions of the Korean Government, through the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), to IUFRO. The Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutions (APAFRI) organized the three-day workshop, in technical collaboration with the Sri Lanka Forest Department, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), and the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI). The workshop held at the Club Palmbay, Marawila, Sri Lanka attracted 35 participants from 11 countries across the Asia-Pacific region. A total of 22 papers were presented in three technical sessions. A one-day field trip gave the participants the opportunities of visiting a wood handicraft workshop, a rattan furniture factory and a rubberwood bloom and brush handles factory. The participants also visited the Elephant Sanctuary and the capital city, Colombo.

Dr Dave Cown, a senior scientist of Scion, New Zealand; and also the Coordinator of Division V, IUFRO; facilitated a panel discussion on the afternoon before closing. The panelists: Dr Hiran Amarasekara (Sri Lanka), Dr GS Rawat (India), Dr Jegatheswaran Ratnasingam (Malaysia) and Dr Arsenio Ella (Philippines) started the discussion sharing their views and thoughts on the subject matters. Several participants responded with their own views and experience.

International Workshop on Production and Marketing of Teakwood: Future Scenarios

23-25 November 2009, Peechi, Kerala, India

The workshop was attended by a total of 66 participants from 12 countries. Several eminent scientists and experts in various fields of tropical timber development programmes were invited from around the world to deliver keynote and plenary papers in addition to the country reports from the representatives of the major teak growing countries. The participants represented a cross section of the major sets of stakeholders like growers, traders, researchers and policy makers.

Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.) is a versatile timber known for its superb quality, durability and strength. It is used largely in furniture and building construction, ship and boat making, for veneer and as poles. Teak is an undisputed leader of high value tropical timbers. It is always referred to as standard timber for comparative evaluation of quality and utilization potential of other tropical hardwoods. Teak is being grown in plantations in more than 36 tropical countries across the globe although its natural occurrence is limited to India, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Of the estimated 205 million ha of global productive planted forests in 2005, about 8.2 million ha (4%) were teak, representing a major portion of the world's high-quality tropical hardwood plantations. With such a heightened level of interest in teak, there has been a concern across both teak producer and consumer countries about the future of the global teak sector.

The main objective of the workshop was to review the current situation with respect to teak production and marketing at the global level, and to build on the opportunities available from these developments. This workshop was also important to strategize the future activities of TEAKNET taking into consideration emerging opportunities and challenges and how the network may facilitate coordinated efforts by network members.

The workshop was organized by TEAKNET in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Research Institute. TEAKNET is an international network of institutions and individuals interested in teak. TEAKNET addresses the interests of the whole range of stakeholders: growers, traders, researchers, or other groups with a profound interest or concerned with teak. TEAKNET was established in 1995 and its headquarters was recently shifted from Myanmar to India. Financial support for the



workshop was provided by FAO of the United Nations, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and also the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

The important recommendations of workshop are:

1. TEAKNET determines its role and scope in improving the teak sector so that the sector can:

- Increase the production of teakwood so as to meet rising demand by expanding teak cultivation to new areas, promoting growing of teak in community homesteads and private plantations;
- Better market for teakwood through improved strategies like the development of market intelligence on teakwood

2. TEAKNET undertakes a campaign to increase its budget.

In consonance with the above recommendations, TEAKNET has selected the following activities on a priority basis for the year 2010:

- TEAKNET shall continue with its activities related to information dissemination through its website, capturing information globally with respect to production and marketing of teakwood. TEAKNET shall act more as a facilitator linking all major institutions concerned with teak production, marketing and research. TEAKNET shall produce more printed material so as to increase awareness and visibility of its functioning among the stakeholders.
- TEAKNET shall expand its membership base by identifying new members and finding patrons and sponsors to support new members wherever required and define clearly the services that it can offer to its members. In particular, it shall strengthen linkage with teak-growing countries in Latin America and Africa and extend membership within these countries with the objective to globalize TEAKNET. In this context TEAKNET shall link up with the "Centro Agronomico Tropical

de Investigación y Enseñanza” (CATIE) in Costa Rica to serve as a focal point for Latin America.

- CATIE shall be contacted to undertake a research study on the teak sector in Latin America. CATIE’s support will also be sought to host an international TEAKNET conference in 2010. The workshop shall aim to have focused discussions on unification of log grading rules and on integrating tree improvement efforts in teak at international level.

- TEAKNET shall prepare a status paper on teak showing its current position with indications of future scenarios in the global context.

(Adapted from a report prepared by Dr K. Jayaraman, TEAKNET Coordinator, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi-680 653, Thrissur, Kerala, India.)

For more information contact: Dr K. Jayaraman (coordinator@teaknet.org)

IUFRO Kuala Lumpur 2010

7-12 March 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IUFRO Kuala Lumpur 2010 is the joint conference of IUFRO Working Parties 2.04.01 (Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics) and 2.04.10 (Genomics) which will be held on March 7-12, 2010 at Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) are the hosts for the conference. The conference includes invited and contributed presentations and posters, discussion sessions, workshops, satellite and business meetings and an in-conference tour.

Objectives:

- To provide a platform for exchange of ideas and information amongst researchers and practitioners in forest genetics, breeding and conservation.
- To discuss and evaluate the latest approaches and techniques in forest genetics research and management of forest genetic resources.



- To promote international co-operation and networking amongst practitioners and researchers involved in forest genetics, breeding and conservation.

Sub-themes/Topics

1. Conservation of forest genetic resources
 - phylogeny and phylogeography; population structure and conservation; mating systems, gene flow and population variation; genetic pollution and invasive species; propagation technologies
2. Sustainable utilisation of forest genetic resources
 - gene expression, markers and QTL mapping; linkage disequilibrium and association mapping; quantitative genetics and breeding; adaptive genetics and climate change; policies and regulations

More information is available at conference website: www.iufrokualalumpur2010.org



Proceedings of Asia and the Pacific Forest Health Workshop: Forest Health in a Changing World

Extended abstracts from the workshop held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 1-3 December 2008.

For copies write to: secretariat@apafri.org

4th International Casuarina Meeting

22-26 March 2010, Haikou, Hainan, Chin

The substantial socio-economic importance of Casuarinas (several members of the family Casuarinaceae) has ensured ongoing global interest in research and development of this group of nitrogen fixing trees. Plantings are invariably associated with agricultural systems and there are about 2 million hectares planted in the tropics and sub-tropics, offering stability to fragile sandy coastal ecosystems and offering services of protection, soil organic matter, poles, fuelwood and commercial wood fibre.

Following earlier successful international meetings in Canberra (1981), Cairo (1990) and Da Nang (1996), IUFRO Working Party S2.08.02, *Improvement and Culture of Nitrogen-Fixing Trees*, is pleased to announce the 4th International Casuarina Meeting to be held in Haikou, People's Republic of China, 22 - 26 March 2010.

The objectives of the meeting are to update and collate current information and advances in the R & D of this

interesting group of species, with particular reference to their impact on smallholder livelihoods, reflected in the draft working title for the conference of: *Improving smallholder livelihoods through improved Casuarina productivity*.

Outputs from the meeting will include a written proceedings and a rejuvenation of the small international network which support global R&D into the casuarinas.

The Research Institute of Tropical Forestry (RITF), Chinese Academy of Forestry, has agreed to act as host for the meeting.

The 4th International Casuarina Meeting will be held in Haikou, Hainan province. Hosting the meeting in Haikou, Hainan will give participants more time for field visits to casuarina planting areas.

More information is available at APAFRI website: www.apafri.org

The 2nd International Firefly Symposium 2010

23 August 2010, Selangor, Malaysia

The 2nd International Firefly Symposium will be hosted by Malaysia in 2010. It will provide an opportunity for participants to learn of the latest findings and conservation efforts on fireflies from an international spectrum of researchers.

In conjunction with this Symposium in Malaysia, a pre-symposium training course will be conducted on "The Identification and Taxonomy of South East Asian Fireflies." This course is an opportunity for graduate students and researchers from the South East Asian region to gain a foundation in the identification and taxonomy of fireflies.

The 2nd International Firefly Symposium 2010 coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the 70th anniversary of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), both of which are organisers of the symposium. It is also being organised in conjunction with the International Year for Biodiversity 2010 and will be held in Selangor, a state in Malaysia where the heart of the firefly ecotourism lies.

Malaysia and the host organisations are pleased to be given the privilege to organise the 2nd International Firefly Symposium and we cordially welcome you to participate in the symposium.



Objectives:

- To promote the exchange of information and ideas among firefly experts and enthusiasts;
- To promote research on fireflies; and
- To foster international networking on firefly research

More information is available at conference website: www.ifs2010.frim.gov.my/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sustainable Food Manufacturing Forum

Date : 16 February 2010
Venue : North Ryde, Australia
Phone : +61 3 9731 3484
Fax : +61 3 9731 3201
Contact Person : Ms Pamela Tyers
CSIRO Food and Nutritional Sciences
Email : pamela.tyers@csiro.au
Website : <http://www.csiro.au/events/Sustainable-food-manufacturing.html>

Global Biosecurity 2010: Safeguarding Agriculture And The Environment

Date : 28 February 2009 - 3 March 2010
Venue : Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
Phone : 02 6285 3000
Fax : 02 6285 3001
Contact Person : Global Biosecurity 2010
c/o Conference Solutions
PO Box 238 Deakin West ACT 2600
Email : biosecurity@con-sol.com
Website : www.globalbiosecurity2010.com

Conserving and Enhancing Productivity of Forests in the Genomics Era

Date : 8 - 12 March 2010
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Contact Person : Prof. Dr. Wickneswari Ratnam
Faculty of Science and Technology
National University of Malaysia (UKM)
43600 Bangi, Selangor Malaysia
Email : wicki@ukm.my
Website : <http://www.iufro.org/auth/science/special/spdc/actpro/wkspmal07/support-arg09/>

15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Date : 12-25 March 2010
Venue : Doha, Qatar
Website : <http://www.cites.org>

World Biofuels Markets Conference: Biorefineries Bio-Based Products

Date : 15-16 March 2010
Venue : The RAI Exhibition and Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Phone : +971 4 8135219
Fax : +44 207 900 1853
Contact Person : Amit Shahani /Caroline Bissell

Email : amit.shahani@greenpowerconferences.com; caroline.bissell@greenpowerconference.com
Website : <http://www.rai.ni>

Taking Stock of Smallholder and Community Forestry: Where Do We Go From Here?

Date : 24-26 March 2010
Venue : Montpellier, France
Email : l.feintrenie@cgiar.org
Website : <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/Smallholder+and+community+forestry/>

Fifth Session of the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP)

Date : 28 May 2010
Contact : Maxim Lobovikov
Email : Maxim.lobovimov@fao.org

The 23rd World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment"

Date : 23 - 28 August 2010
Venue : Seoul, Republic of Korea
Phone : +43-1-877 0151-0
Fax : +43-1-877 0151-50
Website : <http://www.iufro.org>

Second International Firefly Symposium "Firefly Conservation: From Science to Practice"

Date : 2-5 August 2010
Venue : FRIM, Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia
Fax : +603-6273 1041; +603-6280 4625
Contact Person : The Secretariat
2nd International Firefly Symposium
2010, Forest Research Institute
Malaysia (FRIM), 52109 Kepong,
Selangor, Malaysia
Email : ifs2010@frim.gov.my
Website : <http://www.ifs2010.frim.gov.my>

The 2010 Biological Control for Nature Conference

Date : 3-7 October 2010
Venue : The Hotel Noerthampton, Massachusetts (USA)
Website : <http://biocontrolformature.ucr.edu/>

International Conference on Forestry Education and Research for the Asia-Pacific Region

Date : 23-25 November 2010
Venue : Manila, Philippines
Fax : +64 49 536 3907 ; +64 49 536-2341
Email : fored2010@uplb.edu.ph

Contact Person : Emmanuel Ze Meka
Website : <http://www.itto.or.jp>

Climate Change Adaptation Forum and Workshop

Phone : 02 9555 2358
Contact Person : Cheryl Samarasinghe
Email : csamarasinghe@dealersgroup.com.au
Website : http://www.dealersgroup.com.au/p9_Events.html?&event=54

46th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committee

Date : 13-18 December 2010
Venue : Yokohama, Japan

Activities Organized/ Participated by APAFRI in 2009

Date	Activity	Venue
19–20 February	Second Meeting of ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network (ARKN) on Forests and Climate Change	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
16–20 March	Committee on Forests (COFO)	Rome, Italy
20 April – 2 May	United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) 8	New York, USA
27–28 May	International Workshop on Restoration after Ice-Snow Disaster and Forest Health Restoration	Lijiang, China
3–5 August	Seventh Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4 October	APAFRI 16th Executive Committee Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4 October	APAFRI Fifth General Assembly	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5–8 October	International Symposium on Forest Genetic Resources	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
9 October	Second Meeting of State-of-World Forest Genetic Resources	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5–6 November	Sixth Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) Executive Committee	Chiang Mai, Thailand
17–20 November	Country-led Initiative by China in Support of UNFF	Guilin, China
23–26 November	TEAKNET Workshop	Peechi Kerala, India
14–16 December	Asia Pacific Forest Products Workshop	Marawila, Sri Lanka

Acknowledgements

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- ❖ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations)
- ❖ KFRI (Korean Forest Research Institute)
- ❖ DAFF (Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- ❖ Bioversity International
- ❖ USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service

Contributions in kind:

- ❖ Forest Research Institute Malaysia

The APAFRI Newsletter is compiled by the Secretariat. Your comments, articles and/or suggestions are gratefully received.

Contact us:

APAFRI Secretariat
Forest Research Institute Malaysia
Kepong, 52109 Selangor
Malaysia
Tel : (6) 03 6272 2516
Fax : (6) 03 6277 3249
Email: secretariat@apafri.org
Website : www.apafri.org



Executive Committee Members

**Season's Greetings
&
Happy New Year**

